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Husband Charged with Attempted Murder, Torture

A 57-year-old Woodland Hills man was charged today with attempted murder, torture and other counts after he allegedly broke into the home of his estranged wife's male friend on Sunday and attacked them with a machete, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Behnam Vasseghi (dob 7-11-56) is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at Los Angeles Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch, Department 100.

He was charged in case LA075290 with 14 felony counts and one misdemeanor count, including attempted murder, two felony counts of aggravated mayhem, two counts of torture, four counts of assault with a deadly weapon, two counts of making criminal threats, two counts of false imprisonment, one count of first degree burglary with persons present and one misdemeanor count of violating a restraining order, said Deputy District Attorney Rena Durrant.

Vasseghi allegedly broke into the Woodland Hills home of former music executive Jerry Sharell and attacked Sharell and Vasseghi's estranged wife with a machete and a knife. Vasseghi allegedly cut Sharell's throat with a knife and cut the tip of his estranged wife's nose off before slashing his own wrists.

Prosecutors will ask that his bail be set at $5.1 million. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.