

Feds raid biker club , indict 16 - 'We will not tolerate armed gang violence,' attorney general says on nationwide crackdown.

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DETROIT -- Federal agents in Detroit raided the Outlaws Motorcycle **Club** on Wednesday and indicted **16** alleged members and associates, including those identified by officials as the regional president and six other **club** presidents or former presidents.

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales was in Detroit to announce the racketeering indictment, saying the case was part of a nationwide crackdown on the Outlaws specifically and illegal bike and street gangs generally.

"When a gang declares a neighborhood to be its territory, it is attacking that community," Gonzales said at a news conference. "We will not tolerate armed gang violence and the drug trade that fuels it."

The FBI deems the Outlaws motorcycle gang a criminal enterprise, along with the Hells Angels, the Pagans, the Bandidos and the homegrown Highwaymen Motorcycle **Club** . The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is the lead agency conducting the racketeering investigation of the Outlaws, officials said.

A spokesman for the Outlaws could not be reached for comment, but the **club** has posted statements on its Web site denying it is a criminal organization.

An indictment against **16** Outlaws members or associates, alleging racketeering, drug trafficking, gun violations and acts of violence, was unsealed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit. A federal grand jury handed down the 18-count indictment on Tuesday.

The indictment identifies the Outlaws as "an international criminal organization" that enriches its members through drug dealing, illegal gambling, gun crimes and acts of violence and that keeps its victims and members in fear through violence. Allegations include assault with a dangerous weapon against six defendants for an alleged attack on members of the rival Hells Angels Motorcycle **Club** in Indiana on April 1, 2006. Weapons used include a hammer, motorcycle parts and a cane, the indictment alleges.

Of the **16** defendants, 13 from Michigan and three from Indiana, about a dozen were in custody Wednesday and the rest were sought by federal agents.

The Outlaws have more than 1,500 members in over 200 chapters in more than 20 states, officials said.

Agents executed search warrants in the Jacksonville area and elsewhere in Florida Wednesday as part of the same investigation, officials said.

At the end of July, federal officials arrested or issued warrants for 15 members or associates of the Outlaws in the Boston area.

With Wednesday's indictment, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit is actively prosecuting what the FBI calls the two largest outlaw gangs operating in Detroit -- the Outlaws and the Highwaymen.

About 40 members and associates of the Highwaymen face drug and conspiracy charges, and officials have said a racketeering indictment involving as many as 100 defendants is expected this fall.

Former Detroit FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel Roberts, now deputy assistant director of criminal investigations for the FBI in Washington, D.C., joined Gonzales, U.S. Attorney Stephen Murphy and other law enforcement officials at the news conference.

Former Outlaws national president Harry "Taco" Bowman was on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list when he was arrested in Sterling Heights in 1999 and is now serving a life sentence on racketeering and conspiracy charges.

Under indictment

Sixteen people with alleged ties to the Outlaws Motorcycle **Club** were indicted Wednesday in Detroit on racketeering and other charges:

¥ Leroy Frazier, 56, Bay City, regional president

¥ Norman "Stormin' Norman" Box Jr. 42, in state custody, former regional enforcer

¥ David "Hoggs" Dorris, 56, Eastpointe

¥ Danny "Milky" Neace, 60, Indianapolis president

¥ Ramon Anthony Rios, 34, Detroit, west side president

¥ Bruce Wendel, 39, Fort Wayne, Ind., president

¥ William "Jason" Elston, 27, Fort Wayne, Ind.

¥ Robert "Mexican Rob" Castillo, 37, Dearborn Heights

¥ Michael Radke, 56, Clarkston, former regional president

¥ Edward Raymond Gallagher, 56, Dundee, west side enforcer

¥ William "Slick" Guinn, 54, Detroit, former Downriver president

¥ Mark "Skid Mark" Guerra, 24, Detroit

¥ Kenneth "KC" Creslaw, 48, Detroit west side associate

¥ William "Billy" Merfert, 36, New Hudson, former west side vice president

¥ William Thomas "Tom the Bomb" McCowan, 63, Brighton, former west side enforcer

¥ Ken "Moe" Galaviz, 44, Bay City, former Bay City vice president

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Correction: The story about the indictment related to the Outlaws Motorcycle Club should have said that defendant Mark "Skid Mark" Guerra is 45 and lives in Arizona. His age and place of residence were incorrect due to incorrect information supplied by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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