

DRUG RING SUSPECTS NAMED IN INDICTMENT

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Edward (Big Ed) **Hanserd** , the little man from Mississippi with a giant reputation for running one of Detroit's most violent drug rings, was named in a 24-count federal grand jury indictment unsealed Thursday.

Hanserd 's organization, which is linked to at least six homicides, moved about 200 kilograms of cocaine, worth \$6 million, a month since 1984, authorities said.

The cocaine was transported by car from Los Angeles and distributed throughout the metro area, said Bernard La Forest, special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.

La Forest said a two-year investigation of **Hanserd** 's organization by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force "uncovered a lot of information related to drive-by shootings and murders."

He said several kilograms of cocaine, bullet-proof vests and more than 100 weapons have been seized. He said authorities plan to seize property in Detroit, Los Angeles and Mississippi.

According to the U.S. Attorney's office, the indictment charges that **Hanserd** and the others "engaged in a conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, including cocaine, used firearms in drug trafficking activities and utilized telephones to facilitate drug trafficking activities." The 5-foot-6, 27-year-old **Hanserd** , who has been in custody since 1988 on gun charges, battled his way from a small east-side operation to become one of Detroit's foremost drug lords, authorities say.

Along the way he acquired hundreds of thousands of dollars -- he did not contest several cash seizures totaling more than \$560,000 that state authorities said were drug proceeds.

Known for a short temper and his penchant for exotic weapons, the former beauty shop owner was linked to the 1988 murder of one of his arch-rivals in the drug trade, Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter.

Carter was recuperating from an assassination attempt when he was murdered in his hospital bed.

"The **Hanserd** organization, we believe, is one of the most violent drug conspiracies in the area," said U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman. "This is an extremely dangerous organization and we're extremely pleased with today's indictment."

La Forest said while Thursday's indictment will not stop the cocaine trade in the Detroit area, "as far as this organization we feel like we've put a real crimp in their activities."

According to the indictment, **Hanserd** received cocaine from Neville King and Anthony Medina of Los Angeles. Medina has been in custody since June. King was arrested Monday.

After receiving the cocaine shipments, **Hanserd** would distribute it throughout the metro area with the help of his lieutenants.

Also charged Thursday were:

Nathaniel Wilson of Detroit, who owns Nate's Party Store on Detroit's east side and 12 houses in the city, is described by authorities as one of the top lieutenants in the organization; John Barrett, a Detroit hairdresser at Stafford's Salon in the Park; Steven Durham, of Detroit who is serving a gun-related sentence in the federal penitentiary in Duluth, Minn.; and Dion Childress of Detroit, who is serving a sentence for drug charges.

Authorities Thursday were looking for Stephanie Jacobs, who allegedly rented telephone pagers and purchased property for **Hanserd**, and Pamela Butler. Both are from Detroit.

If convicted, **Hanserd** -- being held at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti -- and other defendants could face up to life in prison.

Barrett and Wilson, were ordered detained Thursday pending a detention hearing today.

Previously convicted as a result of the investigation were Otis Appling, James Jackson, Tony Wade, Carlos Turner and Eric Spires, all of Detroit.

Caption: Photo

Ed **Hanserd** John Barrett Nathaniel Wilson

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