

## 2 CONVICTIONS DON'T END JIHAD CASE

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The conviction Thursday of two teens in the alleged "no- money down" contract murder of Adnan Jihad does not close the case, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor James Metz said.

Authorities said they are still trying to build a prosecutable case against the man who allegedly hired Thomas Harris and Timothy Jackson.

"This is still being actively investigated," said Metz. "I'm going to try to talk with the defendants. This case is not closed."

A Recorder's Court jury took a little more than four hours over two days to convict Harris, 19, and Jackson, 18, of first- degree murder for the September gangland-style shooting of Jihad outside a coffeehouse on John R near 7 Mile Road.

Jihad was talking with friends on the sidewalk when Harris and Jackson walked up and shot him in the head.

Jihad, 56, was allegedly killed in retaliation for the ambush slaying of cocaine lord **Harry Kalasho** in February 1989. At the time of Jihad's killing, his son, Raed, was awaiting trial for **Kalasho** 's death. The younger Jihad was acquitted two months ago.

In their statements to police, Harris and Jackson said **Kalasho** 's cousin, Ragheed (Ray) Akrawi, hired them to kill the elder Jihad.

Akrawi, according to federal court testimony, was a top lieutenant in the **Kalasho** -Akrawi cocaine ring, running a cadre of street-level suppliers.

The organization was thought to be among the largest in the Detroit area, importing hundreds of kilos of cocaine a month through the Medellin (Colombia) Cartel.

Harris and Jackson said they were promised \$10,000 for the hit, but that they collected only about \$2,000 afterward.

"It was a no-money-down killing," Metz said.

Defense lawyers Gerald Evelyn and Charlie Campbell tried to focus the trial on Akrawi, but Judge Prentis Edwards agreed with Metz that his role was irrelevant to the case against Harris and Jackson.

"What his motive may have been did not matter because it was not Harris and Jackson's motive," Metz said. "Their motive was strictly greed. They were getting paid."

Akrawi -- now serving a federal sentence for a firearms violation -- was twice charged with the Jihad murder, but charges were dismissed because of insufficient evidence.

At one point Jackson agreed to testify against Akrawi, but then refused to leave his courthouse cell when it came time for him to take the witness stand.

James Howarth, lawyer for the **Kalasho** -Akrawi family, said the conviction has "no impact on Ray's position. He was not involved in this case so he has no concern."

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