

## **Oklahoma Bombing Grand Jury Reports Intimidation Attempts**

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Grand jurors investigating allegations of a wider conspiracy in the Oklahoma City bombing complained Wednesday of outside attempts to influence the outcome of their investigation.

The panel complained of anonymous attempts to contact them at their homes and of erroneous claims about what some witnesses would say.

In a five-page interim report, the Oklahoma County grand jury did not name any one person and referred to attempts to influence the panel in general terms.

"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. "Those comments serve no useful purpose and we view them as blatant attempts to improperly intimidate and influence us."

The panel said someone has anonymously contacted one or more grand jurors at home. "We are offended by the improper and perhaps illegal attempts to exert influence on the outcome of our investigation."

Assistant District Attorney Patrick Morgan, the panel's legal adviser, would not say whether those contacts are being investigated.

Jurors also wrote that some witnesses appear to have their own agenda.

"Sadly, we have witnessed, both inside and outside the grand jury room, the actions and words of many individuals who appear to us to be using this tragedy . . . as a way to promote their own self-interest."

The grand jury said it has been inundated with erroneous claims about what other people would testify to if called to appear.

"The actual testimony seldom matched the purported testimony," the grand jury said. "Often, the testimony contradicted that which had been claimed in the summaries."

The grand jury was impaneled last year to investigate allegations of a wider conspiracy in the planning and carrying out of the April 19, 1995, bombing. There also were allegations that the government had prior knowledge.

The petition effort, which led to formation of the grand jury, was led by state Rep. Charles Key and Glenn Wilburn, who died last year of pancreatic cancer. Mr. Wilburn's two young grandsons died in the bombing.

Attempts to reach Mr. Key by telephone were not immediately successful.

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killed 168 and injured more than 500 others. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were convicted by federal juries.

Mr. Nichols received life in prison for conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter. Mr. McVeigh, convicted of the bombing and the murders of eight federal agents, was sentenced to death.

An appeals court earlier this week ordered evidence used in those trials to be turned over to Oklahoma authorities who want to prosecute the two for the deaths of the other 160 people killed in the bombing. Seven of those were not on federal property when the truck bomb exploded.

The grand jury said they eagerly await those exhibits and testimony about the FBI's investigation into the bombing since "we have been at a point for several months where witnesses we deem essential to a fair inquiry have not been available to us."

Mr. Morgan said that if those exhibits are made available quickly, the grand jury could finish its work within six weeks.

Caption: PHOTO(S): (Associated Press) District Judge William R. Burkett reads the Oklahoma County grand jury's interim report, which cites "blatant attempts to improperly intimidate and influence us."