

Jail term given woman charged in Wise case

By TINA MAY
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Juanita Iwakiri, the first person to have been tried in connection with the 1977 murder of a San Bernardino woman and the abduction of her two young girls, was sentenced Friday to five years in

state prison by a Boise, Idaho, judge.

The sentence, five years less than was sought by a prosecutor but 20 years less than the maximum she could have received, was greeted with tears by Iwakiri,

29, and anger by her attorney, Jon Wyman.

"I know I'm innocent," Iwakiri said. "I'll serve my time, but I won't give up fighting."

"It's a tragedy," Wyman said in a telephone interview after the one-hour hearing. "I think it's wrong. I

don't think there was a case against her."

But Greg Bower, chief deputy criminal prosecutor, termed the sentence "appropriate."

In May, a jury convicted Iwakiri of second-degree kidnapping for hiding Tiffani Wise off and on

between April 1977 and June 1979 at the day-care center she operated in her Boise home.

A charge of concealing Tiffani's half-sister, Brandi Summers, had been dropped by District Court Judge Robert Newhouse during

the trial because of insufficient evidence.

The crime is the equivalent in California of felony child concealment. Iwakiri is one of five persons, including her husband,

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