

GOVERNMENT MISHANDLING EVIDENCE, FBI CHEMIST SAYS

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A whistleblowing FBI chemist says the government is mishandling Oklahoma bombing evidence and trying to ruin his reputation.

Frederic Whitehurst on Friday demanded that some sealed documents in the bombing case be made public to exonerate him and let people know the truth about their government's actions.

"The documentation at issue is central to protecting the American people from future tragedies like the Oklahoma City bombing or the World Trade Center bombing disaster," Whitehurst's lawyer said in papers filed in U.S. District Court in Denver.

The documents also will help exonerate Whitehurst and prove that the government is smearing his reputation, his lawyers said.

Whitehurst, who is an explosives expert and won an FBI award for his work on the World Trade Center bombing, has accused the FBI of falsifying evidence, failing to follow established scientific protocols and covering up misconduct in potentially more than a thousand cases.

The documents he wants made public include his memos to a Justice Department investigator about alleged evidence mishandling, plus other documents he says show that at least nine other FBI agents agree with him.

Lawyers for Oklahoma City bombing defendants Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols have copies of the documents, as do bombing prosecutors.

Prosecutor Beth Wilkinson made "outlandish" untrue statements about Whitehurst that discredited his allegations during an April 9 hearing in Denver in the bombing case, Whitehurst's lawyers said.