

Hearing held on deportation of Obama aunt

by UPI

BOSTON -- Lawyers declined to discuss their strategy Wednesday as they headed for a Boston federal court hearing on the planned deportation of President Obama's aunt.

Attorneys representing Zeituni Onyango met behind closed doors with U.S. Immigration Judge Leonard Shapiro to discuss the case, which the Boston Globe says is being closely watched as a test of the new president's commitment to immigration laws.

Onyango is the half-sister of Obama's late Kenyan father. She lost a bid for asylum in 2003 but continues to live in subsidized public housing in Boston while she appeals the deportation order.

The newspaper said Onyango's lawyers could ask the judge to consider Onyango's chronic health problems or political upheavals in her native Kenya as grounds to allow her to remain in the United States.

Obama has declined to get involved in the case and has said he was not aware of his aunt's legal problems until they surfaced during last year's campaign.

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