

FBI Probes Report That 4 Drew Guns

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass. Sept. 5 (AP) —The son of U.S. Rep. Torbert Macdonald (D-Mass.) and two other men say that guns were pulled on them by four persons identifying themselves as FBI agents.

FBI Agent Dan Quigley said the incident is under investigation, but declined to comment further "because of the nature of the complaint," which he would not disclose.

Torbert Macdonald Jr., James Ball and Michael Roach, all of Cambridge, said they attempted to investigate a suspicious van that had been parked in the same place for about four hours Tuesday. A man was inside with a camera with a telephoto lens, they said.

When Macdonald, Roach and Ball, who had a camera, approached the van, the man inside leaped out, and another man snatched the camera from Ball and fled, the three men said. They pursued the man.

"There were three cars drawn up there," Ball said, "and as we came up at least four men jumped out with guns drawn."

Ball said the man opened his camera and removed the film.

"Is this some kind of police state?" Macdonald said he asked the man. "You're right, Jack," one of the men was said to have replied.

At that point, an off-duty police officer, Joseph Bellisimo, who knew Macdonald and Roach, separated the agents from the three men.

Macdonald said that he and his friends have filed charges of assault with a deadly weapon and that a hearing has been set for Sept. 12 in Boston. Through his father, he said, he has learned that an internal FBI investigation is proceeding.

He said two of the men identified themselves as Special Agent Thomas C. Dean and Agent Robert McCaffery.

Bellisimo said the men with guns identified themselves as FBI agents and gave the name of the agent in charge of the operation.

Macdonald, Roach and Ball went to FBI headquarters in Boston and submitted statements about the incident. They were unable to learn the identity of agents involved.

Macdonald and Roach have been involved with the federally funded Community-Oriented Policing program in Cambridge.

"They're always trying to get you involved in checking out suspicious things, until you get involved in something they don't want you involved in," Macdonald said of the program's policy.