

## BEATEN INFORMANT'S RESCUE LEADS TO CHARGES

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, December 1, 2004

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By the time federal agents swarmed a house in Detroit early last week, drug informant George Cox had been **beaten** senseless and his attackers were threatening **to** cut off one of his legs unless he paid a \$200,000 cocaine debt.

"Please get the money, every penny of it -- this ain't no joke," DEA Agent Gary Galloway said Cox pleaded in a series of frantic phone calls **to** Galloway during the Nov. 22 incident. Cox is Galloway's informant.

"He said it was a matter of life or death," Galloway testified during a three-hour hearing Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit. Magistrate Steven Whalen ordered three of the alleged attackers detained pending trial saying they are dangerous. Whalen said one of the defendants wanted **to** reenact the "Texas Chain Saw Massacre" movie.

Nine people have been charged:

- \* Brenda Ogun, 54, of Dearborn, and her husband, Safianu (Scottie) Ogun, about 55, who allegedly ran a major cocaine trafficking ring. Brenda Ogun is accused of paying four Cleveland men \$8,000 **to** rough up Cox **to** make him pay the balance of a \$300,000 cocaine debt. Galloway testified that she needed the money **to** buy freedom for her husband, who was being held by drug suppliers from Mexico.
- \* Brenda Ogun's daughter, Tiffenee Mailey, 29, of Detroit, who owned the house in the 9200 block of Ward where the beating happened. She allegedly arranged a meeting between Cox and her mother **to** discuss the drug debt. Agents said she fetched a prescription drug after Cox feigned a diabetic episode during the beating.
- \* Benjamin Dykes, 31, and his brother, Dwayne Dykes, 25, and Nathan Wilhight, 36, and Retsal Wilson, 47, all of Cleveland. Brenda Ogun allegedly hired them **to** beat Cox. Their lawyers said they were in Detroit **to** renovate Mailey's home.
- \* Don Diago-Francisco Glover, about 32 of metro Detroit, who allegedly gave 50 kilos of cocaine **to** Cox in exchange for Cox's pledge that he would pay for the drugs.
- \* Phillip Michaels Jr., about 36, of suburban Detroit, who allegedly handled the drug gang's money.

According **to** court papers and Galloway's testimony, Cox owed the gang \$300,000, and Brenda Ogun repeatedly threatened him last month so he would pay the money and she could use it **to** pay a drug debt **to** Mexican suppliers who were holding her husband.

Around 2 p.m. Nov. 22, two of the defendants allegedly abducted Cox at gunpoint after he appeared at a Detroit gas station for a meeting with Brenda Ogun.

The men ordered Cox **to** drive **to** Mailey's home in the 9200 block of Ward on Detroit's west side, where Brenda Ogun and two men allegedly were waiting. Once inside, Cox was reportedly bound and **beaten** by the Dykes brothers, Wilhight and Wilson.

During the beating, the attackers allowed Cox **to** make four calls **to** Galloway, apparently believing Galloway was Cox's financier. Galloway mobilized agents.

Around 6 p.m., they stormed the house and rescued Cox, shortly after one of the men allegedly threatened **to** cut off Cox's leg.

Defense lawyers insisted Monday that Mailey and the four Cleveland men were innocent and should be released on bond.

They said Cox, who has a drug conviction and a case pending, is facing the prospect of life in prison and told DEA agents what they wanted **to** hear. The lawyers said the Cleveland men were in Detroit **to** renovate Mailey's home.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Stafford countered that Brenda Ogun had admitted hiring the men **to** rough up Cox. Stafford said one of the Cleveland men told agents the same thing.

Whalen ordered the Dykes brothers and Wilhight held pending trial. He set \$10,000 unsecured bonds for Mailey and Wilson on the grounds that Mailey didn't know Cox would be beaten and Wilson didn't participate.

Stafford plans **to** appeal Whelan's decision **to** free Mailey and Wilson during a hearing today before U.S. District Judge Robert Cleland.

Brenda Ogun faces a detention hearing Thursday. Her husband and Glover remain at large. Michael's status is unclear. Cox is in protective custody.

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Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 4B

Index Terms: arrest ; drug ; crime ; Detroit ; beating ; George Cox ; informant ; DEA ; Gary Galloway ; namelist

Record Number: 0411761859

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