

## **BLOCK-BY-BLOCK HUNT ON WEST SIDE \ SEARCH FOR SLAYING SUSPECT SHIFTS TO CITY**

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The hunt for murder suspect **Alton Coleman** and his female companion, the subjects of a five-state Midwest search, shifted Friday from Inkster to the near west side of Detroit.

FBI agents, aided by a helicopter and police from Detroit and Dearborn Heights, conducted a block-by-block search of vacant and abandoned buildings in the area of the Jeffries freeway near Michigan, according to FBI Special Agent John Anthony.

"We very definitely feel they're back in that area," Anthony said. "We believe they stayed in vacant houses in that area between June 19 and June 21 or 22 after they got to Detroit. The possibility exists that they've managed to get out, . . . but there's not one bit of firm evidence that they've been able to leave the area. We think they're in a hole somewhere."

The area being searched is near the home of a 28-year-old Detroit woman who was kidnapped Sunday night by a couple police believed were **Coleman** and his companion, Debra Brown. The woman, who was robbed at knifepoint of about \$60, was ordered to drive the couple to Toledo. But she escaped after ramming her car into a pickup truck in Brownstown Township. The couple drove off in the car, which Inkster police discovered abandoned Monday.

**COLEMAN**, 28, of Waukegan, Ill., and Brown, 19, of Kenosha, Wis., are wanted in the kidnapping and murder of a nine-year-old Kenosha girl, the slaying of a seven-year-old Gary, Ind., girl, the rape and critical beating of the Gary girl's nine-year-old auntcq, the kidnapping and robbery of the Detroit woman, and the beating and robbery of an elderly Dearborn Heights couple. **Coleman** and Brown also are believed to have killed a 25-year-old Gary woman, whose abandoned car was discovered Monday on the west side of Detroit.

Asked why police and federal agents seemed more optimistic that they will catch **Coleman** and Brown, Anthony said: "We believe they are without substantial monies and that they are without transportation. They also have no known friends, relatives or associates in this area. And frankly, we think they're getting desperate."

**Coleman**, who investigators say can be a charming con man when it suits his purposes, often commandeers vehicles after ingratiating himself to people.

"As long as **Coleman** and Brown are still at large, we urge everyone to be especially wary of individuals they do not know who approach them," Anthony said. " **Coleman**'s pattern has been to try and gain the confidence of his victims and then use weapons to kidnap or assault them and take their vehicles or order his victims to drive."

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of **Coleman** and Brown is asked to call the Detroit FBI office any time at 965-2323.

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