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nashville, tenn. AP - James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence for assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King jr., was ordered Tuesday to appear at a federal court hearing Dec. 29 on his complaint about maximum security confinement.

U.S. Dist. court Judge William E. Miller directed that state corrections officials deliver Ray in person "under proper security precautions."

Ray sought an injunction two weeks ago against STATE Corrections Commissioner Lake Russell and Warden willim S. neil of the state penitentiary.

He contends his civil rights have been violated by his being confined to a maximum security cell at the penitentiary. Ray pleaded guilty march 10 to a first-degree murder charge in the King slaying in Memphis.

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