

Lawyer: Book by McVeigh Dishonest - He Says Goal Was To Help Nichols

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Timothy McVeigh exaggerated his role in the Oklahoma City bombing in a new book to stroke his ego and try to prevent a state murder trial against convicted bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, his former attorney said Thursday.

Stephen Jones, who believes the bombing was carried out as part of a wider conspiracy, said American Terrorist: Timothy McVeigh and the Oklahoma City Bombing is "fundamentally dishonest" and contradicts what Mr. McVeigh told him about Mr. Nichols' involvement.

Also Thursday, a psychiatrist who examined Mr. McVeigh said the former Army soldier thought he might die in a shootout with police instead of surviving the bombing.

Dr. John Smith, who had been hired for Mr. McVeigh's defense, told ABC's Good Morning America that he was chilled by "the coldness, the almost glee with which he told me the details of the bombing, the preparation for the bombing, the expectation that at least 400 people would be killed."

Mr. McVeigh is to be executed May 16 for the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people.

Dr. Smith said Mr. McVeigh told him he had planned on "getting some supplies and some ammunition and disappearing into the woods or wilderness somewhere, letting the federal government chase him and having a shootout with them" after the bombing.

Dr. Smith, who spoke with the bomber's consent, said Mr. McVeigh "was not deranged. He has no major mental illness," but he added: "I never saw Tim cry. ... He really feels nothing. He feels, in my opinion, fully justified in his actions."

In the new book, Mr. McVeigh explicitly admits the bombing and claims to have no remorse for it, even calling the 19 children killed "collateral damage." Mr. McVeigh said Mr. Nichols helped mix the fertilizer bomb that blew up the building, but Mr. McVeigh said he alone carried out the bombing.

Mr. Jones said he will revise his own 1998 book, *Others Unknown: The Oklahoma City Bombing Case and Conspiracy*, to address some of Mr. McVeigh's claims.

Mr. Jones said Mr. McVeigh planned such statements to demonize himself and draw attention away from Mr. Nichols. He is awaiting a preliminary hearing in

Oklahoma to decide whether there is enough evidence to try him for 160 state counts of first-degree murder.

Mr. Nichols already is serving a life sentence on federal manslaughter and conspiracy convictions.

Citing Mr. Nichols' possible trial, Mr. Jones declined to be specific about what McVeigh told him about Mr. Nichols' role in the bombing.

Mr. Jones said the authors of American Terrorist never checked Mr. McVeigh's claims with him because he suspects they wanted to protect their relationship with Mr. McVeigh, who had a falling out with Mr. Jones.

In the introduction to American Terrorist, one of the authors wrote that Mr. McVeigh was "perfectly blunt and never shied away from expressing his beliefs." He wrote Mr. McVeigh was never caught in a lie.

But Mr. Jones called Mr. McVeigh an expert liar, recalling a tearful story Mr. McVeigh told him about an Iraqi teenager he accidentally killed during the Gulf War.

"Two weeks later he told me it was all made up," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. Jones' book offers his theory depicting Mr. McVeigh as a patsy in an international plan to carry out the bombing.

Also on Thursday, Entertainment Network Inc., a Florida-based Internet development and hosting company that operates the VoyeurDorm.com Web site, filed a federal suit asking for an emergency hearing to allow the Internet broadcast of Mr. McVeigh's upcoming execution.

The company alleges that it is unconstitutional to refuse to allow such a broadcast.

Caption:

PHOTO(S): Stephen Jones ... attorney says former client Timothy McVeigh is an expert liar.