

REPUTED COCAINE LORD'S MOTHER INDICTED ON GUN POSSESSION CHARGE

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Basima Kalasho -- the mother of slain reputed cocaine lord **Harry Kalasho** -- was indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday for illegal possession of a machine gun.

Kalasho, whose age has been given as both 50 and 56 years old, was charged with possession of an unregistered machine gun and illegally converting a semiautomatic weapon to a fully automatic machine gun.

The gun, an AR15 Colt .223-caliber rifle, was seized by federal agents during an April 1989 raid on the Kalasho home in West Bloomfield Township.

James Howarth, lawyer for the family, said he was "disturbed and amazed, but not really surprised" by the indictment.

"It has been really convenient how the guns found in the house have been spread around by federal agents as it suits them," Howarth said. "They know they were Harry's guns. Some guns get laid on people in the family with felony records. But the machine gun -- illegal per se -- gets put on Basima who has no record."

Basima Kalasho is the third family member to face federal firearms charges stemming from the raid that netted numerous guns and large quantities of ammunition.

Her son, Tommy, and nephew, Ragheed (Ray) Akrawi, were each convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm. They are awaiting sentencing in federal court.

Harry Kalasho, reputedly the leader of one of the Detroit area's largest cocaine rings, was killed last year, allegedly in retaliation for contract murders he had ordered.

If convicted, Basima faces a maximum 20-year prison term and a \$20,000 fine.

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