



# Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee

Office: 256 HANOVER STREET

Mail Address:

P. O. BOX 93, HANOVER STREET STATION

BOSTON, MASS.

TEL. RICHMOND 4665

"Sacco and Vanzetti are innocent men; they shall not be murdered!"—EUGENE V. DEBS

## Officers:

JOHN BARRY, Chairman

ALDINO FELICANI, Treasurer

MICHAEL FLAHERTY, Vice-Chairman

EMILIO CODA, Secretary

32

## The Following Organizations have taken action for the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti:

American Federation of Labor  
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Teachers  
Boston Central Labor Union  
Brockton, Mass., Central Labor Union  
Chicago Federation of Labor  
Detroit Federation of Labor  
Evansville, Ind., Central Labor Union  
Farmer-Labor Party of the U. S.  
Independent Workmens Circle  
International Association of Painters  
Decorators and Paperhangers  
International Fur Workers of America  
Int. Ladies Garment Workers Union  
Italian Chamber of Labor, N. Y.  
League for Democratic Control  
Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly  
Minnesota State Federation of Labor  
New England Civil Liberties Committee  
N. E. Workers Defense Conference  
Ohio State Federation of Labor  
Printing Pressmen's Union No. 3  
Printing Pressmen's Union No. 51  
Pittsburgh Pa., Central Labor Union  
St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly  
Salem, Mass. Central Labor Union  
Seattle Central Labor Council  
Sioux Falls, S. D., Trades and Labor  
Assembly  
Socialist Party  
Sons of Italy  
Tacoma, Wash., Central Labor Council  
Tampa, Fla., Trades and Labor Assembly  
Trade Union Educational League  
United Hebrew Trades, N. Y.  
United Mine Workers of America  
Utah State Federation of Labor  
Women's Trade Union League  
Worcester, Mass., Central Labor Union  
Workers Defense Union  
Workers Party of America  
Workmens Circle  
York, Pa., Federation of Trades Unions

Dear Friend:—

We are calling again for the solidarity of labor and the support of all lovers of justice, to save our dear comrades Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti from the electric chair.

The defense committee has not sent out a general appeal for assistance for more than a year, but the crisis in the case makes it necessary. The supreme court of Massachusetts has denied all the motions for a new trial on which we had relied to get justice for our comrades, and they will be sentenced and electrocuted for a murder they did not commit — the South Braintree payroll murder — unless this action is reversed.

We still have a fighting chance. When it seemed that all hope had gone valuable new evidence came forward — adding fresh proof of the innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti. Chief Defense counsel William D. Thompson and his associates are now making investigations for corroborative material to present to the courts in a demand for a new trial that we hope will still be granted. But the time before us is short.

Our friends who have helped these two innocent workingmen in the past have more reason than ever to help them now, for they are in the very shadow of the electric chair. But they have a fighting chance to win their freedom and that chance must be taken. They must not be abandoned to the executioner.

Sacco and Vanzetti are not just two individuals. They are a cause. They represent the outcry of the foreign born members of the labor movement for justice. Their conviction at Dedham in 1921 in an atmosphere of hysteria against "reds" and "aliens" was well called a "ghastly miscarriage of justice" by the El Paso convention of the American Federation of Labor.

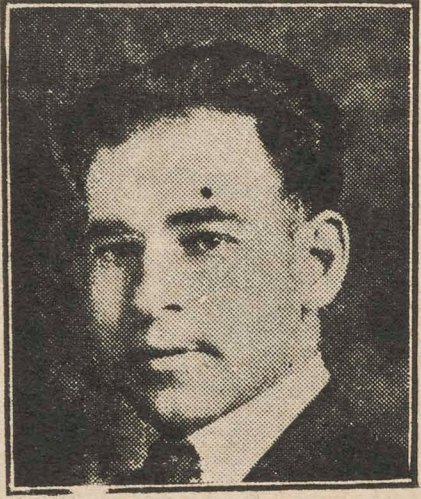
Contributions sent to the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee at Box 93, Hanover Street Station, Boston, Mass., will be taken as a proof of your solidarity.

HELP US TO SAVE SACCO AND VANZETTI!

May, 1926

*Ambro J. J. J. J.* Sec'y





NICOLA SACCO

# Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee

Office: 256 HANOVER STREET

Mail Address:

P. O. BOX 37, HANOVER STREET STATION  
BOSTON, MASS.



BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

*"Sacco and Vanzetti are innocent men; they shall not be murdered!"*

—EUGENE V. DEBS



The Following organizations have taken  
action for the defense of  
Sacco and Vanzetti:

American Federation of Labor  
in National Convention  
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America  
in National Convention  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Teachers  
in National Convention  
Boston Central Labor Union  
Brockton, Mass., Central Labor Union  
Chicago Federation of Labor  
Detroit Federation of Labor  
Evansville, Ind., Central Labor Union  
Farmer-Labor Party of the U. S.  
in National Convention  
Independent Workmens Circle  
in National Convention  
International Association of Painters,  
Decorators and Paperhangers  
in National Convention  
International Fur Workers of America  
in National Convention  
Int. Ladies Garment Workers Union  
in National Convention  
Italian Chamber of Labor, N. Y.  
League for Democratic Control  
Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly  
Minnesota State Federation of Labor  
New England Civil Liberties Committee  
N. E. Workers Defense Conference  
Ohio State Federation of Labor  
in Convention  
Pittsburgh, Pa., Central Labor Union  
St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly  
Salem, Mass. Central Labor Union  
Seattle Central Labor Council  
Sioux Falls, S. D., Trades and Labor  
Assembly  
Sons of Italy, in National Convention  
Tacoma, Wash., Central Labor Council  
Tampa, Fla., Trades and Labor Assembly  
Trade Union Educational League  
United Hebrew Trades, N. Y.  
United Mine Workers of America  
in National Convention  
Utah State Federation of Labor  
Women's Trade Union League,  
in National Convention  
Worcester Mass., Central Labor Union  
Workers Defense Union  
Workers Party of America  
Workmens Circle, in National Convention  
York, Pa., Federation of Trades Unions  
and numerous others.

Dear Friend:

Things are again moving in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. A few weeks ago our fight was against public indifference; today Sacco's hunger strike has aroused the workers of America to a realization of the seriousness of this case.

We want you to read the enclosed leaflet and learn just how the Sacco-Vanzetti case stands now.

We want you to help us give the case publicity. Last and most important you must furnish the sinews of war--Money. Without adequate financial support the fight cannot continue.

Send a contribution at once.

Fraternally yours,

*Frank R. Lopez*

Secretary



# For the Defense of Sacco and Vanzetti



NICOLA SACCO

From the LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS JOURNAL, issue of November 1924:

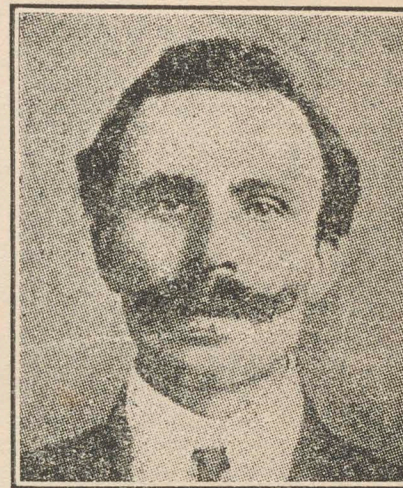
*"The denial of justice to one worker is a denial of justice to all regardless of race or craft."*

*"Must two Italian workingmen—labor organizers—die in Massachusetts for a crime of which honest witnesses declare them innocent?"*

*"Must justice be so blind, judges so biased that men can be hanged when the evidence declares conclusively that they are not guilty?"*

"The Sacco-Vanzetti case is an outrageous example of the tendency of American courts to declare labor organizers guilty of fancied crimes even before they are tried".

We, the undersigned, contribute the sums appended to our names, to help save these men from the electric chair, and we pledge ourselves to spread the facts of this miscarriage of justice:



BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

Contributions should be sent to Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee: P. O. Box 93, Hanover St. Station, Boston, Mass.

[illegible]

*If this Sheet is not long enough, paste on an extra sheet of paper.*



# SACCO AND VANZETTI

## Shall there be a Mooney Frame-up in New England?

THERE IS GRAVE DANGER that two men now held in Massachusetts prisons for alleged murder will be sent to the electric chair on evidence no more substantial than the fabricated testimony which put Mooney and Billings behind the bars. The two men imperilled are Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who will be tried shortly at Dedham, Mass.

Sacco is a highly skilled shoe worker; Vanzetti an eel seller. For years they were aggressive in solidifying Italian workers in New England in demands for decent wages and working conditions. Because of Sacco's activities in the Hopedale foundry strike and Vanzetti's leadership in the big cordage walkout at Plymouth, they became marked men.

Born in Italy, they were friends of Andrea Salsedo, and when his secret imprisonment by the Department of Justice in New York became known through a smuggled-out letter, they sought zealously to effect his rescue by legal action. Both were arrested two days after Salsedo plunged to death from the fourteenth story offices of the Department. At first they were held as "reds;" overnight, criminal charges were substituted.

Flimsy "identifications" connected Vanzetti with a holdup at Bridgewater. He was hurried to trial. Nine creditable witnesses swore he was selling eels 28 miles away at the time of the attack. But Vanzetti was convicted—on evidence never introduced in open court. Vanzetti is now serving fifteen years in State's prison. District Attorney Frederick Katzmann has refused to let the defense examine the exhibits used in that trial. His case is now on appeal.

Vanzetti was also indicted, this time without a hearing, for another holdup and two murders at South Braintree. Sacco was likewise indicted on "identifications" furnished by three witnesses who admitted they were not positive. Both men were miles away when this crime was committed.

But, it will be asked, can such things happen in America? Well, Mooney and Billings were sent to prison by a conspiracy engineered in the very office of a State prosecutor.

Further, there are the widespread persecutions of foreign-born workers in New England and elsewhere under the Palmer terror regime—exposed in the unanswerable report of twelve noted lawyers, including Roscoe Pound, Felix Frankfurter and Zechariah Chafee, Jr., of Harvard Law School. That report tells of "wholesale arrests without warrant or process of law; workingmen and workingwomen jailed, held incommunicado, shamefully abused and maltreated; homes entered without search-warrant and property seized or destroyed.

"Since these illegal acts were committed by the nation's highest powers," say the twelve attorneys, "there is no final appeal from them except to the conscience and condemnation of the American people."

**William James, writing to H. G. Wells in 1906 relative to similar abuse,—a faint forecast of these latter-day outrages, said: "Exactly that callousness to abstract justice is the sinister feature, and to me as to you the incomprehensible feature,—of our U. S. civilization. . . . When the ordinary American hears of these [cases], instead of the idealist within him beginning to 'see red' with the higher indignation, instead of English history growing alive in his breast, he begins to pooh-pooh and minimize and tone down the thing, and breed excuses from his general fund of optimism and respect for expedience."**

Fellow citizens, these things *do* happen. The evidence is too well authenticated to be brushed aside. Meanwhile, at this moment, Sacco and Vanzetti are in the shadow of the electric chair. Adequate defense will require much money. Testimony of four material witnesses, one of them deported by the Federal Government, must be sent over from Italy. So far, the bulk of the defense funds have been borne by Italian rank-and-file workers. Must they carry the whole burden?

We ask you to give generously and to give quickly.

*New England Civil Liberties Committee, Anna N. Davis, Secretary-Treasurer, 44 Edgehill Road, Brookline, Mass.*



# THE FIGHT CONTINUES

The forms of legal procedure are so far from the facts of real life that when a firm, determined, stubborn man who is willing to risk his life, if necessary, stands out against the law, the law is stumped. That is what happened when Nick Sacco went on his now famous thirty-one day hunger strike.

For thirty-one days Sacco refused to eat, demanding his freedom. Three times each day food was taken to his cell in the Dedham jail and three times each day he refused to touch it. Against the advice and over the protest of the members of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, his wife, his lawyers, his co-defendant and friend Vanzetti, his hunger strike was begun and carried on.

The law could not take notice of his revolt against its injustice. Grave, impersonal justice as represented by the court did not heed his protest. That is, not officially; as the lawyers say, "It did not appear in the record."

But a few days after the public announcement of his hunger strike Judge Thayer announced that he would hear argument on motions for a new trial for Sacco and Vanzetti. The announcement of the hearing followed a conference between Judge Thayer and the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts and of course, was not influenced by the fact that Sacco had not eaten for twelve days and scores of meetings had been held throughout the state and all over the country demanding a new trial for Sacco. At least the judge did not say anything about that.

Two days before the date set for the hearing the prosecution filed with the court twenty-one affidavits with which they sought to nullify the effect of nearly eighty affidavits filed by the defense and on which motions for a new trial are based.

The star witness for the state, Lola Andrews, who in an affidavit given to the defense more than six months ago repudiated her testimony on the witness stand, again repudiates herself in one of the affidavits filed by the state and claims that she was "coerced and intimidated" by lawyers for the defense into repudiating what she said on the witness stand. This affidavit makes the fourth time she has changed her story about the events connected with the murders at South Braintree for which Sacco and Vanzetti were found guilty. Long before the trial Mrs. Andrews gave a statement to a defense investigator in which she said that she could not

identify the man she saw at South Braintree the day of the murders as Sacco. On the witness stand she contradicted that statement while admitting that she had made it. Later she gave and signed an affidavit for the defense in which she charged that prosecuting officers had "coerced and intimidated" her into testifying as she did. In her latest affidavit filed by the prosecution she makes the same charges against Fred H. Moore, chief counsel for the defense. She also charges that her own son was used as a willing tool in intimidating her, and that Fred Biedenkapp who did some investigating work for the defense was a party to the "coercion and intimidation."

Louis Pelser, who was the state's second important witness, has also given the prosecution an affidavit in which he repudiates all the things he said in an affidavit he gave the defense. He too has now changed his story of what happened on April 15, 1919 in South Braintree, Mass., four times. The changes in Pelser's story parallel those of Lola Andrews. In addition to saying that he was "coerced and intimidated" by Fred H. Moore, Pelser says that he was under the influence of several drinks of moonshine at the time he gave Moore the statement, and that a defense investigator gave him money. He was given seventy cents by the defense investigator, he says.

In several other affidavits filed with the court by the state they seek to prove that Moore tried to intimidate Carlos Goodridge alias Erastus C. Whitney into changing his testimony by having him arrested in Maine under an indictment for larceny in New York State. Goodridge, in the affidavit filed by the state, admits that he is a fugitive from justice from New York, but states that he has used the name Goodridge for the last seven years. The defense contention that Goodridge-Whitney used several other names is supported by numerous affidavits filed with the court.

Other affidavits deal with Roy Gould, a man who witnessed the crime for which Sacco and Vanzetti were found guilty but who was not called by the state. The defense charges that Gould gave his name to the police at the time of the murder and Gould has made affidavit to that effect.

Fred H. Moore, chief counsel for the defense, points out that both Lola Andrews and Louis Pelser must have committed perjury and that either he or some one connected with the office of the District



Attorney of Norfolk County suborned perjury. He demands to know why no one has been indicted.

Because the defense attorneys did not have sufficient time before the hearing to examine the affidavits filed by the prosecution they asked that the hearing be set one week ahead to Friday, March 16 in order that they might have a chance to go over the affidavits with the necessary care.

In the meantime Sacco continued his hunger strike. When it came time for court to open Friday, March 16, Sacco was not in the cage. Vanzetti sat alone; Sacco was too weak to attend the hearing. Twenty-nine days without food left him in such condition that he was unable to sit thru a days proceedings in court.

Court was scheduled to open at 10.00 A. M. but when it was found that Sacco was too weak to attend the hearing the judge called all the lawyers into his chambers to decide what should be done about it.

After more than three hours of waiting, court opened long enough to permit the appointment of three alienists to examine Sacco and report on his sanity. The law has but one way to crush those who effectively block its operation; it "questions their sanity." The alienists were to and did report next day to the court.

They reported that Sacco's mental condition was such that he should be removed to a psychopathic hospital where he could be placed under observation and forcibly fed if necessary. The court ordered Sacco sent to the Boston Psychopathic Hospital for two weeks and he was transferred from the jail in Dedham to the hospital the same afternoon. When Sacco arrived at the hospital he did the bravest thing a man could have done under the circumstances. He voluntarily ate. If he had continued his hunger strike the law would have considered that proof of his insanity. By eating he checkmated the law.

*Sacco's hunger strike was effective. It has shocked the conscience of America into a realization that the frame up system must go.*

Meanwhile, it remains to fight Sacco's case in the courts. Until his strength has been restored his case cannot proceed. But Vanzetti's case can and will be pushed. Pushing Vanzetti's case will be pushing Sacco's case; the two are so closely linked that to touch one is to touch the other. Anything done for Vanzetti will be effective action for Sacco.

The most important motion for a new trial is that now before the court. It is the so-called second supplementary motion for a new trial and deals with certain alleged irregularities in the jury room. This motion is considered of sufficient importance to warrant the employment of special counsel who will argue it before the court. William G. Thompson who was formerly President of the Boston Bar Association and Vice President of the American Bar Association and Arthur D. Hill former corporation counsel for the city of Boston will argue this motion for the defense. These two men are two of the biggest attorneys in New England.

The basis of this motion is that there had been brought into the jury room by the foreman of the jury (Walter Ripley, who has since died) four bullets of a make similar to bullets introduced in evidence and that the bullets brought into the jury room by Ripley were used by him as a basis of comparison with those introduced in evidence. Both the State and Federal Constitution provide that the accused in a criminal case shall be faced with all evidence. The use of the Ripley bullets violates such provisions. From a legal point of view this motion is of vast importance and it may be necessary to carry this point to the United States Supreme Court if the state courts rule against the defense.

Eleven of the affidavits filed by the prosecution are from the surviving members of the Sacco-Vanzetti jury who say they either did not see the bullets or were not influenced in arriving at a verdict by them. It is obviously impossible to find out now if the use of those bullets influenced the verdict of Ripley. The defense contends that it is not necessary to prove that Ripley was so influenced but merely that he might have been.

**While Sacco lies in the hospital being observed to determine his sanity and Vanzetti is in Charlestown State Prison the fight continues. It must and will continue till Sacco and Vanzetti are free. There will be no compromises in this case; Sacco and Vanzetti will be freed. You must continue your support. Money is necessary to carry on this fight. Send a contribution at once.**

**SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

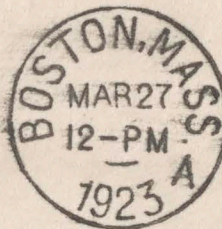
**P. O. Box 37, Hanover Street Station**



**BOSTON, MASS.**



IF NOT DELIVERED, RETURN TO  
P. O. BOX 37, HANOVER STREET STA.  
BOSTON, MASS.



Miss Mary E. Haskell  
36 Concord Av  
Cambridge  
Mass.



