

Ex-reporter disclaims conspiracy - Grand jury witness says evidence doesn't support bomb theories

Dallas Morning News, The (TX)
September 20, 1997 | Page: 26A | Section: NEWS

OKLAHOMA CITY - A former reporter who broadcast stories about mystery suspect John Doe No. 2 disavowed some of the conspiracy theories surrounding the Oklahoma City bombing as she arrived Friday to testify before a grand jury investigating those theories.

A few weeks after the April 19, 1995, bombing, KFOR-TV aired a story by Jayna Davis suggesting that John Doe No. 2 was an Iraqi-born busboy living in Oklahoma City. The man sued the station for defamation, invasion of privacy and emotional distress. She also aired several other stories about John Doe No. 2 sightings.

"After her two-year exhaustive investigation, she has turned up no credible evidence that supports the theory that the federal government had sufficient prior warning to prevent the bombing," said Tim McCoy, Ms. Davis' lawyer, as the two arrived Friday.

"She also doesn't believe at this time in any multiple explosive charges theories or that a government informant worked in conjunction with the bombers," Mr. McCoy said.

The men who led the drive to impanel the grand jury believe federal prosecutors have ignored evidence of other conspirators besides Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols.

Prosecutors now doubt a larger conspiracy.

Ms. Davis testified for nearly six hours Thursday and Friday.

After a nationwide manhunt for John Doe No. 2, federal prosecutors announced that the FBI sketch of the dark-haired, muscular suspect actually depicted an innocent Army private.

The face of the man singled out by Ms. Davis' story June 7, 1995, was digitally blurred, and Al-Hussaini-Hussain, the man who sued, was not named. But Mr. Hussain's attorneys maintain he was indirectly identified. And they said he had been assured by the FBI that he was not a suspect. The lawsuit was later dropped.

Mr. McVeigh was convicted June 2 on federal murder and conspiracy charges and given the death penalty. His former Army buddy, Mr. Nichols, faces a Sept. 29 trial on the same charges.