

2 SUSPECTS CLEARED IN KILLING OF OFFICER WITNESS SAYS THEY WEREN'T IN VAN THAT AMBUSHED COPS

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Two men charged **in** the fatal **ambush** of a Detroit police officer were cleared Wednesday, said police, who tried to explain the investi- gative mixup that led to charging the wrong men.

Paperwork clearing Darryl Boggon, 34, and Jamal Randle, 27, was signed **in** 36th District Court **in** Detroit, but both men were to be held until warrants against them on unrelated charges could be resolved.

Boggon was to be released if he could pay \$1,000 **in** back child support and a \$100 fine for driving with a suspended license. Late Wednesday, Boggon family members were trying to raise the money.

Randle faces court hearings today on charges of domestic violence **in** Westland and an unrelated probation violation.

The two Detroiters were charged with murdering officer Shawn Bandy, 23, who was shot **in** the face Saturday with an AK47. Also shot was officer Lloyd Todd, 34, who remains **in** critical condition.

Boggon and Randle were arraigned on the charges Monday, although family members and friends said they both had alibis.

While waiting for District Judge Wade McCree to return to work late Wednesday, Police Chief Benny Napoleon assured Boggon's and Randle's families that the men would be released and tried to answer their pressing **question** : Why were the men arrested?

"We didn't just arrest anyone," Napoleon told the families within the earshot of a reporter.

"Someone had to tell us that they did it...."

"We acted **in** a manner that was responsible under the circumstances."

A law enforcement official familiar with some aspects of the investigation said the case started to unravel when **another** suspect, who admitted he was **in** the van from which the AK47 was fired, said Boggon and Randle weren't involved.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be named, said that information pushed police to re-evaluate the case against Boggon and Randle.

Friends and family of Boggon and Randle flooded the Wayne County Jail lobby Wednesday when they heard the two were going to be released. Boggon's 3-year-old daughter and 8-year-old twins ran around, sensing excitement.

"I'm feeling relieved that my brother is being released," said Morris Boggon.

According to documents filed **in** court, Boggon and Randle were fingered by Eric Anthony, the boyfriend of a woman abducted **in** what police call a drug-related kidnapping.

A report of that kidnapping led police to look for a white van. When a van fitting the description was spotted, a chase began and shots were fired from the van at two police cars, hitting officers Bandy and Todd.

Athena Akins, 30, who was kidnapped Saturday along with her 12-year-old son, said neither she nor her boyfriend, who paid the kidnapers a \$5,000 ransom, are involved **in** drugs.

Akins said that because her kidnapers are still free "I am scared."

Morris Boggon said his life has been "pure hell" since Monday, when his brother went to police and tried to tell them he was innocent. Boggon said his brother probably will return to work Monday at Investor's Management **in** Detroit, where he is a home repair contractor.

Said Randle's girlfriend, Conyea Smith, 21, "I'm just happy he's getting out -- deep down **in** my heart I knew he didn't do it."

The Boggon family attorney, Daniel Reid, said Randle's and Boggon's civil rights were violated. "I think definitely there has been some defamation of character by putting their pictures and names out there, and saying they committed this heinous crime of killing a **cop**."

Police have two people **in** custody: Thomas Culbreth and **another** man. Napoleon said they are being questioned. Police are looking for James Langford and Donyell Moore, who they say are key to the case.

Napoleon said the "very careful" investigation has not been harmed by the release of Boggon and Randle.

"An investigation is a search for the truth," Napoleon said.

Staff writer Joe Swickard contributed to this report.

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Caption: Photo

Darryl Boggon

Jamal Randle

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