Ark. woman claims Nichols has more to say

by Melissa Nelson, Associated Press Bakersfield Californian | 5/5/05

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Terry Nichols wants to reveal more about the Oklahoma City bombing, says a woman who released a letter in which the bombing conspirator accuses an Arkansas man of aiding in the plot.

The letter to Kathy Sanders, which she released this week, alleges that gun collector Roger Moore gave explosives to bomber Timothy McVeigh and provided additional bomb components recently found in Nichols' former Kansas home.

"He wants me to come to the prison and he wants me to tell his story," Sanders said Thursday. "He's a quiet and introverted little man. He doesn't want to be in the bright lights, but he wants to set the record straight."

Sanders' grandsons, 3-year-old Chase Smith and 2-year-old Colton Smith, were among the 168 victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. An outspoken critic of the government's investigation of the bombing, she recently published a book, "After Oklahoma City," that explores her 10-year investigation into bombing conspiracy theories.

Sanders talked with Nichols by telephone two to three times a week while he was in custody in Oklahoma for trial on state murder charges. She said he was now ready to tell the full story behind the bombing - but will only tell it to her because of the trust she has built with him.

"Terry Nichols asked me to be a spokesperson for him and I am willing to do that," she said.

So far, federal prison officials have turned down her requests to interview Nichols, saying it would be too disruptive.

Nichols, 50, has been convicted twice - in federal court and in an Oklahoma court - and is imprisoned for life without parole. McVeigh was executed in 2001.

An FBI spokesman in Kansas City has said the Nichols letter will not lead to a new investigation and there was no indication Moore provided explosives to Nichols and McVeigh. Prosecutors say Nichols stole an estimated \$63,000 in weapons and other items from Moore's home that were then sold to help finance the terror plot.

Moore, who underwent months of questioning after the bombing and who now lives in Roseland, Fla., was never charged and says he never gave explosives to Nichols or McVeigh. He denies any involvement with the pair or the bombing.

Sanders' quest for information has garnered extensive publicity -including a 2002 documentary on her visits to white supremacist camps and terrorist training compounds where McVeigh allegedly developed his anti-government views.

Some bombing survivors said Thursday they understand Sanders' desire for information, but don't agree with her tactics.

"We know Kathy. She's a nice lady and she's been involved in this conspiracy stuff for 10 years," said Jim Denny, whose two children survived the April 19, 1995, blast.

But Denny said he doesn't believe anything Nichols has to say.

"Maybe people from the grassy knoll in Dallas were involved in it, too. They are still trying to prove that," he said, referring to conspiracy theories around the assassination of President Kennedy.