

MAN CHARGED IN KILLING OF KALASHO AVOIDS JAIL

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A dozen family members and friends of suspected cocaine kingpin **Harry Kalasho** hurled obscenities at Detroit police and decried the court system Tuesday after a 36th District Court judge allowed the man accused of killing Kalasho to stay out of jail on a \$5,000 cash bond.

"There is no justice in this country," Tahrir Kalasho, 29, the slain man's brother, shouted outside the courtroom.

Raed Jihad, 19, turned himself in to homicide investigators Tuesday -- eight days after a warrant had been issued for his arrest -- and was arraigned by Judge Daphne Means Curtis on first-degree murder and felony firearm charges.

Harry Kalasho, 24, was shot nine times Feb. 3 on the city's north side. He died Feb. 20.

Outraged at the bond decision, Kalasho's family members said they believe Jihad is a federal informant and will not be brought to justice.

"They don't just release accused killers on bond like that. . . ." Tahrir Kalasho said. "We know that this is not what is supposed to happen."

Federal officials have declined comment on whether there was an arrangement with Jihad.

Jihad was freed before Kalasho's death when he posted 10 percent of a \$50,000 bond. He was to stand trial for assault with intent to commit murder, but charges were upgraded after Kalasho died.

Mark Kriger, Jihad's attorney, asked Curtis to continue the bond.

"I think the bond was a fair bond," said Kriger. "There is no indication that he would be a danger to the community."

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Douglas Baker said, "We argued as strenuously as possible" for Jihad to be jailed. "We think this is completely inappropriate."

Curtis, in continuing bond, cited Jihad's willingness to turn himself in and his reliability in making scheduled court appearances. She also said Jihad was beaten up in Wayne County Jail after his arrest and that he might be safer in the community than in the jail.

Drug Enforcement Agency investigators have said they have an ongoing cocaine investigation involving Kalasho. Federal agents attended Jihad's Feb. 17 preliminary exam to guard him.

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