

## **SUSPECT SOUGHT IN DEATH OF ALLEGED DRUG DEALER MAN, 19, PHONED IN BUT DID NOT SURRENDER**

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Detroit police on Thursday were searching for Raed Jihad, charged with murder in the shooting death of reputed cocaine dealer Khairi ( **Harry** ) **Kalasho** , after he did not surrender to authorities.

The whereabouts of Jihad, 19, have not been known since Tuesday when he telephoned homicide investigators and said he would turn himself in, Wayne County assistant prosecutor Douglas Baker said Thursday.

"He's still at large and we're looking for him," said Baker, head of the Prosecutor's Repeat Offender Unit.

**Kalasho** , 24, died Monday of gunshot wounds he suffered earlier this month. Police suspect Jihad in the shooting. **Kalasho** has been by linked by investigators to two alleged drug-related contract murders late last year, but was never charged.

Jihad was free after posting \$5,000 on a \$50,000 bond in the shooting, before **Kalasho** 's death.

"We were skittish about this before -- his being out on such a low bond for such a serious charge," Baker said. "We felt the initial charge, the assault, warranted a high bond, and when the charge became murder, our concern increased."

At Jihad's preliminary examination Feb. 17 on the assault charge, assistant prosecutor Kenneth Simon, noting **Kalasho** had "zero chance" for survival, asked for a \$1 million bond. Simon said the higher bond was needed because a murder warrant was to be issued upon **Kalasho** 's death.

Defense lawyer Myzell Sowell, who did not return Free Press telephone calls Thursday, argued against the higher bond and assured 36th District Judge R. Patrick Donahue that Jihad "will appear whenever he is needed in court."

Federal drug agents attended the hearing, and several agents formed a human shield around Jihad as he waited for his case to be called.

**Kalasho** 's family lawyer James Howarth said the agents' presence and actions "were highly unusual under the circumstance" and said that the family "hopes that Mr. Jihad is not in some kind of federal protective custody. . . . The family hopes the system will provide justice for **Harry** ."

Drug Enforcement Administration agent in charge William Coonce on Thursday said his agency is part of federal task force investigating alleged cocaine trafficking by **Kalasho** and others. He declined to discuss whether Jihad is a federal witness.

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