Bikers may sue FBI over ' family day ' raid

Detroit News, The (MI) - Saturday, June 16, 2007 Author: The Detroit News ; Paul Egan

The Highwaymen Motorcycle Club is considering a civil rights lawsuit against the **FBI over** a **May** 5 " **family day** " **raid** on its clubhouse in Detroit during which members say agents pointed loaded guns at children as young as 4.

Randy "Tru Story" Ferguson, 59, of Lincoln Park, a national officer of the Highwaymen who is not among those charged as part of a drugs and racketeering investigation, said he has an appointment next week with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan to discuss a possible lawsuit.

"This was not a **raid**, this was a siege," Ferguson said of the Saturday afternoon operation by **FBI** agents assisted by Michigan State Police.

"This was an assault on American soil against Americans, which I never thought I'd ever see," said Ferguson, an Army veteran.

The **FBI** defended the operation, conducted on the Highwaymen's annual "bike inspection **day**," when members take their motorcycles to the clubhouse for inspections they say are more rigorous than those conducted by the state. It's also a **family day** and features live music and activities for children.

FBI Special Agent Dawn Clenney said bike inspection **day** was chosen for the **raid** because agents had information that attendance was mandatory. "It was not our intent to traumatize women and children," Clenney said.

"For safety and security reasons our weapons were drawn," she said. "We removed weapons from some of the Highwaymen members."

Ferguson said certain members have permits to carry concealed weapons and no illegal weapons were seized. Nobody was arrested and one suspected baggie of marijuana was the only nonprescription drug seized, he said.

Nearly all the bikes the **FBI** seized have been returned.

Section: Front Page: 09A Company Name: #keywords2# Index Terms: GANGS ; CYCLING ; CIVIL RIGHTS ; DETROIT ; FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ; LAWSUITS Record Number: det29782496 Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.