

## AMBUSH SHOOTING CALLED ATTEMPT TO SILENCE WITNESS

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The ambush shooting of an Allen Park man was an attempt to silence a witness in a major federal drug case, authorities said Thursday.

Todd Conti was critically wounded Sunday by a ski-masked gunman who opened fire on Conti as he walked along the driveway of his home on the 17200 block of Arlington. Conti, 25, was hit four times, but survived and is recovering under police guard at a local hospital.

On Thursday, officials said they believe the shooting is in retaliation for Conti's cooperation in an investigation of a cocaine ring known as the "**Bolo Organization**," after the alleged leader's nickname.

The shooting of Conti has raised concerns that other witnesses may be at risk, authorities said.

A federal indictment is expected to be unsealed today, naming alleged members of a drug ring that is thought to have shipped hundreds of kilograms of cocaine into southwest Detroit from Florida. The ring also is believed to have supplied dealers in Downriver suburbs.

The ring brought the drugs into Michigan in cars equipped with secret compartments, officials said.

A number of persons believed involved in the ring have been picked up by authorities, and there has been at least one drug seizure in the case in the past week.

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