

Hills man, 3 others face gambling charges

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A Farmington Hills homeowner is



Salwan Yousif Marogi of Southfield at his arraignment Monday in 47th District Court in Farmington on felony and misdemeanor gambling charges.

among four men facing felony gambling charges following a Jan. 26 police raid on his home, suspected as the site of a high-stakes gambling operation.

Jamal Abro, 42, owner of the home on Lake Park in the Colony Park West subdivision that police raided early Jan. 28, stood quietly with the other three men before 47th District Judge Fred Harris at their arraignments Monday afternoon.

The men are suspected with operating a monthly high-stakes casino-style gambling operation for the past three years.

"These people are working people who happened to have a Super Bowl party in the neighborhood like everyone else, but police chose to bust them," said Abro's attorney Richard Lustig of Birmingham. Police believe the gambling operation had nothing to do with the Super Bowl.

Also arraigned were Salwan Yousif Marogi, 30, of Southfield; Imad Gorguis Samouna, 37, of West Bloomfield; and Gerald Nash, 47, of Detroit, who did not have an attorney present.

THE FOUR STOOD mute to conspiracy to maintain a gambling house and conspiracy to keep a gambling house. Both charges are five-year felonies.

The four also were charged with maintaining a gambling house for gain, a two-year high misdemeanor, and keeping a gambling house, a one-year misdemeanor.

Abro and Marogi face additional charges. Abro stood mute to permitting gambling apparatus on the premises, a one-year misdemeanor. Marogi stood mute to resisting and obstructing a police officer, a two-year misdemeanor.

The four are free after posting 10 percent of a \$5,000 bond. Preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled before Harris at 1:30 p.m. March 27.

At the time of the raid, police arrested eight men on felony charges. "We asked for felony warrants (from the Oakland County Prosecutor) but got them on four," Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills police said. The other four will be charged with misdemeanors.

The remaining 28 men who were in the house the night of the raid and charged with loitering must report to 47th District Court, Murphy said. The men are from Birmingham, Livonia, Garden City, Royal Oak and Oak Park.

POLICE SEIZED more than \$55,000 cash, as well as a dice, cards, a blackjack table and other equipment in the raid. A dice table, too large to move, was destroyed at the scene.

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer called the alleged gambling operation a "floating game," that moved around the suburbs. Though the raid was conducted shortly after the Super Bowl, the alleged gambling operation was not associated with the game, he said.

"This was strictly a dice game and blackjack game," Dwyer said. Reported bets ran as high as \$5,000 on the dice game and \$300 on blackjack.



Imad Gorguis Samouna (left) of West Bloomfield and Jamal Abro of Farmington Hills stand quietly near Abro's attorney, Richard Lustig of Birmingham. Samouna and Abro were among

four men arraigned Monday in 47th District Court in Farmington on felony and misdemeanor gambling charges.

photos by SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer



Gerald Nash of Detroit had no attorney present when he was arraigned on felony and misdemeanor gambling charges in 47th District Court in Farmington Monday.

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KIDS, LET'S MAKE VALENTINES! Bring your imagination and together we'll make cards
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HOW TO MAKE ROOM IN YOUR SUITCASE! A luggage packing demonstration... to help
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