

## OFFICIALS SAY BROTHERS WERE AT CENTER OF GANG 2 BROWNS WERE SLAIN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Sunday, May 7, 1989

Author: MARGARET TRIMER and JOE SWICKARD , e Press Staff Writer

The burly, intimidating **Brown brothers** from Detroit's east side formed the nucleus of Best Friends, the reputed murder- for-hire **gang** formed four years ago, according to **officials** close to an investigation of the **gang** .

But fortune has not been kind to the **Browns** . Within a week in December 1986, Ezra, 24, and Gregory, 22, **were** shot to death. Their killings remain unsolved.

Reginald, 33, the eldest **brother** , is serving a life sentence for the September 1987 killing of associate Steve Roussell and wounding of another man.

And Terrance, 20, the youngest, is awaiting trial on a first-degree murder charge. He is charged with killing rival James Lamont, 30, as he sat in a Suzuki Sidekick outside the St. Regis Hotel in the New **Center** area on March 16.

Lamont is believed to have been a rising cocaine dealer who raided Best Friends' membership to build up his own forces.

Defense lawyer Paul Curtis has denied any link between Terrance **Brown** and Best Friends, even the other **Browns** .

"There's nothing to it," Curtis said, contradicting information in police files and from a woman who identified herself as Mrs. **Brown** -- the mother of all four men.

"Those are my boys," the woman said when reached by telephone at the **Brown** house on the east side. "But I don't know nothing about no Best Friends. My boys are good."

Curtis said he was concentrating on defending Terrance **Brown** .

"The police are going to **say** what they're going to **say** . The newspapers are going to **say** what they're going to **say** ," he said.

Terrance **Brown** has no previous record, but the three other **Browns** had been accused of crimes involving drugs and violence.

Before his murder conviction, Reginald **Brown** was acquitted in the September 1986 shooting death of Carlton Journey, 19, and wounding of Pamela Robinson, 25. He also was a suspect in the May 1987 shooting death of Kirt Levy, 25, and wounding of William Miles, 24, but the case was dismissed.

Ezra **Brown** had been arrested along with an associate and charged with stealing a Cadillac Eldorado in August 1983, but the case was dismissed. In April 1982, he pleaded guilty to attempted possession **of** marijuana with intent to deliver. He was sentenced to one year probation and community service, violated probation and was sent to jail for six months. He was subsequently **slain** and his homicide remains unsolved.

Gregory **Brown** pleaded guilty to attempted possession **of** marijuana with intent to deliver after his arrest in July 1985. He was **slain** while on two years' probation.

CUTLINE:

### The **Brown Brothers**

The nucleus **of** Best Friends, the reputed murder-for-hire **gang** , are, from left: Reginald, 33, serving a life sentence; Terrance, 20, charged with murder; and Gregory, 22, who was shot to death. Not pictured is the fourth **brother** , Ezra, 24, who was shot to death.

\*\*\*

Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 15A;

Index Terms: DRUG ; FAMILY ; HOMICIDE ; DEATH

Record Number: 8901190697

Copyright (c) 1989 Detroit Free Press