

Herndon Calls Ruling A Blow at Jim Crow

The following statement was issued today by Angela Herndon on the decision of the United States Supreme Court freeing him from a sentence of 15 to 30 years on the Georgia chain-gang on a charge of "inciting to insurrection":

"The decision of the United States Supreme Court today in my case is a decisive victory for all the progressive forces in the country. It strikes another heavy blow at the Jim Crow oppression of the Negro people. The five years of ceaseless and unrelenting struggle conducted by the International Labor Defense, its friends and many sympathizers, against the heinous Georgia anti-slavery insurrection law, has not been in vain.

"The universal concern of thousands of lovers of freedom, justice and democracy, was so great that the Supreme Court dared not repeat the same kind of reactionary decision as it did twice before in my case. The fact that I was freed by a narrow margin of one lone justice, who swayed to the side of the four liberals, is proof that the fight of my friends and defenders caused the same old justices many headaches and sleepless nights.

"Naturally, I am happy to be free again. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have worked so unflinchingly for my freedom. But I cannot be satisfied with the personal freedom to move around without molestation from those forces which would not only like to crush me from the noble fight for the emancipation of the Negro people and others who are members of the toiling,—but who want to continue to perpetuate their evil and cruel oppression of all workers. It has been a great fight. There is still greater work to do and I am happy that I shall be able to contribute whatever I can to the continuation of this fight."