

## ARRESTS CALLED CRIPPLING TO DEALERS

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The arrest of its top leaders has crippled a Detroit-based \$20-million-a-year cocaine ring that moved dope and cash across the country in cars rigged with secret compartments, federal officials said Wednesday.

Authorities said the " **Bolo Organization** " was the largest drug ring in the Detroit area since the high-volume Chambers Brothers and the flashy Akrawi-Kalasho wholesale **organization** ; both were gutted by federal prosecutions.

Moving an estimated 1,000 kilograms of cocaine a year -- 2.2 tons -- the **Bolo** ring allegedly supplied lower level dealers throughout southwest Detroit and Downriver.

A 10-count indictment charging 17 members of the **organization** was unsealed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit. Authorities began arresting the indicted suspects last week; the sweep continues.

Federal investigators said the **Bolo Organization** does not have the fearsome reputation of the Akrawi-Kalasho group, which offered \$10,000 bonuses for the decapitation of rivals, or the recruiting and marketing savvy of the Chambers, who set up drug factories and crack houses throughout the city.

But they said some members of the **organization** may be linked to the Oct. 4 ambush of Todd Conti, a 25-year-old Allen Park man who survived being shot four times by a ski-masked gunman.

The shooting was thought to be in retaliation for Conti's cooperation as a government witness.

According to the indictment:

- \* The ringleaders were Rodolfo ( **Bolo** ) Moreno-Ponce and Michael Fonseca, both of Detroit. The men, now in custody, oversaw a network that stretched from Detroit to New York City, Los Angeles and Miami.
- \* The drugs usually came into Detroit from Florida and California, and massive cash shipments were made to people in Florida and New York.
- \* The ring installed secret compartments in cars to haul the drugs and cash and hired drivers for up to \$2,000 per run. Cars were usually nondescript family sedans.

\* The **organization** apparently tried to disperse its operation from its southwest Detroit base, maintaining an apartment in West Bloomfield Township. The apartment was used as a counting house and to prepare money shipments to New York and Florida.

Three money shipments totaling more than \$2.4 million were intercepted by federal agents.

If convicted of the drug, conspiracy, weapons and money laundering charges, the alleged ring members face maximum life prison terms and fines of up to \$4 million each.

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Page: 1B

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