'Witness' in King slaying freed after 10 years

BOLIVAR, Tenn. (AP) — Grace Walden, who says she saw Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin moments after the killing, has been released from Western Mental Health Institute to a sheltered boarding home in Memphis.

Mrs. Walden, who lived in the Memphis hotel from where the King assassin fired his fatal shot in April 1963, claims to have seen a man running down the hotel hallway after King was shot on the balcony of the nearby Lorraine Motel.

She has been confined to the Bolivar hospital since July 1, 1968.

On the 10th anniversary of King's death earlier this month, a group of ministers demanded her release, claiming she was hospitalized because she refused to identify James Earl Ray as the man who fled the hotel.

Ray serving a 99-year prison term for the killing, has been seeking a full trial since shortly after pleading guilty.