BROTHERS CHARGED IN 1990 SLAYING GAMBLER, DRUG LORD SHOT IN CLOTHING STORE

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Nearly nine years after gambler and drug lord **Demetrius Holloway** was gunned down in one of Detroit's most notorious gang killings, two brothers stood in federal court Wednesday charged with his slaying.

Lester and Thomas Milton were named in a federal affidavit as the hired gunmen who shot **Holloway** in 1990 as he shopped at the Broadway, a high fashion men's clothing store just two blocks from police headquarters.

Charged with the murder under federal drug trafficking laws, the brothers could face the death penalty.

Holloway, who had dodged rivals and authorities for years -- once even going so far as to stage his own kidnapping -- died with \$14,000 and a .32-caliber pistol in his pocket. At the peak of his power, **Holloway** ran a major portion of Detroit's cocaine trade and was associated with such figures as Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter and Richard (White Boy Rick) Wersche Jr.

He was ambushed in the store, according to investigators, even though he had two escorts.

Lester Milton, 40, shot **Holloway**, according to the federal affidavit, while his brother Thomas, 39, stood guard at the store entrance.

Snapping his fingers over the body, Lester Milton said "Got him," and left the store, witnesses told police.

Although there were numerous customers and employees in the store, no one else was injured.

At the time of the shooting, witnesses said the killers were casually dressed young men who left a late-model BMW at a parking lot with instructions not to park the car because they would be gone for only a minute.

The Violent Crimes Task Force, a Detroit area elite unit of local and federal agents, gave the investigation a high priority.

The Milton brothers were arrested without fanfare in January on murder charges brought by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Lester Milton was serving a prison term for robbery when he was charged.

After several adjournments, the Wayne County charges were dismissed Wednesday in 36th District Court in Detroit in favor of the federal charges.

Joe Swickard can be reached at 1-313-223-4557 or by E-mail at swickard@freepress.com Caption: Photo

Demetrius Holloway

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