

Iwakiri hearing enters eighth day

By TINA MAY
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — There is no evidence to show that Michael Iwakiri, charged as an accessory in the 1977 murder of a San Bernardino woman and the kidnapping of her two young daughters, had "actual knowledge" of who committed the crimes.

That's part of what defense attorney Edward P. Foley said Tuesday in 40 minutes of closing arguments at Iwakiri's preliminary hearing.

The eighth day of the hearing will resume today at 10 a.m. in Municipal Court.

In addition to the accessory charges, Iwakiri, 31, of Boise, Idaho, is charged with perjury because investigators believe he lied when he testified last month before the San Bernardino County Grand Jury.

Neighbors of Iwakiri and his wife, Juanita, have told investigators they saw the missing girls, Brandi Jondell Summers, now 8 years old, and Tiffani Wise, now 5, at the Iwakiri home several

times since their abduction March 30, 1977, the day their mother, Beverly Wise, 26, was found stabbed to death.

Juanita Iwakiri, who has also been charged in Idaho in the case, ran a licensed day-care center in her home.

Because of what neighbors told them, detectives also believe that the prime suspect in the case, Roy Summers, was at the Iwakiri's home with the girls last June. Summers is Wise's ex-husband and Brandi's father.

"The first question," Foley told Municipal Court Judge Donald E. Van Loven Tuesday, is "what if my client did lie before the grand jury? Has that (alleged lie) aided the principal (Summers)? How has it aided the killer? How has it aided the kidnappers?"

Despite what Iwakiri told police, Foley argued, investigators who filed the charges did so based on what other people said about his client's actions.

If Iwakiri lied, it has to be shown that he did so with the specific intent of aiding the principal to

escape and avoid arrest, trial and conviction, Foley said.

He questioned whether the evidence showed that if Iwakiri did lie, that he did so to protect Summers. What is more reasonable, Foley argued, is that Iwakiri would have lied to protect himself or his wife.

In addition, Foley said that even if everything neighbors told police is true and that Iwakiri lied when interviewed by Boise and San Bernardino police, "nevertheless, he hasn't committed any crimes in California. The only crime here, if any, is in his testimony to the grand jury."

Iwakiri told the grand jury that his wife has babysat about 200 children over the last few years and the only time he usually saw any of them was when he came home for lunch.

He told a Boise detective in an interview that he wasn't at all sure he had ever seen Brandi. Regarding Tiffani, Iwakiri said he only thought he might have seen her.

In an interview a few days later with San Bernardino Detective

Don Meyer, "no matter how hard Meyer tried, the most he could get from my client is that Iwakiri said 'it is possible,' he saw Tiffani," Foley told the court.

In his testimony before the grand jury, Iwakiri said that to his knowledge, neither the children nor Summers had been in his house.

If that testimony was inaccurate,

(Continued on C-4, column 2)

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