

BIKERS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, October 4, 2006

Author: DAVID ASHENFELTER, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Twenty-two members and associates of the **Highwaymen** Outlaw Motorcycle Organization have been indicted on drug charges, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit said Tuesday.

The indictment said the defendants had conspired to distribute cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy in and around metro Detroit since 2005.

The defendants, most of whom are from the Detroit area, face up to 40 years in prison and a \$1-million fine if convicted of the charges. Other defendants live in Florida, New York and Tennessee.

Several members of the group were arrested Tuesday and entered not-guilty pleas in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

The lead defendant, Aref Nagi, 43, of Sterling Heights, was charged with operating a continuing criminal enterprise. If he's convicted, the charge carries a mandatory penalty of 30 years in prison.

FBI agents executed 12 search warrants Tuesday on homes and clubhouses in metro Detroit and seized 18 assault rifles, 14 pistols, four shotguns and a .30-caliber machine gun. It's unclear whether drugs were confiscated.

The FBI, the Brownstown Township Police Department and other police agencies investigated the case.

Contact DAVID ASHENFELTER at 313-223-4490 or ashenf@freepress.com.

DISCLAIMER: THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THE PRINTED ARTICLE

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 5B

Index Terms: drug crime; Highwaymen Outlaw Motorcycle Organization; indictment; multiple; 22; motorcyclist

Record Number: dfp0000332794

Copyright (c) Detroit Free Press. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.