

Mafia leader gunned down in Palermo

by UPI

PALERMO, Italy - One of Sicily's top Mafia leaders was killed Wednesday in Palermo, raising fears in Italy of a new mob war.

Nicolo Ingarao was ambushed near a police station by assassins using a motorbike, the Italian news agency Ansa reported. Ingarao had just registered with police as he was required to do because he was under house arrest.

"There is a risk that this crime will be followed by others of the same type, as a reaction from another faction," Francesco Messineo, the chief prosecutor in Palermo said.

Ingarao had been in home detention since 2005 when Mafia turncoats told police he was involved in extortion. In 1995, he was charged with killing a mob rival, charges that were eventually dropped.

Investigators say Ingarao controlled the Mafia in the Porto Nuovo district, a central area in Palermo.

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