

EX-CON IS KILLED WHERE HIS BOSS DIED DRUG LORD WAS SLAIN EXACTLY 3 YEARS AGO

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, February 4, 1992

Author: JOE SWICKARD AND ROGER CHESLEY , e Press Staff Writers , SCHAEFER Free Press Staff Writer contributed , this report.

A former associate of cocaine lord **Harry Kalasho** was shot to death Monday morning outside his Detroit home, the scene of **Kalasho** 's fatal ambush exactly three years ago.

Mazin (Mike) Zeitouna was killed as he sat in his car parked in the driveway of his house on West Greendale. Zeitouna, 29, recently was released after serving a 2 1/2-year federal prison term for cocaine dealing.

Witnesses told police they heard a volley of automatic weapon fire about 6 a.m. A relative ran outside to find the car's rear window blasted out and Zeitouna -- hit numerous times -- slumped in the driver's seat of a 1988 Merkur. One neighbor said she heard about 10 shots.

Family members who gathered at the house later declined comment.

Police said Zeitouna survived a shooting attack about 2 a.m. Friday when two men opened fire on him outside the Detroit Food and Drug Market on Livernois.

Kalasho , the leader of the Akrawi- **Kalasho** organization, then one of Detroit's largest cocaine rings, was killed Feb. 3, 1989, in the Woodward-7 Mile area just southeast of Palmer Park, as he left a meeting at the Zeitouna home.

Some people close to the Akrawi- **Kalasho** group suspect that **Kalasho** 's enemies were tipped off about the meeting at the Zeitouna home and that some of **Kalasho** 's associates still bear a grudge for the killing.

Kalasho 's bodyguards and others who attended the ill-fated meeting denied that drugs were discussed. Raed Jihad was charged and acquitted of **Kalasho** 's murder.

Investigators said they were unsure whether it was significant or mere happenstance that Monday was the anniversary of **Kalasho** 's death.

However, a federal official, speaking on condition that he not be named, said: "It sure looks like someone trying to make a statement."

William Coonce, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Detroit, said it is too early to determine a motive.

Before he was imprisoned in 1989 in a drug conspiracy case, Zeitouna was believed to be in the third tier of the **Kalasho** organization as a kilogram dealer, investigators said.

Since his release from prison, Zeitouna was classified as a "peripheral player" at best, or someone trying to re-enter the business.

Another law enforcement official said Zeitouna was believed to be linked to bombings that rocked the northern Detroit Chaldean neighborhood about the time of **Kalasho** 's killing.

Caption: Photo

: Mazin Zeitouna ***

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: SHOOTING ; HOMICIDE ; DRUG ; ABUSE

Record Number: 9201050279

Copyright (c) 1992 Detroit Free Press