

## REPUTED DRUG BOSS AMONG 3 CHARGED IN REVENGE SLAYING

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Author: JOE SWICKARD AND JIM SCHAEFER, e Press Staff Writers

Ray Akrawi -- identified in federal court as a chief lieutenant in a violent cocaine ring run by his late cousin, **Harry Kalasho** -- and two other men were charged Monday with killing a man to avenge the slaying of Kalasho.

According to court documents, Akrawi promised Thomas Harris and Tim Jackson, both 19, \$10,000 for the killing of Adnan Jihad, 52, about three hours before Jihad was shot to death Sept. 19 as he came out of a coffeehouse in the 17800 block of John R.

Jihad was the father of Raed Jihad, who is awaiting trial in Detroit Recorder's Court for allegedly gunning down Kalasho in February.

Appearing in 36th District Court in Detroit, Harris and Jackson were ordered held without bond pending an Oct. 13 preliminary examination on the murder charge. Akrawi is expected to be arraigned today.

Word of the Detroit murder charge came in the middle of a federal court hearing to determine if Akrawi, 25, should be held without bond on a federal firearm charge.

Federal agents testified Monday that Akrawi, arrested last Thursday on the firearm charge, was a key figure in a Detroit dope gang involved in massive cocaine shipments from Colombia, paid assassinations, bombings and arson.

Agent Louis Palombella of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said Akrawi oversaw the gang's operation along 7 Mile in the Woodward and John R areas, supervising a crew of 20 known as Ray's Boys or the A-Team.

The agents also testified that they seized numerous guns from homes where Akrawi lived.

Louis Akrawi, patriarch of the Akrawi-Kalasho family, denounced his nephew's murder charge as "Bull---," saying it was part of a government effort to harass and discredit his family.

"They can always find somebody to lie," Louis Akrawi said.

Last week, young Jihad blamed "that family" -- the Akrawis and the Kalashos -- for his father's killing. Investigators fear the killing signals a new dimension in a bloody war between the Kalasho-Akrawi family group and other factions in the cocaine trade.

According to records in the Jihad slaying, after promising the two 19-year-olds money, Akrawi twice drove them past the coffee house and pointed out Jihad; he gave Harris a .38- caliber pistol, dropped off the teenagers a block away and then picked them up after the shooting.

The men told police they were paid \$2,000 of the promised \$10,000.

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