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### George Tiller killing: FBI interested in who visits suspect Scott Roeder in abortion doctor's death

By Judy L. Thomas

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KANSAS CITY, Mo.

-- The list of those visiting and communicating with the man accused of killing abortion doctor George Tiller includes two convicted clinic bombers and several activists who once signed a declaration that defended the killing of abortion doctors.

And federal agents have now talked to many of them.

As Scott Roeder sits in Kansas' Sedgwick County Jail awaiting trial on murder charges, a federal investigation is under way to determine whether there was a conspiracy involved in Tiller's death.

"This is definitely a concern," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation. "This guy has been in the hard-core anti-abortion circle for a long time, and there has been a pattern of communication and encouragement among these people."

Those supporting Roeder say there is no conspiracy, no matter who contacts him.

"The only way they're going to prove that is if they make one up," said Jennifer McCoy, who served time in prison for trying to burn down abortion clinics in Virginia in the 1990s and now lives in Wichita, Kan.

McCoy has visited Roeder several times in jail.

FBI and Justice Department officials declined to comment on the investigation. But the federal probe into the possible existence of a conspiracy began after Tiller -- one of a few U.S. doctors who performed late-term abortions -- was shot May 31 in the foyer of his Wichita church while serving as an usher.

Roeder, 51, of Kansas City, has pleaded not guilty, and a trial is scheduled for Sept. 21.

Roeder's bond was \$5 million, but a judge raised it to \$20 million after Roeder called The Associated Press and warned that there were "many other similar events planned around the country as long as abortion remains legal."

Several Kansas City-area anti-abortion activists say they have been contacted by the FBI. Among them are Anthony Leake and Eugene Frye, who have made regular trips to visit Roeder.

"I knew Scott for 15 years," Frye said. "Never one time did he ever give any indication that he was going to do anything violent."

Leake, who has vocally supported the use of force against abortion doctors, said he is forwarding authorities' inquiries to his attorney. He added he didn't think anyone persuaded Roeder to go after Tiller.

"I don't believe anyone in good conscience could encourage someone to take a step like that," Leake said.

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