

ECORSE MAN GUILTY IN WOODWARD DRUG KILLING

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Alleged drug gang hit man Kevin Minley was convicted of second-degree murder Thursday for the December slaying of Munthir Salem, who was gunned down as he drove on Woodward Avenue.

Minley, according to his police statement and testimony, was paid \$5,000 for the killing but rejected a \$10,000 bonus from reputed cocaine boss **Harry Kalasho** to cut off Salem's head and toss it into the middle of Detroit's Arab community on East 7 Mile.

Kalasho, fatally shot in February, was the target of a federal investigation for allegedly running a multimillion-dollar cocaine ring, according to federal court records.

Kalasho wanted Salem killed, according to testimony in earlier court hearings, because he was a rival.

Assistant Prosecutor Kenneth Simon said Salem, 29, was a drug dealer "and just about anybody else is more important than a drug dealer . . . but a murder is a murder is a murder, no matter what."

Minley, 31, of Ecorse, was charged with first-degree murder, but the jury deliberated 4 1/2 hours over two days before returning the lesser verdict.

Minley, who is awaiting trial on first-degree murder in Oakland County in another alleged hired drug killing, faces a maximum life prison term at his July 26 sentencing.

Two more men -- Edward Stevenson and Lavaron Morris, both of Detroit -- are awaiting trial in the Salem killing. All three are also charged with the November killing of Salaam Goggo in Southfield.

Salem was driving on Woodward when he was hit with gunfire from a car that pulled alongside. Witnesses testified that Salem's car swerved and came to rest in the middle of the street, but the assailant's car doubled back, and a passenger jumped out and fired several more shots into Salem's car.

" **Harry Kalasho** was the one who ordered it," Simon said.

Acting on a contract from Kalasho, Morris allegedly hired Minley and Stevenson for the killings, according to testimony and investigators.

After his arrest, Minley told Detroit police he was the driver in the Salem killing, then told Southfield police he was the gunman in the Goggo slaying.

A Southfield detective testified that Minley, hoping to cut a deal, wanted to testify against Kalasho.

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