

## **Detroit man charged in fatal arson fire**

Detroit News, The (MI) - Friday, February 13, 2009

Author: Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News

Detroit man charged in fatal arson fire

By Santiago Esparza

The Detroit News

COLDWATER — Attorney General Mike Cox has charged a Detroit man in connection with a September 2004 arson fire that resulted in two deaths.

**Musaid Ahmed Saeed**, 57, is charged in an arrest warrant with two counts of first-degree murder and one count each of conspiracy to commit arson and one count of arson to real property, according to a press release.

Cox alleges that **Saeed** hired Hanie Ali Abdallah and Ismael M. Saleh to burn down a building he owned in Coldwater, according to the press release. Abdallah and Saleh are alleged to have set a fire, but were blown out of the building in the incident, Cox's staff said.

The men flagged down police and were taken to an area hospital where they later died from their injuries.

**Saeed** is to be arraigned in 3A District Court in Branch County later today.

The murder charges carry a life sentence, the conspiracy to commit arson charge carries a sentence of 10 years and/or a \$10,000 penalty and the arson charge a sentence of 10 years in prison.

The building set afire housed a pizzeria, Arab-American cultural center and a photography center.

Cox' Office of Special Investigations probed the incident. The attorney general formed it in 2003 to handle probes of cold case homicides and public corruption cases.

You can reach Santiago Esparza at (313) 222-2320 or [sesparza@detnews.com](mailto:sesparza@detnews.com).

Edition: Online

Section: Metro

Record Number: det35946524

Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.