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Retrial Sought for James Earl Ray

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NASHVILLE (Tenn.) — (AP) — Attorneys for James Earl Ray filed a petition in federal court yesterday requesting a hearing that would allow Ray to withdraw his plea of guilty in the

assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“In effect, we’re asking the federal court to review Ray’s plea of guilty and see if it was the result of duress and coercion and, if so, per-

mit him to withdraw his guilty plea and be tried on its merits in the Memphis state court,” said Bernard Fensterwald, one of Ray’s lawyers.

Ray now is serving a

99-year prison term for the April 1968 sniper slaying of the black civil rights leader. At the moment, he is in solitary confinement at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.