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## She's ready for court fight

Ruth Madoff trying to keep New York homes and \$62M.

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When U.S. marshals seized three of Ruth Madoff's boats and her Palm Beach home last week, her attorney said those actions were done with her consent and cooperation.

But if the Florida seizures went smoothly, the same cannot be expected if the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan goes after Ruth Madoff's two other homes — an apartment in Manhattan and a house in Montauk — because they are allegedly the fruits of her husband Bernard's crimes.

Ruth Madoff, 67, is ready to rumble to save not only the two remaining homes but also more than \$62 million in private assets. She also hasn't given up, said her attorneys, on ultimately fighting for the money from the sale of her Florida properties.

Ira Sorkin, one of the attorneys representing the Madoffs, declined to comment yesterday about defending Ruth Madoff's remaining assets in the United States. (A yacht was seized in France last week, and an apartment there is in danger of a similar fate.)

However, last month Sorkin threw down the gauntlet when it was revealed in court papers that he insisted that Ruth Madoff's Manhattan apartment, a



Ruth Madoff's assets at stake

About \$62 million in bonds and cash

\$3-million Montauk home



\$7-million Upper East Side apartment

\$17-million bank account and \$45 million in municipal bonds weren't the fruits of her spouse's Ponzi scheme and wouldn't go to the government without a fight.

But others are at a loss to see how any of Ruth Madoff's assets came from anything other than her spouse's crimes.

"She doesn't deserve it, she should lose it," said Garden City

attorney Jerry Reisman, who represents investors. "She wouldn't have it but for her husband's criminal acts and activities."

Sources close to Ruth Madoff who didn't want to be identified said discussions with prosecutors have yet to reach an agreement on what remaining assets she can retain.

Much of the money in her bank account, said one of the

sources, came from an inheritance from her investor father, Sol Alpern. And while Ruth Madoff readily agreed to let the U.S. government take three boats (two in Florida and one in Montauk) and the Palm Beach house to protect them from losing value, she wants to retain the Upper East Side apartment and Montauk house, the source said.