

## **Best criminal lawyer for drug charges and organized crime allegations.**

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/haddara-clan-members-arrested-in-police-raids-in-melbourne/news-story/7c002d4d0d6a6f8034ea9cb28dfda080>

# Herald Sun

## **Haddara clan members arrested in police raids in Melbourne**

SHANNON DEERY, REBEKAH CAVANAGH AND SAMANTHA LANDY, HeraldSun

March 19, 2014 1:51pm

FOUR members of the Haddara family have been arrested with police claiming to have smashed one of Melbourne's biggest crime syndicates

In court yesterday police described Fadi Haddara as the ringleader of the family run crime gang saying he was the main target of the covert operation Skyborne.

Other members of the family believed to be senior figures in the syndicate were arrested alongside Haddara. Sources say they include two of his cousins and his sister.

Haddara, 36, faced Melbourne Magistrates Court late yesterday after being charged with 17 drugs, weapons and violence offences.

He was arrested following raids on 45 properties in 23 suburbs in Melbourne's west including Altona North, Williamstown North, Truganina, Sunshine, Keilor Downs and Broadmeadows.

A 700-strong force was involved in the operation after Taskforce Santiago's investigations into the alleged involvement of the well-known family-based syndicate since late last year.

Haddara was one of seven people brought through court, including his cousin Ziad, after police made 27 arrests following the raids.

He was arrested with two other men during a raid at Melbourne A Class Smash Repairs on Orange Ave in Williamstown North.

All were remanded in custody and are expected to make applications for bail in coming days.

<http://www.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/vic-drug-gang-run-from-panel-beaters-20140319-3522x.html>

# The Sydney Morning Herald

## Vic drug gang 'run from panel beaters'

March 19, 2014

**Patrick Caruana**

A major drug and gun trafficking syndicate was run through a Melbourne panel beaters and a home, police allege.

Members of the gang inadvertently sold thousands of dollars worth of the drug ice and firearms to undercover police, a court has heard.

Police on Tuesday raided dozens of homes and arrested 27 people, including alleged ringleaders Fadi Haddara, 36, and Dung Pham, 49.

Detective Senior Constable Michael Hammet said the pair both sold drugs on a daily basis, and had also trafficked guns.

He told the Melbourne Magistrates Court that Haddara set up an elaborate office at his panel beating business in Williamstown, while Pham operated from his Sunshine North home.

He said the two men would discuss car parts as code for drugs, and would talk about paintings and TVs when they meant guns.

Both men sold ice to undercover police during a sting, Det Sen Const Hammet said.

Fadi Haddara, of Altona North, is facing 17 charges including trafficking a commercial quantity of methylamphetamine.

His cousin Ziad Haddara, 39, of Truganina, remains in custody on five charges, also including drug trafficking.

Det Sen Const Hammet said Ziad and Fadi Haddara had been operating together but had a falling out and dealt drugs separately.

The court was told Ziad Haddara has legally changed his name to Antonio Wilson and no longer associated with his cousin.

Police allege Khaled Kaddour, 39, was Fadi Haddara's righthand man and sold drugs to undercover police a number of times.

Kaddour was denied bail on Wednesday.

More than 35,000 tobacco plants and an assault weapon were seized in the raids, which police said disrupted the workings of the Middle Eastern gang linked to the Haddara family and its associates.

Pham briefly faced Melbourne Magistrates Court on Wednesday on drug and weapons trafficking charges.

He made no application for bail and was remanded in custody until July.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/03/18/vic-gang-leaders-face-drug-weapon-charges>



## **VIC GANG LEADERS FACE DRUG, WEAPON CHARGES**

**Source:**

AAP

18 Mar 2014

The alleged ringleaders of a Middle Eastern gang and several others have been charged after police raids across Melbourne.

Police believe they've put a major dent in a family-led Middle Eastern crime gang allegedly involved in trafficking drugs and guns in Melbourne.

The alleged ringleaders are in custody on weapons and drugs charges including 36-year-old Fadi Haddara, who a court heard was the main target of a massive pre-dawn police operation.

A total of 27 people were arrested after 700 police swept through 45 properties in Melbourne's north and west on Tuesday.

The raids targeted a "well known" Middle Eastern family-based syndicate allegedly involved in trafficking firearms and commercial quantities of drugs, Assistant Commissioner Steve Fontana said.

The syndicate has a history of trafficking firearms and commercial amounts of drugs and police say the bust has given it "a pretty good dent".

"There's always someone that'll try to move in afterwards and fill the void but we've certainly taken out the significant ringleaders," Mr Fontana told reporters.

More than 35,000 tobacco plants and what is believed to be a high-powered assault weapon were seized in the raids, which police said disrupted the workings of the gang linked to the Haddara family and its associates.

Fadi Haddara, of Altona North, is facing 17 charges including trafficking a commercial quantity of methylamphetamine.

Ziad Haddara, 39, of Truganina, remains in custody on five charges, also including drug trafficking, before a bail application on Wednesday.

The two Haddaras are among seven people who remain in custody after appearing in the Melbourne Magistrates Court, including 29-year-old Melton South woman Aysun Hanay who allegedly had methylamphetamine in her freezer when police arrested her.

During Hanay's unsuccessful bail application, Detective Senior Constable Leonie Klein said Fadi Haddara was the main target of the operation.

Mr Fontana said the raids were high risk but no one was injured.

Stolen vehicles, a clandestine laboratory, 100kg of dried cannabis and firearms were also uncovered by police.

"The drugs were significant but we were particularly concerned about the firearms," Mr Fontana said.

Another seven people were charged by police and bailed.

The raids were part of work by the Santiago Taskforce. It was set up in 2008 to target Middle Eastern crime rings, including shootings involving a number of families and their associates.