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## BRAIN INJURY BARS TRIAL OF WOMAN, 26, CHARGED IN SLASHING

**Author(s):** The Record PAULO LIMA, STAFF WRITER

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A judge ruled Monday that brain damage sustained in a car accident has rendered a 26-year-old Korean woman incompetent to stand trial in the 1997 slashing of an Edgewater woman.

██████████ is one of three people charged in the razor attack on ██████████. Also charged are ██████████ 35-year-old sister, ██████████, and ██████████ then-boyfriend, ██████████

██████████ was injured in a car accident 2 1/2 years after ██████████ was attacked.

Medical experts appointed by the court, prosecutors, and the defense all agreed that her brain damage prevented her from being able to assist in her own defense, said ██████████ attorney, **Michael Beatrice**.

Superior Court Judge John A. Conte agreed. Conte scheduled a hearing in six months, when attorneys will update the court on the woman's mental condition.

If she remains incompetent, the charges against her could be dropped.

Prosecutors allege that ██████████ and ██████████ held ██████████ down while ██████████ slashed her on the head, face, chest, and thighs.

██████████ who was ██████████'s ex-girlfriend, required more than 100 stitches to close her wounds, authorities said.

Each of the three is charged with aggravated assault, which carries a maximum 10-year sentence.

The two well-dressed sisters stood side by side Monday in the Hackensack courtroom, with [REDACTED] holding [REDACTED] hand and occasionally whispering to her. [REDACTED] stared forward and said nothing during the proceeding.

[REDACTED], 27, wore an orange Bergen County Jail jumpsuit, his hands and feet shackled, as Bergen County Sheriff's officers watched from a few feet away. He is serving a 25-year-to-life sentence for the March 1998 murder of another ex-girlfriend, Hyeseung Lynda Hong.

[REDACTED], a 26-year-old Columbia University Law School student, was killed in her Manhattan apartment. Her throat had been slashed. [REDACTED], the scion of a Korean apparel empire, was convicted in 2000.

Monday's development could have serious implications for him and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] attorney, Raymond Flood, contended the younger [REDACTED] would have been able to exonerate her sister had she been fit to testify. Flood even suggested the trial be postponed to see whether [REDACTED] regains her competency.

Conte denied the request, saying the doctors' reports indicated her prospects for recovery weren't good.

Bergen County Assistant Prosecutor Liliانا Silebi took issue with Flood's contention.

"I'm surprised to hear that because [REDACTED] actually gave a signed, written statement implicating her sister," Silebi told the judge.

Prosecutors have offered [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a three-year prison sentence in exchange for a guilty plea, but she has not accepted the offer.

Conte scheduled pretrial hearings for June 4, but a trial would likely not happen until September at the earliest.

Staff Writer Paulo Lima's e-mail address is [lima\(at\)northjersey.com](mailto:lima(at)northjersey.com)

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