Hossencofft: Wife has been seen alive

By Rick A. Maese
Tribune reporter

After being given a jail sentence for violating a restraining order, murder suspect Diazien Hossencofft abruptly declared that he knows someone who spoke to his estranged wife Girly Hossencofft five days after she disappeared.

Hossencofft is charged with killing his wife last year, although police have not been able to locate her body.

Hossencofft has been indicted on 27 counts ranging from murder to kidnapping. At a hearing Wednesday, Judge Frank Gentry sentenced Hossencofft to one year on each of three counts of violating the restraining order, with the sentences to be served concurrently.

Because Hossencofft has been in jail since Sept. 21, his attorney said, the sentence won't matter too much. "He's already served most of his time," said attorney Ron Koch.

Leaving the courtroom, Hossencofft said the sentence was fair, and then, smiling for a television camera, he mentioned the witness.

"We'll get our day in court," Hossencofft said. "You do realize she was ID'd positively five days after she was found dead."

Girly Hossencofft was in the midst of a stormy divorce when she failed to show up at work on Sept. 10. Diazien Hossencofft and his girlfriend, Linda Henning, were indicted in November.

Saying he couldn't provide any details, Koch said that the District Attorney's Office has located a witness who will play a role in Hossencofft's murder trial, which likely won't be until early 2001. Koch said he has not spoken with the witness and does not know where she lives.

Hossencofft spoke briefly to the judge on his own behalf, saying: "I know you already found me guilty (of violating the restraining order) and I realize the evidence these guys had against me, but I was never allowed to say anything."

Koch said that with a pending murder trial, it was a tactical decision to keep Hossencofft away from the stand on the matter of the restraining order.

In sentencing Hossencofft, Gentry did not

follow the probation department's recommendation, which called for three years served consecutively.

Koch called that recommendation "ludicrous".

"I just want you treat this case as you would any other first-time offender," Koch said.

Hossencofft was convicted less than two months ago for trying to contact his wife on three separate occasions in May and June 1999 contrary to a restraining order, said Jima Shelton, a probation officer.

Hossencofft showed up at Metro Court wearing a bright red jail uniform that said: "High risk prisoner." Awaiting his case, he whispered back and forth with Koch, occasionally laughing.

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