

DRUG CZAR'S WIFE FOUND NOT GUILTY IN SLAYING

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The wife of Detroit drug kingpin Milton (Butchie) **Jones** was acquitted Monday of first-degree murder in the May 1984 shooting death of an intruder at her Troy home.

Portia Sturdivant **Jones**, 27, "neither aided nor abetted" two Detroit men who, witnesses said, shot Ricky Gracey, 26, after **Jones** called them to her home, Oakland Circuit Judge John O'Brien ruled.

O'Brien's decision concluded a four-day, non-jury trial that began last week. The trial included testimony that **Jones**' 10-year-old son Momo said, "Mama, let me go ahead and shoot him," as Gracey lay wounded and crying for help outside their home.

The child, who attended his mother's trial, smiled when O'Brien announced his verdict.

According to testimony, Gracey, of Detroit, surprised **Jones** when she returned home May 30, 1984, with her children and a houseguest.

Calvin Estes, Gracey's friend, said he and Gracey were part of a group that planned to rob **Jones**.

Jones fired a shotgun, and the other three fled, leaving Gracey -- who apparently was hit by the gunfire -- in the yard. **Jones** went inside the house and phoned Charles Victor Obey and Spencer Holloway for help. When Obey and Holloway arrived, they found Gracey in the yard and shot him dead, according to witnesses' testimony.

Obey was convicted of murder in the shooting. Holloway remains at large.

In acquitting **Jones**, O'Brien said it was reasonable to assume that she was armed because her home had been burglarized two nights earlier, and that she may have acted in self-defense by shooting at Gracey and by calling Obey and Holloway for help.

Kathy Combs, 19, **Jones**' houseguest, said **Jones** and her son were armed when they approached the house. Gracey, who lay outside apparently wounded by the first shotgun blast, cried out that his leg hurt and asked for water before **Jones** and her son fired through an open doorway.

When Holloway and Obey arrived at the **Jones** home, they kicked Gracey and demanded to know who else was involved in the robbery attempt, witnesses testified.

Holloway is alleged to have emptied an UZI machine gun into Gracey after Gracey begged him, "Man, don't kill me."

Holloway and Obey are alleged to have been members of the A Team, a hit squad linked with the Detroit drug ring Young Boys Inc.

Milton **Jones** , 31, pleaded guilty in 1983 to conducting a continuing criminal enterprise in connection with Young Boys Inc., a Detroit narcotics operation. He is serving a 12-year sentence in a Texas penitentiary.

Gracey's body, riddled with submachine gun slugs and five more bullets from two .38-caliber pistols, was found in a Detroit alley. The UZI is an A Team trademark, according to police who investigated the drug ring.

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