

# Juanita Iwakiri guilty of kidnapping. . .

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mother, Beverly Wise, 26, was found stabbed to death in their San Bernardino home.

Tiffani and Brandi, ages 2 and 5, respectively, when they disappeared, have never been found. Investigators have been especially concerned for Brandi's well-being because she suffers from cystic fibrosis and needs medication to digest food properly. Without it she would die.

Since their disappearance the girls have reportedly been seen in Northern California, Idaho and Nevada, according to San Bernardino police who reopened the investigation in September 1979. Some people have told police they saw the girls with Brandi's father and Wise's ex-husband, Roy Summers. Police believe that Summers visited the Iwakiri home sometime after the crimes were committed.

Summers, 40, the prime suspect in the case, is in San Bernardino County Jail awaiting trial on charges of murder and kidnapping.

Also awaiting trial on perjury charges is Mrs. Iwakiri's husband, Michael, 32. His trial is set for June 1 in San Bernardino.

Initially, Mr. Iwakiri also faced charges of being an accessory to kidnapping and

murder, but they were dropped in July 1980 after a preliminary hearing.

The perjury charge stems from testimony Iwakiri gave before the San Bernardino County grand jury last year that allegedly contradicts what he had previously told Boise police.

He has been out on his own recognizance since last summer and lives in Boise.

Regarding her conviction, Juanita Iwakiri told The Statesman newspaper in Boise on Thursday, "I couldn't believe the verdict when I heard it."

During her trial, witnesses testified that they had seen Tiffani with both Iwakiris. But Mrs. Iwakiri maintained she had never had the children.

Defense attorney Jon Wyman claimed that Mrs. Iwakiri was the victim of a "zealous crusade" by San Bernardino police and Boise authorities.

Meanwhile in San Bernardino, news of the conviction was greeted happily by Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith, who is handling Summers' prosecution.

Michael Iwakiri's San Bernardino attorney, Edward Foley, said he did not think the verdict would affect his case.

Neither Deputy District Attorney William Timmerman, who is handling Michael Iwakiri's prosecution, nor Timothy Guhin,

who is defending Summers, could be reached for comment Thursday.

Of the others charged in the case, a plea bargain disposition in San Bernardino Superior Court in June 1980 brought an end to the prosecution of Lee Casner, 38.

Casner, of Grass Valley, Calif., had been bound over for trial after a preliminary hearing on charges of accessory to both murder and kidnapping and two counts of concealing minor children.

The murder charge was dropped. Then, instead of going to trial, Casner pleaded guilty to one count of concealing a minor and the other charges were also dropped.

He was placed on three years probation and assessed a jail sentence equivalent to the amount of time he had served since his arrest.

The remaining person charged in the case — with accessory to kidnapping and murder — is Karen Carino, Summers' sister who lives in Virginia. But she has never been extradited to San Bernardino and authorities have said they do not know when and if that will occur.

Police believe the missing girls and Summers visited Carino, 34, in Pleasanton, Calif., where she lived in 1977, soon after the crimes occurred.