

## GRAND JURY INDICTS 3 KALASHO ASSOCIATES CARS ALLEGEDLY BOUGHT IN ILLEGAL TRANSACTION

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, April 19, 1990

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Two members of the Akrawi- **Kalasho** family and an associate have been charged with violating cash transaction regulations, according to an eight-count federal grand jury indictment unsealed Wednesday.

The three -- Ragheed (Ray) Akrawi, Lamia Akrawi Jeberaeel and Janet Maude Smith -- allegedly bought two 1988 Mercedes-Benz autos using a series of cashier's checks to avoid federal regulations requiring banks and merchants to report cash transactions exceeding \$10,000.

Making several smaller transactions to circumvent the federal regulation is illegal.

The three also are charged with conspiracy to conceal the ownership of five cars, including three Mercedes-Benzes, a Corvette and a Ford Bronco. The women allegedly put the cars in their names on behalf of Akrawi.

One of the cars is a \$75,000 Mercedes-Benz 560 SL that Akrawi had painted "money green," a shade popularized by slain drug figure Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter, according to earlier federal court testimony.

Smith, 23, of Detroit and Mt. Clemens, is charged with five counts of mail fraud for allegedly claiming to live at the **Kalasho** family home in West Bloomfield Township to get lower auto insurance rates.

Akrawi, 21, is a reputed lieutenant in the Akrawi- **Kalasho** drug ring, which federal officials say was responsible for importing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine worth millions of dollars into the Detroit area in 1987-89.

Now serving a federal prison term for firearms violations, Akrawi remains a suspect in the hired killing of Adnan Jihad last year. Akrawi twice was charged with hiring hit men to avenge the killing of his cousin **Harry Kalasho**, the drug ring's leader, but the case was dismissed both times.

If convicted of the latest charges, Akrawi faces a maximum 15-year prison term and \$250,000 fine. The charges against his sister, 22, carry a maximum 10-year prison term and a \$250,00 fine upon conviction. Smith, if convicted, faces a maximum 40- year prison term and a \$250,000 fine.

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Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 3B

Index Terms: DRUG ; INDICTMENT

Record Number: 9001150617

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