

Court Won't Hear Ruchell Magee's Plea

The U.S. Supreme Court declined yesterday to consider a request by San Quentin convict Ruchell Magee that he be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea in Santa Clara county superior court to a charge of aggravated kidnaping.

The charge stems from a 1970 battle at the Marin Civic Center in which Superior Court Judge Harold Haley and three others were killed.

Magee was tried in San Francisco originally on charges of murder and kidnaping but the trial ended with a hung jury.

The case was subsequently transferred to Santa Clara county, where Magee was charged solely with kidnaping.

Against the advice of his attorneys, Magee insisted on pleading guilty to the charge. A few days later he asked to withdraw the plea, but was turned down by Superior Court Judge William A. Ingram.

Magee argued that he had once been denied the right to defend himself on grounds that he was incompetent to do so.