

Grand jury in Oklahoma City bombing probe frustrated, offended

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OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Grand jurors investigating allegations of a wider conspiracy in the Oklahoma City bombing said Wednesday they are offended by attempts to exert influence on the outcome of their investigation.

The grand jury issued a five-page interim report that did not detail any names and spoke only in general terms of attempts by outside sources.

“Although we recognize and respect everyone's right to their own opinion, we are frustrated with constant unfounded public statements by some persons who claim to have special standing in the matter attacking us and those who work for us,” the grand jury said.

The panel said there had been anonymous contact at one or more grand jurors' homes.

“We are offended by the improper and perhaps illegal attempts to exert influence on the outcome of our investigation,” the grand jury said in the report.

The grand jury was empaneled last year to investigate allegations of a wider conspiracy in the planning and carrying out of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people and injured hundreds of others.

There also were allegations that the government had prior knowledge of the plan to blow up the building.

Timothy McVeigh was convicted by a federal jury of murder, conspiracy, and weapons charges, and was sentenced to death. Terry Nichols was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and murder charges, and was sentenced to life in prison. Both have appealed.