

FUGITIVE WIFE OF ALLEGED YOUNG BOYS KINGPIN ARRESTED

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, November 15, 1984

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Portia Sturdivant Jones, fugitive wife of reputed Young Boys Inc. chieftain Milton (Butchie) **Jones** with alleged links to the "A-Team" hit squad, was arrested in Brownsville, Tex., for a May revenge torture-slaying in her Troy home, the FBI said Wednesday.

Jones was arrested Tuesday afternoon without a struggle at her apartment in a large, family-oriented complex in the Texas border town, said Brownsville's senior resident FBI special agent, Robert Nixon. **Jones**, using the name Lenett Bell, had been living in the apartment with her two children since Nov. 1, Nixon said, but she is believed to have been in Brownsville for some weeks.

Jones, wanted on a first-degree murder charge for the May 30 slaying of Ricky Gracey, was declared a federal fugitive in July. She was being held in the federal section of Cameron County Jail in lieu of a \$50,000 cash bond pending extradition to Michigan.

WHEN ARRESTED, FBI agents found a loaded .32-caliber pistol in her bedroom and a Texas driver's license and voter's registration card issued under the alias, Detroit FBI spokesman John Anthony said.

Investigators believe **Jones**, 30, may have made trips into Mexico with the identification cards since arriving in Brownsville.

Jones' two children -- Kim, 5, and Milton, 10 -- were in school when their mother was arrested and were put in the custody of the Texas Child Welfare Department, Anthony said.

Attorney W. Otis Culpepper, who represented **Jones'** husband, Milton, said: "I do expect to be retained, and, if so, I am going to advise her to waive the extradition and come back to Michigan to deal with these charges. Right now, our main concern is getting the children into the custody of relatives here. I am not fully aware of conditions there, but I have to believe the children's welfare would be better served by living with their grandmother rather than in some shelter in Texas."

MILTON JONES is serving a 12-year drug sentence at the Bastrop Federal Correction Facility in Texas, about 300 miles from Brownsville. Believed to have been one of the founders and kingpins of Young Boys Inc., Milton **Jones** was among the more than 40 members and associates of the ring indicted by a federal grand jury in 1982.

Portia Jones also was among those indicted. She was convicted in March 1983 of two conspiracy charges and served a nine-month prison sentence.

Until Gracey's slaying and other killings linked to the A- Team, police thought the federal roundup had crippled the gang. However, investigators now say there are indications the ring was not as seriously injured as thought.

Gracey, according to investigators and court testimony, was killed in retaliation for a bungled robbery at **Jones** ' Troy ranch-style home on Adams near the Troy-Bloomfield Township border.

ACCORDING TO court records and testimony, Gracey, 26, and three associates tried to rob **Jones** ' home, thinking the gang might have hidden money and drugs there. **Jones** allegedly wounded Gracey with a shotgun as his companions escaped, and then allegedly telephoned the A-Team.

Members of the A-Team, whose trademark has been Uzi submachine guns, tortured Gracey to learn the identities of his companions before killing him, investigators said.

According to court testimony, **Jones** and another woman helped wrap Gracey's body in a child's blanket.

Gracey, his body riddled with 15 Uzi slugs and five slugs from two different .38-caliber pistols and covered with a plastic bag, was found in an alley behind Emery, between Cardoni and Russell on Detroit's north side.

Alleged A-Team member Charles Victor Obey, 18, is awaiting trial in Oakland County on a first-degree murder charge for Gracey's slaying.

Another alleged member, Spencer Tracy Holloway, 20, of Southfield, also has been charged with the killing and is being sought on a federal fugitive warrant. Anyone with information about Holloway's whereabouts is asked to call the Detroit FBI office at (313) 965-2323 anytime.

Caption: Photo

Memo: SEE ALSO METRO FINAL

Edition: STATE EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 11F

Index Terms: DRUG ; ARREST ; YOUNG BOYS INC

Record Number: 8402100910

Copyright (c) 1984 Detroit Free Press