

JUDICIAL WATCH
PRESS RELEASE

Since August 1999, FBI Special Agent Robert Wright and his attorney, David Schippers, Shippers and Bailey, 20 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60602 have been working to legally expose the very real and foreseeable Middle Eastern terrorist threats to American citizens at home and abroad. During July 2001, Larry Klayman, Judicial Watch, 501 School Street, S.W., Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20024 met with Agent Wright to discuss his concern regarding the FBI International Terrorism Units dereliction of duty to protect American citizens from terrorists operating within the United States. Concerned for the public interest of all Americans and the country as a whole, Larry Klayman offered the legal assistance of Judicial Watch to aid Agent Wright in legally exposing the FBI's dereliction of duty.

From 1993 to 1999¹, Agent Wright was assigned to the Chicago Division Counter-Terrorism Task Force. In this capacity, Agent Wright became familiar with techniques used by international terrorist organizations to surreptitiously move and launder money in and out of the United States; including through use of domestic financial institutions, in support of extortionate terrorist and paramilitary activities and operations in the United States and abroad, including the State of Israel and elsewhere. Against the wishes of FBI management, in 1995, when he uncovered criminal violations in several of his cases, Agent Wright promptly initiated corollary 'Act of Terrorism' criminal investigations on the subjects. Agent Wright developed probable cause to believe that some of these transfers or transmissions have been of money intended for use in support of domestic and international terrorist activities. The illegal transfers have supported specific terrorist activities involving the extortion, kidnaping and murder of the citizens of the State of Israel.

Agent Wright's successful investigation, code named VULGAR BETRAYAL, led to the June 6, 1998, seizure of \$1.4 million of Middle East terrorist funds. This seizure was the first occasion that the U.S. government utilized the civil forfeiture laws to seize terrorist assets in the United States. The funds were linked directly to Saudi Businessman Yassin Kadi. On October 12, 2001, Yassin Kadi, a.k.a. Yassin Al-Qadi was designated by the U.S. Government as a financial supporter of Osama bin Laden. According to a U.S. Government source, Kadi provided \$3 million to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida organization.

Despite the unqualified success of Agent Wright's investigation of Middle East terrorists, FBI management failed to take seriously the threat of terrorism in the United States. Specifically, FBI management intentionally and repeatedly thwarted and obstructed Agent Wright's attempts to launch a more comprehensive investigation which would identify terrorists, their sources and methods of funding before they attacked additional U.S. interest, killing more American citizens. The FBI's lack of support for Agent Wright's Vulgar Betrayal investigation was obvious to his new supervisor, who after four months wrote in April 1998, "Agent Wright has spearheaded this effort despite an embarrassing lack of investigative resources available to the case such as computers, financial link analysis software, and a team of financial analysts. Although far from being concluded, the success of this investigation so far has been entirely due

to the foresight and perseverance of Agent Wright."

Although the Vulgar Betrayal investigation had been proposed for designation as a major FBI case because of its far reaching scope, in 1999, Agent Wright in an effort to further the terrorism investigation, purchased much needed computer software and a scanner with his own money since he was unable to obtain the necessary funding and support from the FBI. Worse yet, FBI officials retaliated against Agent Wright because, against their wishes, he aggressively continued to pursue the Vulgar Betrayal criminal investigation to prosecute terrorists in the United States. This retaliation evidences a scheme to discredit and, thereby, silence Agent Wright, who has sought to communicate his experience to Congress and others in the public interest.

In retaliation for Agent Wright's internal criticism of the FBI's dereliction of duty, the FBI has dispensed strong medicine to silence him. A threat was even leveled by a Department of Justice (DOJ) official against Agent Wright to his attorneys to prevent him from meeting with members of Congress during the week after September 11. In fact, the following morning, in order to prevent Agent Wright from traveling to Washington, D.C., on his own time to meet with members of Congress, the FBI informed Agent Wright he could not travel outside of the Chicago Division without permission from the FBI. Moreover, the FBI has established a clear pattern of vindictive retaliation to silence Agent Wright to prevent him from disclosing the incompetence of FBI managers.

Agent Wright's "EXCEPTIONAL" efforts have always been geared towards neutralizing the terrorist threats focused on taking the lives of American citizens, in addition to harming the national and economic security of America. However, as a direct result of the incompetency and at times, intentional obstruction of justice by FBI management to prevent Agent Wright from bringing the terrorists to justice, Americans have unknowingly been exposed to potential terrorist attacks for years.

Fortunately, due to the foresight of Agent Wright, since 1999, he has been working to legally expose the FBI's incompetence and dereliction of duty in the terrorism arena. As a result of Agent Wright's foresight, he has written a single spaced 500 page manuscript titled, Fatal Betrayals of the Intelligence Mission. The manuscript outlines the FBI's intentional failure to pursue the terrorists and thereby prevent terrorist attacks such as those of September 11. Ironically, Agent Wright completed the text of this manuscript on the morning of September 12. In addition, on November 5, 2001, Agent Wright through his attorneys filed a 38 page complaint with the United States Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General "...FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IN FAILING TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE TERRORISM AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN RETALIATING AGAINST SPECIAL AGENT ROBERT WRIGHT, JR." Also, on January 14, 2002, Agent Wright through his attorneys filed a 118 page complaint with the United States

Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General detailing the "WHISTLE BLOWING
RETALIATION BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AGAINST SPECIAL
AGENT ROBERT WRIGHT, JR."

FBI rules and regulations prohibit Agent Wright from disseminating the documents listed above to anyone, including U.S. President Bush and any member of Congress before submitting the written material to the FBI's Prepublication Review Unit. Therefore, in a good faith effort to legally share the contents of these documents with President Bush, members of Congress and the American people, Agent Wright has abided by the FBI's established rules and submitted the manuscript and complaints to the FBI's Prepublication Review Unit for review.

On June 9, 2001, after questioning by friends, co-workers and family members regarding his motive for exposing the FBI's dereliction of duty in the terrorism arena, Agent Wright drafted the attached Mission Statement.