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## HIT MAN RETURNS TO STAND IN EX-FBI AGENT'S MURDER TRIAL *DAVID OVALLE, dovalle@MiamiHerald.com*

Boston hit man John Martorano insists he never killed for money -- only to protect his pals.

Of \$50,000 given to him by Italian mobsters for killing a guy nicknamed Indian AI?

"That was like a donation," Martorano testified. Martorano, a key witness against disgraced FBI agent and murder defendant John Connolly, dryly explained how he viewed his former line of work Thursday under cross-examination in Miami-Dade Circuit Court.

Defense attorney Manny **Casabielle** spent Thursday morning verbally sparring with the beefy 67-year-old hit man, trying to undercut the credibility of a man who has admitted to 20 murders.

"You were a ruthless guy, weren't you?" **Casabielle** asked.

"I don't know," Martorano said, pausing. "You don't act like I am."

The jury and courtroom erupted into laughter.

On Wednesday, Martorano testified in a business-like manner how he shot and killed his former pal, John Callahan, an accountant and ex-president of Miami's World Jai-Alai, in July 1982.

Most important for prosecutors, Martorano told the jury that Connolly, 68, provided the tip that led to Callahan's demise.

Prosecutors contend that Connolly, corrupted by his relationship with gang leaders, provided the tip that Callahan was going to cooperate with agents about an earlier homicide.

Martorano served 12 years in prison for killing 20 people during the 1970s and '80s as part of Boston's Winter Hill gang organization. He is now free.

In 2002, Connolly was convicted in federal court of racketeering and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

For Callahan's slaying, Connolly is charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder. He faces life in prison if convicted.

Connolly's relationship with the gang proved a major scandal for the FBI. He had rocketed to stardom for helping dismantle Boston's Italian mob.

But it was later learned that he had cultivated Winter Hill gang leaders James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as informants who provided intelligence on Mafia activities.

Flemmi, who is in federal custody, is scheduled to testify during Connolly's trial. Bulger remains one of the FBI's top fugitives.