

## **JOHN DOE II ARRESTED BY FBI**

WASHINGTON WEEKLY, 3 February 1997

Michael William Brescia, who has been linked to the Oklahoma City bombing as John Doe II, has been arrested on bankrobbing charges by the FBI.

Brescia was indicted together with four other members of the Aryan Republican Army white separatist group last week. The FBI denied that his arrest had anything to do with the Oklahoma bombing. The FBI now even denies that John Doe II exists.

But Edye Smith, the mother of two children who died in the bombing, in a private law suit has named Brescia as the John Doe II that the FBI was looking for immediately after the bombing in response to eyewitness accounts. Brescia, together with Andreas Strassmeir were government informants who infiltrated the underground resistance movement. For a time they lived together at Elohim City, Oklahoma. A few days before the bombing, Strassmeir received a telephone call at Elohim City. The call was from Timothy McVeigh.

The FBI has been outright hostile to witnesses who claim to have seen Timothy McVeigh and Michael Brescia together. Eyewitness Connie Smith last year told the London Telegraph that "I kept telling them that the man in the [John Doe II] sketch was that Mike guy, a nice-looking guy, dark-skinned. But the FBI made me feel guilty, then ignorant, as if I didn't know what I was saying. Then, later, I tried to call in with more information and they wouldn't even talk to me."

It is difficult to gauge the motive of the FBI in this arrest. Operating under the assumption that the FBI is covering up something in the Oklahoma bombing, the arrest could be seen as an interference in the law suit brought by Edye Smith. Prosecution on phony charges is the most frequently used device to destroy the credibility of former government employees or informants who know too much.

Published in the Feb. 3, 1997 Issue of The Washington Weekly Copyright (c) 1997 The Washington Weekly (<http://www.federal.com>)