

NOTE ADDS TWIST TO SLAYING TRIAL OF SUSPECTED DRUG KINGPIN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, March 14, 1989

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Chief Recorder's Court Judge Dalton Roberson declined Monday to provide prosecutors with what they fear could be a witness hit list, the latest turn in a case that federal officials hope will provide a glimpse into the workings of a previously impenetrable drug organization.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Kenneth Simon said the note was seized last week from Raed Jihad, 19, who has been charged with killing reputed cocaine kingpin **Harry Kalasho**. Simon said the note contains "evidence of a future crime" and "some mention of some people going to be killed."

One of the names on the list is "Nick," which is the Anglicized name of an eyewitness to the slaying of 24-year-old Kalasho, Simon told Roberson.

But Jihad's lawyer, David Griem, said the note -- addressed "To my lawyers" -- was written at the direction of an FBI agent and represented Jihad's recollections of "prior bad acts of **Harry Kalasho**."

The FBI had no comment, and Roberson refused to provide the note, ruling that it was privileged communication between Jihad and his lawyers.

The note was found by deputies last week when Jihad was jailed after Roberson raised his bond. A deputy and a prosecutor glanced at it before giving it to Roberson, who turned it over to defense lawyers. Since then, the defense has resisted prosecution attempts to get a copy of the note.

Outside court, Griem declined to comment on the note but said "it is rare . . . to see such interests by federal agents" in a local murder case.

Officials familiar with the case said Jihad is seen by the FBI and Drug Enforcement Agency as a rare opportunity for an inside look at Kalasho's operations.

Kalasho was thought to be moving up to 100 kilos -- about 220 pounds -- of cocaine a week when he was shot. Authorities had been unable to penetrate the alleged operation because it was based on longstanding ethnic and family ties.

Outsiders, even of the same ethnic background, "had no chance" of working their way into the alleged ring, said an official familiar with the case. "They don't talk unless they've known everybody in the room forever," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kalasho's family has charged that authorities have smeared Kalasho without allowing him to defend against formal charges in court.

The FBI and DEA have declined to comment. Earlier, the DEA confirmed it was investigating Kalasho as a major dealer, although he had never been charged.

Until last week, Jihad was freed after posting \$5,000 cash on a \$50,000 bond. On March 9, Roberson increased the bond to \$250,000. He ordered Jihad held without bond Friday after the note was found.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 7A;

Index Terms: DRUG ; TRIAL ; HOMICIDE ; HIT LIST

Record Number: 8901110275

Copyright (c) 1989 Detroit Free Press