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Sirhan NL

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PASADENA, Calif. AP - A

brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, convicted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, pleaded innocent Wednesday to a disturbing the peace charge which police said resulted from a family argument.

Said Sirhan, 40, attended his arraignment in Pasadena Municipal Court only after officers served him with a bench arrest warrant at his home.

The warrant was issued after a third brother Sharif, 39, told the judge Said was too ill to appear in court.

After entering his plea, the defendant, one of Mary Sirhan's five sons, was released on his own recognizance. A preliminary hearing is to be held Aug. 17.

A public defender was appointed to counsel Said, who is accused of breaking a window and ripping a piece of siding from Mrs. Sirhan's Pasadena home after allegedly arguing with his mother over whether she was withholding family funds from her sons, police said.

Sharif brought to the courtroom a statement which he unsuccessfully asked the court's permission to finish reading.

"My brother is dying of ... hunger," Sharif told the court in explaining why Said was absent.

The judge issued a bench warrant ordering Said to appear in court, but told officers not to serve it if they found the defendant to be ill.

Sharif, however, urged officials to send an ambulance to bring Said to court so that he could get medical attention.

Sharif said his brother hadn't eaten for 10 days and he told newsmen later that he himself had gone hungry for a similar period.

The brothers contend that repercussions of their brother's conviction in the Kennedy killing has affected their lives to the point that they cannot obtain employment.