DUTCH HOLD MAN TIED TO OKLAHOMA BLAST



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A man held in a maximum-security Dutch prison is fighting extradition to the United States, and newspapers reported today he is linked to Oklahoma City bombing suspects Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols.

De Telegraaf newspaper said a man identified only as Daniel S. is suspected of supplying weapons to those responsible for the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in which 169 people were killed and more than 500 injured.

McVeigh and Nichols are in custody in Oklahoma in connection with the worst terrorist incident in domestic U.S. history.

Justice Ministry spokesman Lars Poppes and a spokeswoman for the American Embassy in The Hague confirmed that the man was arrested in the Netherlands earlier this year for an unrelated case in the United States.

An extradition request from U.S. authorities filed in that case had been granted, the embassy said. The legal basis for the request was not know, however Daniel S. has been jailed in the Netherlands since his arrest this summer on suspicion of smuggling stolen Medieval documents.

The 32-year-old man, also known as William Taylor, is fighting the order, the Justice Ministry said. It was not known if either was his legal name.

The FBI in Oklahoma City was not aware of anybody being held in Dutch custody in connection with the bombing, said FBI spokesman Walt Lamar. Steve Mullins, an assistant U.S. attorney in Oklahoma City, said he had no information connecting Daniel S. with the bombing.

De Telegraaf said U.S. law enforcement authorities in Europe contacted Daniel S. and told him they have evidence connecting him with the bombing. It did not say when this happened.

The most prominent criminal lawyer in the Netherlands, Abraham Moszkowicz, was quoted by Het Parool newspaper as saying his client was arrested last summer on suspicion of smuggling the stolen manuscripts.

De Telegraaf and other Dutch newspapers said the FBI searched a safe belonging to Daniel S. in New York, and found a list of up to 40 names of people believed to be linked to the blast.