

7 ARRESTED SAID TO BE PART OF COLOMBIAN COKE PIPELINE

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The Colombian cocaine **pipeline** that allegedly supplied the late Demetrius Holloway and other Detroit drug lords was broken Friday with the arrest **of** several **of** its members and the seizure **of** nearly 50 pounds **of** cocaine and \$818,000 in cash.

Federal officials **said** they believe local members **of** the drug ring dealt directly with the Medellin cartel in **Colombia** and moved more than 220 pounds **of** cocaine a month at about \$29,000 a pound.

Officials **said** they suspect the cocaine, which came in through Miami, would **be** hidden in apartments in Detroit suburbs.

On Thursday evening and Friday, seven members **of** the drug ring were **arrested** after an 11-pound cocaine transaction took place between four **of** the suspects, authorities **said** .

Derick Johnson, 27, **of** Detroit, told agents that he had been buying cocaine from Jorge Vallejo, 25, and his brother Hugo, 28, both **of** Medellin, **Colombia** , since early 1990, **said** assistant U.S. Attorney Lee Janice.

Jorge Vallejo would arrange the drug deals and collect the money, and Hugo would deliver the cocaine, Johnson told agents. All three were **arrested** .

Also **arrested** in connection with the ring were: Eric Lewis, 27, **of** Detroit; Daniel Ramirez, 26, and Sergio Rodriguez Echevery, 33, both **of** Mexico; and Luz Matilde Ramirez, 41, **of** **Colombia**.

They were ordered held without bond and, if convicted, face up **to** life in prison.

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