



Sources say FBI close to arrests in Oklahoma blast

Reuters

NEW YORK — The FBI is close to arresting "a group of major players" in the Oklahoma City bombing within the next several weeks, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday.

The source told the magazine: "This thing involves husbands and wives as well as children as young as 12."

The source also said "we pretty much know who is involved right now" in the April 19 blast that devastated the federal building in Oklahoma City and killed 167 people.

The magazine said federal agents were looking closely at a white supremacist group headed by Robert Millar of Elohim City, Okla., a family that denies any connection to the bombing or to suspect Timothy McVeigh.

The source said McVeigh visited the settlement, which is about 180 miles east of Oklahoma City, on April 5, less than two weeks before the bombing.

The source told the magazine that some of the "major players" already targeted by the FBI were talking to investigators to get lighter sentences, but the source said "everyone involved is going to be arrested and charged" and "no one is going free because he or she talks."

Last week sources said that McVeigh's Army buddy, Michael Fortier, was cooperating with authorities and that he and McVeigh visited the Alfred P. Murrah federal building just days before the blast.

The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday that Fortier and McVeigh went from office to office in the nine-story Murrah building posing as job applicants to get a close look at the building's structure.

"They went floor to floor in there asking about work and picking up job applications," said the Times' source. "But ... their real reason was to check the place out."

The Millar family heads a group

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— unnamed source quoted in Newsweek magazine

of about 75 people who live on a 400-acre community near the Oklahoma-Arkansas border, a settlement in existence for 22 years. The group has been under investigative scrutiny since the bombing.

The family has had several encounters with federal agents over the years and law enforcement officials have said the community is heavily armed.

Adair County Sheriff Gerald Coleman told the Long Island newspaper Newsday earlier this month that when "you talk to the feds they say they're a dangerous group and bear watching. Others say they're a harmless religious group."

Millar, a 70-year-old Canadian-born former Mennonite, is known as "grandpa" to his followers and preaches a brand of fundamentalism known as Christian Identity.

The body of white supremacist Richard Wayne Snell, executed April 19 for two murders in Arkansas, is buried near the Millar settlement and Millar visited Snell the day he was executed.

Meanwhile, a group of prominent figure skaters donated \$125,000 to help build a day-care center to replace one destroyed by the blast. "Everybody in the country feels terrible about this, for people who were so innocent to be dragged into somebody else's rage," Nancy Kerrigan told reporters in Oklahoma City, where she performed Sunday. Fellow skaters Brian Boitano, Oksana Baiul, Victor Petrenko and Elvis Stojko also chipped in.