

2 ALLEGED KALASHO DEALERS CHARGED

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Two alleged mid-level distributors in the **Kalasho** drug- trafficking organization were held in the Oakland County Jail under \$2-million cash bonds after being charged with drug conspiracy violations that could send them to prison for life, Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson said Friday.

"We are putting a full court press on all of the organizational points we can find in the **Kalasho** organization, and this is a part of it," he said. **Harry Kalasho** , a reputed drug kingpin in southeastern Michigan, was fatally shot in Detroit in February 1989.

Thursday's arrests of Harold Horne of Waterford Township and Ronald Howard of Clarkston village, both 32, were part of a "mop-up operation" after the citizen grand jury's April 25 indictment of Haitham (John) Kafanden, 29, Thompson said. Horne and Howard also were indicted by the grand jury.

Kafanden, an Iraqi national also being held under a \$2- million cash bond, stored 30 to 50 kilograms of cocaine at a time for the **Kalasho** group at apartments and party stores he controlled, Thompson said.

"That was one level below the major **Kalasho** lieutenants," Thompson said. "Kafanden then would deliver the coke to individual distributors. . . . Those people, in turn, would sell it to street-level dealers."

In an unrelated case, the grand jury also indicted Wendall Johnson Jr., 47, of Troy and Powell, Tenn., who was arraigned on an identical drug-delivery conspiracy charge, Thompson said. He also is being held under a \$2-million cash bond. Thompson said Johnson has distributed drugs in Oakland County for the last 15 years.

"In Oakland County you have a pretty sophisticated operation. You can't point to a lot of crack houses and show outward manifestations of the drug-distribution network," Thompson said. "But . . . you have the major dealers, who don't even touch the stuff, that are making the profits, and that's what we're after now."

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