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Associated press

Former Fugitive pleads not guilty in boys murder

Santa Barbara- Jesse James Hollywood, accused of orchestrating a plot to kidnap and kill a 15 year old boy over a drug debt, pleaded not guilty Monday in down town superior court.

Hollywood was arrested last month in Brazil, where he was living under an assumed name in a coastal town about 60 miles from Rio de Janeiro.

He pleaded not guilty to murder and kidnapping and was scheduled to return to court June 28 for a pretrial hearing, his defense attorney, James Blatt, said.

If convicted, Hollywood could face the death penalty.

Four people were convicted of kidnapping or murder in the case, but Hollywood fled and was the subject of a nearly five year international manhunt.

Authorities allege Hollywood, 25, orchestrated the plot to kidnap and kill 15 year old Nick Markowitz in August 2000 because of bad blood with Markowitz's half brother, who allegedly owed Hollywood \$1,200 in drug debts.

Markowitz was abducted as he walked near his San Fernando valley home and spent two days partying with his captors before they killed him, according to grand jury testimony.