

Wild Hospital Scene Leads to Elder Sirhan Brother's Arrest

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A wild, early-morning scene in the intensive care ward of a Pasadena hospital Friday led to the arrest of Sharif B. Sirhan, eldest brother of the man on trial for the Sen. Robert F. Kennedy killing.

Sirhan burst into the ward where a third brother was undergoing treatment for injuries suffered in a traffic accident, police said, and demanded to know how badly he was hurt.

Sirhan, not satisfied with a physician's explanation of the injuries, yanked off his brother's bed covers and flailed out at doctors and nurses who attempted to restrain him, officers said.

Police Lt. Richard E. Smith forcibly subdued Sirhan after a scuffle. Later, Smith booked him at the Pasadena Police Station on suspicion of simple assault and disturbing the peace.

Smith recreated the events leading up to the 3:40 a.m. arrest this way:

Saidallah B. Sirhan, 36, suffered a skull fracture and broken leg when struck by a car while crossing Lake Ave. at Howard St. at 6:35 p.m. Thursday. He was taken to St. Luke Hospital in Pasadena, where his condition remained serious Friday.

En route from the family home to the hospital early Friday to visit the injured brother, Sharif Sirhan, 37, was stopped by a California Highway Patrol officer and cited for driving at excessive speed.

The CHP officer, worried because Sirhan appeared unduly "agitated" over the citation, telephoned Lt.

Smith, watch commander at Pasadena Police Headquarters, to alert him.

As a precaution, Lt. Smith decided to visit the hospital, and arrived to find Sharif Sirhan berating hospital personnel, resisting their efforts to restrain him and disturbing four other patients in the ward.

Sirhan received a bruised lip in scuffling with the lieutenant. He was treated for the minor injury after being released from custody on \$125 bail.

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