

2 ARRESTED IN STRING OF BOMBINGS FEDERAL AGENT SAYS MEN TRADED COKE FOR DYNAMITE USED IN 11 BLASTS

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Two men who allegedly swapped cocaine for dynamite used in a string of bombings in the 7 Mile Road and Woodward area this year have been arrested, a federal agent said Monday.

An 18-year-old Detroit man was jailed about 6:30 p.m. Monday for allegedly passing out dynamite in the north side neighborhood, said Kenneth Vicchio, assistant special agent in charge of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Detroit.

"We can't say this guy did it all, but we're reasonably sure that the explosive that went to him was responsible for all this," Vicchio said.

His alleged supplier, a 26-year-old man from Hillman -- west of Alpena -- was arrested Friday when federal agents raided his home and found explosives. Investigators believe the 18-year-old paid for the dynamite with cocaine.

The explosives have been used in at least 11 bombings this year, most of which occurred near the neighborhood, Vicchio said. At least five people have been injured.

The 26-year-old allegedly purchased the dynamite from distributors in Posen, northwest of Alpena. "We can prove that he purchased over a thousand sticks," Vicchio said.

An investigator close to the case who requested anonymity said the dynamite was distributed to numerous people as part of a drug war, "one faction against the other."

In February, reputed drug boss **Harry Kalasho** was killed as he left a house at Greendale Avenue and John R Street, south of 7 Mile.

The bombings center "around the **Kalasho** killing," the investigator said, but he would not elaborate.

The 18-year-old arrested Monday was convicted of felony possession of cocaine in 1988 and was given two years probation, Vicchio said. He and the 26-year-old are expected to be arraigned today on charges of possessing explosives.

It is against the law for felons and drug users to possess explosives.

Asked if the arrests of the two men would end the string of bombings, Vicchio said: "We don't know. We hope so."

Caption: Map Detroit Free Press

Memo: MAP HAS CHRONOLOGY AND LOCATION OF BOMBINGS;

SEE MAP IN MICROFILM

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