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No Charges in King Case

The Justice Department has no plans to bring criminal charges in the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., even after a jury found his slaying was the result of a conspiracy, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder said yesterday.

He said the Justice Department's 15-month investigation into King's death should be completed within weeks, but "I would not want people to think that . . . there is the likelihood of any kind of criminal trial."

A Tennessee jury made its ruling in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by King's family against a man who claimed that mobsters offered him \$100,000 to arrange King's murder. James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder and was convicted, but later retracted his confession.

"We don't care what the Justice Department does," King's son Dexter told reporters in Atlanta yesterday. Because of information that came out in the civil trial, "we believe that this case is over. . . . We know what happened. This is the period at the end of the sentence."