

Terry Nichols' Brother Says He's Located John Doe No. 2

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The brother of Oklahoma City bombing suspect Terry Nichols says the mysterious John Doe No. 2 lives in Oklahoma City and knows the man detained in London after the bombing but later released.

James Nichols, who was indicted after the April 19 bombing on unrelated charges, said in a telephone interview from his Michigan farm that he and others are conducting their own investigation.

And what they are finding, he said, will prove that Terry Nichols and bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh are innocent.

``They picked on the wrong people this time," James Nichols said.

Nichols, of Decker, Mich., is scheduled to appear on the ``Donahue" show today to discuss developments in the case, said a spokesman for the program. Appearing with him will be Karl Granse, executive director of Citizens for a Constitutional Republic, and Bob Papovich, a close friend of the Nichols brothers.

U.S. Justice Department spokesman John Russell denied that Nichols or anyone else had located John Doe No. 2. Russell acknowledged, however, that the FBI's search for John Doe No. 2 is ongoing.

``It's still open," Russell said. ``That is still under investigation."

But Nichols said he has sources who have tracked down John Doe No. 2 in Oklahoma City. He would not say who those sources were. In the weeks after the bombing, federal agents combed the country in vain for the dark-haired, muscular suspect depicted in sketches distributed by the FBI.

The sketches have not been withdrawn, even though authorities have admitted that they resembled an innocent Army private who was in Junction City, Kan., about the time that McVeigh allegedly rented the Ryder truck that carried the bomb.

Nichols said he learned of John Doe No. 2's whereabouts from private investigators helping with the search. The man also recently has been in Phoenix and Las Vegas as well, he said.

The information is being passed on to Terry Nichols' and McVeigh's attorneys because James Nichols said he doesn't trust giving it to the government.

Attorneys for McVeigh and Terry Nichols confirmed Tuesday that they were pursuing the John Doe No. 2 issue, but they would offer no details about their investigation.

``We're still looking into that, very definitely," said Stephen Jones, McVeigh's attorney. ``There are certainly people who were victims standing close to the scene who claim to have seen Doe No. 2. I think he exists."

Terry Nichols' attorney, Michael Tigar, said he also was following leads on John Doe No. 2.

``We're looking at that angle," Tigar said. ``The government has put out several different versions of how many different people were allegedly involved in this event. ... I think it's fair to say that the question of who was involved is still an open one."

The man arrested in London after the bombing, Abraham Ahmed, was a computer technician who lived in Oklahoma City. He was detained and returned to the United States before being cleared in the bombing.

Ahmed left Oklahoma City for Chicago shortly after the blast, planning to fly on to Jordan by way of Rome.

Suspicion heightened after pliers and electrical tape were found in his suitcase. But Ahmed said he carried the items to give as gifts.

Caption: Photo