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Attorney: Novack planned 3rd killing

Fla. woman denied bail in deaths of husband at hotel, mother-in-law

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Narcy Novack, already accused of participating in the killing of her husband and mother-in-law, may have been involved in a plot to kill a witness in the case, a prosecutor said Monday during Novack's first court appearance in New York.



Narcy
Novack

The prosecutor would not elaborate on the alleged plot, reveal its target or say what role Novack may have played in it. But he said it was one more reason to hold her pending trial.

Novack, 53, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., pleaded not guilty to charges related to the July 12, 2009, slaying of her husband, Ben Novack Jr., at the Hilton Rye Town.

Her lawyer renewed a request for bail that had been denied at a Florida hearing last month. But U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Davison ordered that Novack, who was transferred to New York last week, continue to be held without bail.

Novack, her brother, Cristobal Veliz, Joel Gonzalez and Denis Ramirez were arrested a month ago after their indictment on charges of interstate domestic violence and stalking in the killing of her husband, whose father was the founder of Miami Beach's famed Fontainebleau Hotel.

The couple's company, Convention Concepts Unlimited, was at the hotel running a weekend convention for Amway Global, their biggest client. Novack is alleged to have watched as two men beat her husband to death with dumbbells. She also helped arrange for two assailants to kill her mother-in-law months earlier, prosecutors have said, a mysterious, bloody death that was initially ruled an accident.

On Monday, Jacobson repeated what he said at the earlier bail hearing — that Novack, a native of Ecuador, was both a flight risk and a danger to the community. He said the slaying was "extraordinarily grisly," that she had let the killers into the hotel room, pointed to where he was sleeping and, during the attack, told the killers in Spanish to cut out his eyes.

Jacobson said Novack was also a danger because of a subsequent plot to frame and assault her daughter, May Abad.

Howard Tanner, Novack's lawyer, said his client could have fled over the past year and that she has no reason not to show up to any court hearings as she is anxious to fight the charges.

He also said that she had shown no dangerous tendencies in the year since the killing — which prompted Jacobson's revelation of the other plot to kill a witness.

Tanner called that "innuendo and hearsay" and asked Jacobson to provide more specifics.

But the judge said that was unnecessary, as he was going to deny bail simply on the facts of the indictment.

Outside the federal courthouse, Tanner said he was disappointed his client would not be freed but that the decision had been expected. He said the "silver lining" to the charges and incarceration is that Novack "will finally get her day in court."

Authorities suspect Narcy had learned that her husband was having an affair and plotted to kill him out of fear that he would end their 19-year marriage and cut her out of his will. The couple's prenup-



Ben
Novack Jr.

of the heirs in his will. The other was his mother, Bernice Novack — whose share was to go to Narcy if she died before her son.

A Florida probate judge has blocked Novack from any control of the estate while the criminal charges are pending. The government has also

tial agreement would have left her with only \$65,000 of the estate estimated at \$5 million to \$6 million.

But she was named as one of the heirs in his will. The other was his mother, Bernice Novack — whose share was to go to Narcy if she died before her son.

A Florida probate judge has blocked Novack from any control of the estate while the criminal charges are pending. The government has also

moved to seize most of Ben Novack's estate. All four defendants are due in U.S. District Court on Sept. 10.

Veliz was denied bail last month. He is accused of helping to plot both killings, buying the utility knife used to cut Novack's eyes, and driving his killers from Florida to New York. Cell-phone records put him in the vicinity of the hotel in Rye Brook at the time of the killing.

Prosecutors said Gonzalez has admitted killing Ben Novack and has implicated the widow, Ramirez, whose children are Cristobal Veliz's

grandchildren, is accused of driving the killers to the hotel the morning Novack was killed.

The other killer was identified as a co-conspirator but not named in the indictment. Prosecutors said he has pleaded guilty to the domestic violence charges and is cooperating. He is also believed to be one of Bernice Novack's killers and has provided authorities with most of the key details in each killing.

The other suspect in the Fort Lauderdale killing has also not been publicly identified or charged.