

5 CHARGED WITH KILLING MAN OVER \$350,000

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Leonard J. Day thought his cousin was underpaying him for maintenance work, so the 34-year-old Detroit parolee decided to help himself to \$350,000 worth of his cousin's cash and jewelry.

It was fatally bad decision.

In the weeks that followed, according to a federal grand jury indictment unsealed Thursday in Detroit, Roy C. West, 31, a rap record producer and drug suspect from Akron, and four henchmen scoured Detroit for Day, who ended up fatally shot in an east side neighborhood Dec. 20.

"He said his cousin was starving him and treated him like he wasn't nothing," Day's wife of five years, Sheree Day, said in a tearful interview Thursday after learning about the indictment.

West, his brother Alsedrick D. West, 34, also of Akron, Marcus L. Freeman, 27, of Detroit, Michael E. Bracey, 36, of Detroit and Alvino D. Cornelius of Warren are charged with conspiring to use interstate commerce facilities - telephones - to commit murder for hire.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of death or life in prison.

Roy West and Cornelius are being sought. The others are in custody awaiting proceedings.

Sheree Day said her husband, a parole violator who did time for drugs and arson, fled to Akron last fall after police sought him for questioning in an assault. She said Day stayed with Roy West, his first cousin, and began maintaining West's rental properties.

The indictment asserted these details:

After West discovered Day had stolen \$100,000 in cash, \$250,000 in jewelry and a .40-caliber pistol from his home Nov. 10, West called Cornelius and Bracey in metro Detroit and told them to search for Day. West also said he put a contract on Day's life, because "ain't nothing to talk about."

West also left threatening messages on the cell phones of Day and his girlfriend, Kenisha Crawford. Then he returned to Akron.

At 6:30 p.m. Dec. 20, the indictment said, Day was shot to death in a driveway.

About the same time, Freeman called West to report "the situation is over with," and then went to Akron and was paid for the killing, the indictment said.

Sheree Day said her husband, whom she said she misses terribly despite his infidelity, stopped by her home the day before he died, shaking with fright because he knew he was being hunted.

She said he hugged her and her three children and left. It was the last time she talked with him.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: **Leonard Day** was the thief, an indictment said, and paid the ultimate penalty.

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