

Writer doesn't doubt McVeigh investigator/Free-lancer insists he saw faked confession

Houston Chronicle (TX)

March 21, 1997 | Author: KIM COBB | Page: 6

A controversial Oklahoma free-lance writer remains adamant that private investigator Richard Reyna showed him a copy of a faked confession from accused bomber Timothy McVeigh but says he's willing to believe that Reyna did not fake the documents himself

The Chronicle reported Thursday that Reyna, a private investigator employed by McVeigh attorney Stephen Jones, resigned because Jones had failed to clear his name amid the allegations surrounding the "confession."

Free-lancer J.D. Cash claims Reyna showed him a fantasy document last spring and says he believes it is what the Dallas Morning News quoted from last month in reporting that McVeigh had planned the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building to ensure a high body count. The blast killed 168 people.

Reyna said from his Conroe home Wednesday that Cash's story is "an absolute falsehood." Reyna said Jones, an attorney he has worked for since 1995, had assured him he would clear his name but instead told reporters that Reyna had faked the confession.

In a release from the McCurtain Daily Gazette, a small Oklahoma newspaper he frequently writes for, Cash reiterated his claims to having seen the faked confession in Reyna's possession.

The documents he saw last year "contained little that could be considered as reliable representations of facts and events concerning the bombing of the Murrah federal building," Cash said.

But Cash said he respected the investigator's privileged communications with his client and was "willing to take Reyna at his word that he, personally, never falsified or faked any documents."

The release also said Cash does not believe Reyna had anything to do with leaking defense documents to the Morning News.

An analyst for Klanwatch, which monitors anti-government groups, confirms that Cash was seen with Reyna at a white supremacist gathering in April of 1996 but questions Cash's credibility because of the reporter's ties to the radical right.

Jeff Holliday, an editor at the Gazette who works with Cash, says of Reyna: "We didn't anticipate he'd quit, but we weren't surprised that once his name surfaced, he would go into denial mode.

"After all, no investigator wants to have a reputation as a blabbermouth to the press.

Caption:

Mug: Timothy McVeigh