

## REPUTED DRUG LORD'S MOM MUST FORFEIT \$500,000

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The mother of a reputed drug dealer was ordered Tuesday to forfeit more than \$500,000 worth of property, including her West Bloomfield Township home and the bullet-riddled car in which her son was killed in an ambush last year.

Draped from head to toe in black mourning clothes for her son and late husband, Basima **Kalasho** showed no emotion as a U.S. District Court jury announced its verdict after deliberating three hours on the federal government's bid to seize the property as ill-gotten gains of the drug trade.

In addition to her house and son **Harry Kalasho** 's 1988 Acura, she was ordered to surrender a 1987 Volvo and \$239,000 worth of jewelry.

"This trial was about what her son and her son's friends did and that was unfair," her attorney, James Howarth, said after the verdict. "It wasn't a trial against Basima **Kalasho** , it was a trial about **Harry Kalasho** and he's dead and can't defend himself."

**Harry Kalasho** was gunned down in 1989 in Detroit, allegedly in retaliation for killings he had ordered. A suspect in the slaying was acquitted.

**Harry Kalasho** 's drug ring was formed in 1985 and employed about 200 people at its peak, handling up to 100 kilograms of cocaine a week, according to authorities.

U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman said Tuesday that Basima **Kalasho** was an integral part of the organization "in that she maintained records of the drug activity and received money earned from the sale of that cocaine."

Basima **Kalasho** was acquitted in May of illegal possession of a machine gun found in her home during an April 1989 raid.

Five townhouse properties seized from her were also ordered returned to her by a federal judge last month.

Howarth said he plans to appeal Tuesday's verdict.

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