

## WARRANT IS REISSUED IN CONTRACT SLAYING

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Two weeks after the murder case against him was dismissed, alleged drug gang lieutenant Ragheed (Ray) Akrawi was named in a warrant Friday charging him again with the revenge slaying of Adnan Jihad.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office signed a new murder warrant for Akrawi, saying unspecified new evidence would be presented to sustain the same first-degree murder case.

"The law says we have to have new evidence to reissue the warrant once the case has been dismissed and that's what we have," said James Metz, assistant prosecutor assigned to the Organized Crime Task Force.

However, Metz said he could not discuss the new evidence against Akrawi outside court, citing "concerns for maintaining the integrity of our case."

Defense lawyer James Howarth said he also is being kept in the dark about the new evidence.

But Howarth said "it would be no great surprise" if the prosecutor struck a deal with one of the teenagers Akrawi allegedly hired to kill Jihad, 52.

Akrawi, 21, of Detroit is charged with engineering the street assassination of Jihad by two teenagers to avenge the February gang-style hit of his cousin, reputed drug boss **Harry Kalasho**.

Jihad's son, Raed, 19, is charged in the **Kalasho** killing. Investigators believe the slaying of the elder Jihad is part of a widening war among drug figures. Authorities believe the killing of Jihad -- who had no known participation in drug activities -- was the first time an uninvolved relative was targeted.

The codefendants -- Thomas Harris, 19, and Tim Jackson, 18 -- told police that they were promised \$10,000 by Akrawi to kill Jihad. According to the confessions, Akrawi gave them the gun, pointed out the victim and drove them to the scene.

At a preliminary examination two weeks ago, 36th District Judge Daphne Means Curtis ruled that Harris and Jackson would face trial, but that there was not enough evidence linking Akrawi to the killing.

In her ruling, Curtis said her gut reaction was that Akrawi was the force behind the killing, but she added "my gut reaction is not evidence."

Akrawi, who also faces federal firearms charges, was identified in federal court as a top lieutenant in the alleged Akrawi- **Kalasho** drug ring, headed by **Harry Kalasho** . Akrawi is in the Wayne County Jail.

Federal agents testified that Akrawi oversaw a group called the "A-Team," and "Ray's Boys," distributing cocaine along 7 Mile from Woodward to John R, and that he helped import 400 kilos of the drug into the Detroit area.

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