

COPS : DRUG SUSPECTS SHOOT WRONG FAMILY IN REVENGE SLAYINGS

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, February 5, 1999

Author: SUZETTE HACKNEY Free Press Staff Writer

Detroit police say the case of a northeast side Detroit mother and her 6-year-old son being killed is **drug** retaliation gone bad. The shooting **suspects** had the right house but the **wrong family** .

April Jenkins, 27, and her son Dalante Jenkins were shot to death about 2:15 a.m. Wednesday after getting up to investigate a noise. April Jenkins was shot **in** the head and her son was struck **in** the chest inside the home **in** the 20000 block of Omira.

Police said the shooters mistook the Jenkins **family** for the previous tenants, who were known **drug** dealers. Two men, ages 26 and 27, have been arrested. Police plan to seek a warrant from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office today.

Police are looking for two more people who they believe are involved **in** the **slayings** , which were committed with an AK47 and a 40-caliber handgun. They said the shooters were retaliating against the previous renters, who police believe were a warring **drug** faction.

In fact, one of the men **in** custody said he was shot late last year by a person who used to live **in** the house.

The Jenkins **family** moved into the house last week.

The deaths can "never be justified," said Inspector William Rice, Detroit Police homicide chief. "They didn't even know who they were shooting at, but it's clear that they intended to kill someone."

Police are still trying to figure out how the most recent **slayings** tie into a series of crimes **in** the troubled neighborhood. The Jenkins' deaths are the fourth and fifth **slayings** on that street since November. Police believe they could all be connected.

About 11 p.m. on Jan. 30, police responded to a fatal assault **in** the 19000 block of Omira, where an unidentified man was found lying outside a house with trauma injuries to the head. He died at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

On Jan. 29 about 9:10 p.m., a neighbor noticed that a back door was ajar to a house **in** the 20000 block of Omira. The neighbor checked the house and found 30-year-old Linda Chambers lying **in** the living room with a gunshot to the face. She died at the scene.

On Nov. 18, 20-year-old Tanisha Scott was found lying dead **in** front of the home where the Wednesday shooting took place. Police do not know whether she was shot **in** a car and dumped or shot **in** front of the home.

Suzette Hackney can be reached at 1-313-222-6672 or by E-mail at hackney@freepress.com

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 4B

Index Terms: HOMICIDE ; MULTIPLE ; CHILD ; APRIL JENKINS ; DALANTE JENKINS ;
DRUG; ARREST

Record Number: 9902050322

Copyright (c) 1999 Detroit Free Press