

Sons of Silence boss denied bail/ ATF agents 'joined' gang

Debra Franco; The Gazette

DENVER - The national president of the Sons of Silence motorcycle club was held without bond Thursday on federal drug charges.

Leonard Reed of Ramah and 38 other people, 17 of whom are members of the group, were arrested in the past week after a two-year investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Three suspects are at large.

Reed's attorney, Dennis Hartley, argued that his 52-year-old client should have been released on bond because of a heart condition and that the only evidence prosecutors presented was "guilt by association."

During Thursday's hearings, ATF and Drug Enforcement Administration agents outlined how Reed allegedly bribed a witness to change his testimony, directed who should make and sell automatic weapons ordered by two undercover officers, and instructed Sons of Silence members how to package methamphetamines.

As part of the investigation, the two undercover ATF agents based in Colorado Springs became "patched" members of the local Sons of Silence chapter, whose clubhouse is in the 900 block of South Conejos Street.

For two years, the agents became "Bo" and "Cole," wore full beards and long hair braided down their backs and sported leather Sons of Silence jackets with "1-percenter" patches.

The Sons of Silence is one of the top five motorcycle gangs in the country, joining the Hells Angels and the Outlaws, which claim to be the 1 percent of society who are "the baddest of the bad," said Paul Pfeifer, a member of the Sons of Silence Denver chapter.

The agents attended weekly club meetings called "church" and traveled with top gang leaders such as Reed, said DEA agent Gaylon Dacus during Thursday's hearing.

During the investigation, the undercover agents ordered machine guns from people who were not Sons of Silence members, but who were allowed to associate with the group because they supplied free drugs, Dacus said.

Several of those indicted, including Steven Kressin, the club's national vice president, and Willard Rice, who is not a Sons of Silence member, are accused of altering legal semiautomatic weapons into automatic weapons. It is legal to sell and purchase the kits to alter the guns, but the altered guns themselves are illegal.

Rice's bond was set Wednesday at \$25,000, but he remains in custody while prosecutors appeal the decision to set him free. Rice, who has several felony convictions, was caught on videotape accepting money from an undercover agent who ordered 20 machine guns. The tape was played in court Wednesday.

If convicted, Rice could serve additional time because he is a convicted felon.

Sons of Silence members who attended the hearing said they feel Reed is being unfairly punished compared with other suspects not in the gang who were released on bond earlier this week.

"They caught Rice on videotape selling machine guns and hand grenades, and he's (going) home," Pfeifer said. "If it wasn't for the Sons of Silence, (Reed) would have been out of here. His only crime is wearing a patch."

- Debra Franco covers law enforcement and may be reached at 636-0366 or debraf@gazette.com

WANTED

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is still looking for two men wanted on violations of drug and gun laws in connection with an indictment handed down last week by a grand jury.

Terry Ives-Shaw, 41, is a white man, 6 feet, 175 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. He works as a construction worker and sometimes goes by the name Terry Wayne Shaw. He may be in

possession of explosives.

Charles H. Corrigan, 48, is described as a white man, 5-foot-7, 155 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. He is a sheet metal worker and sometimes goes by the name Charles Keeper.

Both men should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information about their whereabouts should contact the Colorado Springs ATF office, 473-0166, or the ATF headquarters' 24-hour Command Center in Washington, D.C., at 1-800-ATF-GUNS.

@CUTLINE: Corrigan

@CUTLINE: Ives-Shaw