

## **POLICE ARREST SUSPECT IN PARKING LOT SLAYING - DETROIT MAN TO BE CHARGED IN KILLING OUTSIDE CLUB**

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For Martin Ngaima, the United States represented freedom from the violence of his home country of Liberia and a chance at a new life.

He and a group of childhood buddies moved to America **in** the late-1990s and stayed **in** touch as jobs took them to different parts of the country. They came together **in** Detroit during last year's Labor Day weekend to celebrate with their friend, Ashford Garley, who had bought his first home, **in** northwest Detroit.

But the weekend celebration turned tragic as Ngaima, 36, a newlywed of two months with two young children, was shot and killed during an Aug. 30 robbery **in** the **parking lot** of a west-side Detroit nightclub. He was visiting from North Minneapolis, Minn., at the time.

Friends and family, who are still suffering, took solace **in** the news that the alleged gunman, a parole absconder, was arrested early Friday. Detroit **Police** Inspector Marilyn Hall-Beard said Gregory Washington, 35, was hiding at his girlfriend's home **in** the 9300 block of Coyle when members of the Fugitive Apprehension Service Team -- city **police** and Wayne County sheriff's deputies -- arrested him on a felony murder warrant.

An alleged 34-year-old accomplice has been **in** custody since December, **in** connection with another **slaying** .

Ngaima's father, Samuel Ngaima, screamed "Oh, thank God," when he heard about Washington's **arrest** Friday.

"We've been very depressed and under a **lot** of strain," Ngaima said from his Minneapolis home. "This still doesn't make sense. We want to come to court and find out why."

Garley said he's been praying for justice since the loss of his close friend.

"We came to this country to work hard and feed our families," he said. "This country is what you make of it. But some people just chose to take the lives of an innocent man."

About 20 friends from Minnesota, Chicago and Georgia had come to Garley's housewarming party, on Northlawn, over Labor Day weekend.

Ngaima and his friends Alex Barmon, 35, of Mankato, Minn., and Edwin Bana, 35, of Cottage Grove, Minn., decided to go out as the party wound down. They were **in** the **parking lot** of Bobby G's, at 8203 W. Chicago, when a car pulled up with two men inside.

**Police** said one man got out of the passenger side of the car wearing camouflage paint on his face and holding an AK47 assault rifle. He announced a holdup.

Ngaima took a step and was shot. He died two hours later at Henry Ford Hospital **in** Detroit. Barmon was shot **in** the shoulder but survived. Bana was not harmed.

Washington is charged with felony murder, assault with intent to murder, being a felon **in** possession of a firearm and being a parole violator. He is expected to be arraigned today.

Detroit **Police** Cmdr. Craig Schwartz attributed the **arrest** to good **police** work.

Officers went to the home of Washington's girlfriend Friday because she, too, is a parole violator. **In** the process, they found him hiding there. The officers took him into custody without incident.

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Caption: Photo Ngaima family photo

Martin Ngaima and Christina Howard had been married only a few months when Ngaima was killed.

Gregory Washington, 35, of Detroit was hiding **in** his girlfriend's home when he was arrested on Friday.

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