

**Alleged drug gang indicted: Multicity cartel: Crackdown started in Detroit, Orlando before Atlanta; *Black Mafia Family* group accused of using violence to help traffic in cocaine.; [Main Edition]**

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Federal authorities announced Wednesday their latest blow to a national criminal organization run out of Atlanta that had sought legitimacy by infiltrating the hip-hop industry here.

The U.S. Attorney's office unveiled an indictment of 16 more members of the *Black Mafia Family*, a now legendary gang that burst onto the Atlanta scene several years ago and whose members, decked out in diamonds, threw extravagant parties in hip-hop clubs.

The group once infamously rented a billboard in Atlanta that said "The World is BMF's."

"The government is one step closer to eradicating one of today's most violent and notorious drug trafficking organizations," said Special Agent in Charge Rodney G. Benson of the DEA Atlanta office. "The *Black Mafia Family* wreaked havoc from coast to coast. ... Their bold image and in-your-face reputation once propelled them into the media spotlight."

The indictment charges all defendants with participating in the nationwide cocaine distribution conspiracy, which carries a penalty of 10 years to life in prison, and up to a \$4 million fine.

Federal authorities say the *Black Mafia Family* engaged in violence and trafficked in thousands of pounds of cocaine. They also tried to develop a hip-hop label in Atlanta.

The enterprise's leader in Atlanta was Demetrius "Big Meech" Flenory while his brother, Terry "Southwest T" Flenory allegedly ran the organization's Los Angeles hub.

The Flenorys went from selling \$50 bags of crack in high schools in southwest Detroit in the mid-1980s to masterminding a criminal enterprise operating in 11 states, according to federal authorities.

Local law enforcement learned the organization existed after the infamous double homicide in Club Chaos in Buckhead when hip-hop mogul Sean "P. Diddy" Coombs' associate, Anthony "Wolf" Jones, 38, and Lamont Girby, 38, were both shot after the club closed at 4 a.m. Demetrius Flenory was arrested but never indicted in that case.

Former Fulton prosecutor Rand Csehy, who worked on a state investigation of BMF that started after the Buckhead shooting, said the group was as much myth as fact, but without question was a high-powered, dangerous organization.

"BMF was a legend in their own mind and any type of drug crime was attributed to them --- a lot of things they didn't do was dumped on them," Csehy said Wednesday. "But a lot of it was real. They killed, they walked around tough and they hung up billboards."

The defendants in the new indictment unveiled Wednesday are: Lamar Fields, 39, of Atlanta; Victor Hammonds, 42, of Conyers; Franklin Nash, 56, of Decatur; Darryl Taylor, 46, of Stockbridge; Ramon Dobson, 27, of Lithonia; James Mitchell, 38, of East Orange, N.J.; and Dionne Beverly, 35, of Hurricane, W.Va.

Already in custody in other jurisdictions are Fleming Daniels, 34, of Roswell; and Derrek Pitts, 33, of Newark, N.J. In a hearing in Atlanta Wednesday, Dobson and Nash were released on \$25,000 bond and Taylor, Hammonds and Fields detained for a hearing scheduled for Friday.

Credit: STAFF