

MAN SOUGHT IN DEATH OF SUSPECTED COCAINE KINGPIN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, February 21, 1989

Author: MARGARET TRIMER AND JOE SWICKARD , e Press Staff Writers

Suspected cocaine kingpin Khairi (**Harry**) **Kalasho** died early Monday morning, and police issued a warrant against a 19-year- old Detroit man in the murder.

Kalasho , 24, died at 1:30 a.m. Monday at Detroit Receiving Hospital from four gunshot wounds he suffered Feb. 3 as he left a house at Greendale and John R.

Police were looking for Raed Jihad, who is free on a \$50,000 bond on an earlier charge of assault to commit murder in the **Kalasho** shooting.

Police said if Jihad is found, he will be arraigned on a first-degree murder charge and the assault charge will be dismissed.

"We're back to Square One, as far as that's concerned," said Richard Padzieski, chief of operations at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Some law enforcement officials have said they fear the shooting could trigger violence between **Kalasho** 's associates and those they suspect are behind the shooting.

Although **Kalasho** never was arrested on drug charges, he and several other Detroit area residents were the target of an ongoing, multi-agency federal drug investigation, law enforcement officials said.

" **Harry** isn't even the tip of the iceberg," a Detroit police narcotics officer familiar with the investigation said recently. "This is probably the biggest operation in Michigan's history. And **Harry** was probably only third or fourth in the hierarchy. We're talking big time."

Officers said **Kalasho** was suspected of dealing at least 100 kilos -- about 220 pounds -- of cocaine a week. They spoke on the condition their names not be used because they could be disciplined for talking to reporters.

Local law enforcement officials said the **Kalasho** slaying likely is linked to the suspected drug-related slayings last year of Munthir Salem in Detroit and Salaam Gaggio in Southfield.

In statements to police, three men charged in those killings said they were acting on behalf of a man identified only as **Harry** .

Police investigators said they referred to **Kalasho** , who police said wanted Salem eliminated because he was cutting into **Kalasho** 's alleged drug business.

James Howarth, a lawyer for the **Kalasho** family, and Louis Akrawi, **Kalasho** 's uncle, Monday released a statement from the family which blasted federal authorities for plotting against them.

"Law enforcement people use innuendo and vague double-talk to slander and lie against the **Kalasho** family," the statement said.

Howarth and attorneys for **Kalasho** associates said they wonder why federal authorities have been so interested in Jihad. Agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency packed Jihad's preliminary examination Friday on the assault charge, and some formed a human screen around Jihad as he waited in the 36th District court hallway.

Memo: SHORTER VERSION IN METRO FINAL EDITION PAGE 8A

Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 8A;

Index Terms: DETROIT ; SHOOTING ; HOMICIDE ; INVESTIGATION ; DRUG

Record Number: 8901080235

Copyright (c) 1989 Detroit Free Press