

## SLAYING SETS OFF NEW ROUND OF CHARGES KALASHO'S FAMILY ACCUSES DEA OF ROLE

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The family **of** Harry Kalasho, a slain man suspected **of** being a cocaine dealer, Wednesday accused federal authorities **of** trying to "foment a war along 7 Mile Road."

The accusation came after Adnan Jihad -- whose son Raed is charged with murdering Kalasho -- was **gunned down** Tuesday night as he left the Babylonia Club coffeehouse on the 17800 block **of** John R near 7 Mile **in** Detroit.

Witnesses said two men, one with an automatic weapon, came out **of** an alley and shot Jihad, 52, **in** the head at close range. The men fled on foot.

A lawyer for the Kalasho family denied any involvement **in** the shooting.

James Howarth, speaking on behalf **of** Louis Akrawi, the uncle **of** Kalasho and the family patriarch, said the family believes the shooting "was contrived **in** such a way" as to place the blame on it.

He added, "The family believes this could have come only from an outside source **of** agitation. The family believes the **Drug** Enforcement Administration is trying to foment a war along 7 Mile Road and then let the blame fall where it may."

Doug Wankel, assistant special agent **in** charge **of** the Detroit DEA office, denied his agency "is involved **in** any macabre situation that would result **in** harm or death to any member **of** the community."

Law enforcement officials said Jihad was not the subject **of** any criminal investigation. No arrests have been made. Detroit police released one **of** Kalasho's cousins early Wednesday after picking him up near the scene **of** the killing.

But Raed Jihad, **in** an interview with WDIV-TV (Channel 4), blamed the shooting on members **of** the Akrawi-Kalasho faction, and pleaded for the violence to stop.

Raed Jihad is accused **of** first-degree murder **in** the fatal shooting **of** Kalasho, 26, on Feb. 3. Free on \$250,000 bond, he is to appear **in** court next week on a pretrial hearing.

Kalasho was killed after his name surfaced **in** court for allegedly ordering the murders **of** two suspected **drug** -running rivals late last year. The killings were followed by a flurry **of** threats between Kalasho associates and enemies.

Raed Jihad's lawyers said they may seek more protection for their client **in** the wake **of** his **father 's slaying** .

"We have been concerned since Day One that Raed's life was **in** danger," said lawyer David Griem. "Obviously those concerns have been heightened. I know that extreme measures have been taken **in** the past to protect Raed and I **suspect** those measures are going to increase."

The DEA's Wankel, saying the investigation into Kalasho's reputed **drug** ring is continuing, said his office "is aware that Raed Jihad and his family have received threats from segments **of** the Kalasho organization."

Kalasho was never charged but two associates, Issam Hermiz and Najah Konja, the only known eyewitnesses to his killing, are **in** federal custody **in** Florida on **drug** charges.

The arrest **of** Hermiz and Konja was seen by family members and associates as another example **of** federal involvement **in** the case against Raed Jihad. Federal agents guarded Jihad during some initial appearances **in** state court on the Kalasho shooting.

Louis Akrawi has said federal officials have accused his family **of drug** involvement but have never brought charges **in** court.

U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman declined to comment on Adnan Jihad killing. But federal officials who declined to be identified said there have been threats against the Jihad family from persons associated with the Akrawi-Kalasho family.

Mohammed Zaher, a former neighbor **of** the Jihads, said the elder Jihad was "just a victim" **in** the antagonism between enemies **in** the pending murder case.

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