

## FOUNDER OF GANG DODGES LIFE TERM - HE PLEADS GUILTY IN HOMICIDES OF RIVALS

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**Milton** (Butch) **Jones** , cofounder of the notorious Detroit drug gang, Young Boys Inc., dodged the federal death penalty and a life prison sentence Thursday by pleading guilty in a drug case involving multiple homicides.

"It's obviously a great relief to reach a point where the death penalty is removed from the table," **Jones** ' lawyer, Harold Gurewitz of Detroit, said after **Jones** ' appearance in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Under the terms of the plea deal, **Jones** , 50, of Detroit will face 30 years in prison for running a continuing criminal enterprise. Had he gone to trial with other defendants and been convicted, he could have faced the death penalty or mandatory life in prison. He must cooperate fully with authorities, which could include testifying against his codefendants.

In 2003, federal prosecutors requested the death penalty for **Jones** and codefendants Raymond Canty and Eugene Mitchell. They were among 14 people indicted in June 2001 on charges of selling heroin, cocaine and marijuana during the 1990s. Gang members operated out of houses known as the Dog Pound in the 3700 block of Monterey, where they allegedly plotted robberies, kidnappings and killings of rival gang members.

**Jones** allegedly ordered the killings of rivals Mark Grice and Antoine Carruthers. Carruthers was tortured and shot twice in the head.

In his plea, **Jones** admitted supervising members of the gang. He took no responsibility for the homicides, but admitted that they were foreseeable given his activities.

Gurewitz said he will try to persuade U.S. District Judge John O'Meara to impose less than 30 years at sentencing April 6. **Jones** is being held at an undisclosed prison.

Canty and Mitchell are awaiting trial in February with the other defendants.

Young Boys Inc. dominated Detroit drug trafficking in the 1980s by using underage boys as drug runners. **Jones** is credited with creating the model of today's highly organized drug gangs and has been referred to as the Henry Ford of the drug trafficking industry by revolutionizing the way drugs were sold on the street.

**Jones** , who served a 10-year prison sentence starting in the 1980s, wrote about his time in Young Boys Inc., in 1996. He has been in custody in the current case since June 2001.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: **Milton** (Butch) **Jones** may have to testify against his codefendants.

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