

FBI blocks terror probe, agent says

Agency allegedly trying to quash investigator's book

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WASHINGTON—Chicago-based FBI Special Agent Robert Wright is accusing the agency of bottling up his investigations of international terrorism—as well as his book on intelligence failures.

Wright said Thursday it is “my mission” to “legally expose the problems of the FBI” at a news conference organized by Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog group.

Judicial Watch was founded to investigate the Clinton White

House, but also has been taking on the Bush administration.

Battles between Wright and the FBI had been brewing before the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Wright said he retained Chicago attorney David Schippers in August 1999 to work to expose Middle East terrorist threats after his investigative efforts into Hamas fund-raising, were thwarted by his FBI superiors.

Schippers was the lead counsel for the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment of President Clinton and will be overseeing a Chicago office Judicial Watch is opening.

The FBI said in a statement that there was no information “uncovered, either before or after September 11th that tied any of the 19

hijackers to the subjects and activities of the Chicago investigation that Agent Wright worked on.”

Wright's public debut in Washington came on the same day Attorney General John Ashcroft handed FBI agents new power to investigate suspected terrorist activities in order to prevent agents from missing leads.

Wright's public airing of his complaints follows the disclosures of another agent—Colleen Rowley, an FBI lawyer in Minnesota—who

sent Congress a letter faulting the FBI's handling of the probe of accused terrorist Zacarias Mousaoui.

Two weeks ago, Wright sued the FBI in U.S. District Court here, alleging his First Amendment rights were violated because the FBI has not cleared for publication his 500-page manuscript, *Fatal Betrayals of the Intelligence Mission*.

Judicial Watch founder Larry Klayman said Wright does not have a publisher for his book.

Wright, 39, who has been with the FBI since 1990, is assigned to the FBI's Tinley Park office investigating white-collar crimes.

Wright's other battles with the FBI include allegations that he harassed a female agent and an Arab-American agent.



Robert Wright
Based in Chicago