

VIDEO: 9/11 Commissioner and Co-Chair of 9/11 Inquiry Say in Sworn Declarations that Saudi Government Linked to 9/11

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Two former senators - one a 9/11 Commissioner, the other the co-chair of the joint Congressional inquiry into 9/11 - state in sworn declarations that the Saudi government backed the 9/11 attack.

The New York Times [reports](#):

For more than a decade, questions have lingered about the possible role of the Saudi government in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, even as the royal kingdom has made itself a crucial counterterrorism partner in the eyes of American diplomats.

Now, in sworn statements that seem likely to reignite the debate, two former senators who were privy to top secret information on the Saudis' activities say they believe that the Saudi government might have played a direct role in the terrorist attacks.

"I am convinced that there was a direct line between at least some of the terrorists who carried out the September 11th attacks and the government of Saudi Arabia," former Senator Bob Graham, Democrat of Florida, said in an affidavit filed as part of a lawsuit brought against the Saudi government and dozens of institutions in the country by families of Sept. 11 victims and others. Mr. Graham led a joint 2002 Congressional inquiry into the attacks.

As we [noted](#) last year:

The Co-Chair of the Congressional Inquiry into 9/11 and former Head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Bob Graham, previously [stated](#) that an FBI informant had hosted and rented a room to two hijackers in 2000 and that, when the Inquiry sought to interview the informant, the FBI refused outright, and then hid him in an unknown location, and that a high-level FBI official stated these blocking maneuvers were undertaken under orders from the White House ([confirmed here](#)).

Today, Graham called for a new 9/11 investigation. As Raw Story [notes](#):

Graham on Monday called on the U.S. government to reopen its investigation into 9/11 [after a report found that](#) links between Saudi Arabia and the hijackers were never disclosed by the FBI to the 2002 joint Congressional intelligence committee investigating the attacks.

"In the final report of the congressional inquiry, there was a chapter related primarily to the

Saudi role in 9/11 that was totally censored, every word of the chapter has been withheld from the public," Graham said on MSNBC's The Dylan Ratigan Show.

"Some of the other questions we ought to be asking are if we know that the Saudis who lived in San Diego and now apparently in Sarasota received substantial assistance, what about the Saudis who lived in Phoenix, Arizona? Or Arlington, Virginia? ... What was happening in those places?"

"I believe these are questions for which there are definitive answers, but the American people and largely their elected representatives have been denied that information."

(And [see this.](#))

The Times continues:

His former Senate colleague, Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, a Democrat who served on the separate 9/11 Commission, said in a sworn affidavit of his own in the case that "significant questions remain unanswered" about the role of Saudi institutions. "Evidence relating to the plausible involvement of possible Saudi government agents in the September 11th attacks has never been fully pursued," Mr. Kerrey said.

Their affidavits, which were filed on Friday and have not previously been disclosed, are part of a multibillion-dollar lawsuit that has wound its way through federal courts since 2002. An appellate court, reversing an earlier decision, said in November that foreign nations were not immune to lawsuits under certain terrorism claims, clearing the way for parts of the Saudi case to be reheard in United States District Court in Manhattan.

The Saudis are seeking to have the case dismissed in part because they say American inquiries — including those in which Mr. Graham and Mr. Kerrey took part — have essentially exonerated them. A recent court filing by the Saudis prominently cited the 9/11 Commission's "exhaustive" final report, which "found no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi individuals funded" Al Qaeda.

But Mr. Kerrey and Mr. Graham said that the findings should not be seen as an exoneration and that many important questions about the Saudis' role had never been fully examined, partly because their panels simply did not have the time or resources given their wider scope.

Terry Strada of New Vernon, N.J., whose husband died in the World Trade Center, said it was "so absurd that it's laughable" for the Saudis to claim that the federal inquiries had exonerated them.

Unanswered questions include the work of a number of Saudi-sponsored charities with financial links to Al Qaeda, as well as the role of a Saudi citizen living in San Diego at the time of the attacks, Omar al-Bayoumi, who had ties to two of the hijackers and to Saudi officials, Mr. Graham said in his affidavit.

Still, Washington has continued to stand behind Saudi Arabia publicly, with the Justice Department joining the kingdom in trying to have the lawsuits thrown out of court on the

grounds that the Saudis are protected by international immunity.

As we've repeatedly noted:

9/11 Commissioner Bob Kerrey said that ["There are ample reasons to suspect that there may be some alternative to what we outlined in our version . . . We didn't have access . . ."](#) He also says that [it might take "a permanent 9/11 commission" to end the remaining mysteries of September 11](#)

Indeed, while everyone remembers the [false allegations](#) about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, most forget that the other primary justification for the war was the [false linkage between Iraq and 9/11](#).

The failure to really investigate 9/11 [led us into a disastrous war](#) ... which has virtually [bankrupted](#) our country.

Unfortunately, the endless wars in the Middle East and North Africa are about [oil, not national security](#)(and see [this](#)).

So we have idiots like MSNBC talking head Joe Scarborough saying that - even if the Saudi government backed the 9/11 attacks - Saudi oil is too important to do anything about it:

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