

# Indicted Writer Criticizes Oklahoma City Grand Jury

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A writer who says he was indicted by an Oklahoma City grand jury criticized the panel Saturday for charging him with trying to influence its investigation.

``This whole thing's incredible," said David Hoffman, a San Francisco writer and editor who moved to Oklahoma in 1995 to investigate the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. ``The grand jury spends a year and a half investigating all this, and the best they can do is indict a reporter?"

In a phone interview with the Denver Rocky Mountain News from an undisclosed location, Hoffman said his attorney has discussed a surrender to Oklahoma authorities. But Hoffman wants to be released quickly after his arrest.

``The authorities don't like me there," said Hoffman, who has filed open-records suits against the county sheriff and the FBI for bombing-related materials.

Hoffman wrote a book titled *The Oklahoma City Bombing and the Politics of Terror*. In it, Hoffman claims the bombing was part of a federal law enforcement sting operation that went awry - similar to the February 1993 truck bombing at New York's World Trade Center in which a government informant was involved.

In the grand jury's report issued Wednesday, the panel rejected the notion of a broader conspiracy.

Last fall, several grand jurors received copies of Hoffman's book at their homes and notes urging them to look into its claims.

Hoffman was called before the grand jury in October and asked whether he'd sent them. He said he invoked the Fifth Amendment and declined to answer.