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# Slayer of Dr. King Won't Eat

Nashville

James Earl Ray began a hunger strike Friday to protest his solitary confinement and lost even more privileges, Tennessee state prison official said.

Warden James Rose said Ray, serving a 99-year term for the 1968 slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., refused his meals Friday.

"He threw his breakfast tray out on the walk and scattered food all over the wall," Rose said. "He was written up and the disciplinary board gave him ten days in punitive segregation."

Rose said Ray's assignment to punitive segregation means he will lose exercise, radio, television, library and concert privileges.

Ray has filed suit in U.S. District Court seeking release from administrative segregation where he is housed in a single cell apart from the general prison population.

Prison officials contend Ray has to be locked up because of his record of escape attempts and because he may be in danger from other prisoners.

Ray said in his suit that the conditions of his confinement are harming both his mental and physical health.

However, when Judge L. Clure Morton ordered Ray's lawyers to show cause why their client should not submit to a psychiatric examination, Ray told the court he would rather drop the suit than undergo testing. He also said he was dismissing his attorneys.

*Associated Press*