

Officials say Wright was part of the successful FBI team that in 1998 helped freeze more than \$1 million in assets of suspected Hamas fund-raisers in the Chicago area.

But he was subsequently removed from counterterrorism work and none of the intelligence he developed points directly or indirectly to the Sept. 11 hijackings.

"If Bob Wright is saying that had he been able to conduct an unfettered investigation he somehow could have predicted Sept. 11, that is absolutely ludicrous," said Walter Stowe, former FBI assistant special agent in charge of Chicago.

Judicial Watch declined to provide a copy of Wright's complaints, but said they detail interference and mishandling of terrorist investigations and allege he endured retaliation when he pressed to pursue certain avenues of investigation.

"His position is he was obstructed from doing his investigation, and if he had been allowed to do that, Sept. 11 may have been averted," Judicial Watch lawyer Larry Klayman said.

Wright wrote an affidavit used by the government to freeze the assets of two Chicago area men and their related entities in 1998. The affidavit said Hamas fundraising inside the United States dated to at least 1989.

FBI officials said Wright was removed from counterterrorism work and that he disagreed with how to pursue additional investigations.

The officials said FBI supervisors and Justice Department prosecutors jointly decided to forgo some actions, such as prosecutions of smaller players, so that agents would not jeopardize ongoing counterintelligence gathering operations authorized under sensitive national security warrants.

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