

Ex-leader of abortion clinic charged in bomb scare

Posted: September 4, 2010 - 12:17am

By **TIM TALLEY**

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY - The former director of an Oklahoma abortion clinic has been charged with making false or misleading statements after telling police she'd found a bomb at the facility, according to federal court documents.

Investigators said Linda Meek reported on Aug. 13 that a bomb had been placed in a trash can at Reproductive Services of Tulsa, according to documents filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Tulsa. The clinic, which was bombed twice in 1997, and an adjacent building were evacuated, but a bomb technician determined that a suspicious box in the trash can was not an explosive.

Meek, who left her position with the clinic after the incident, is charged with conveying false or misleading information, according to the documents. Meek, 63, is scheduled to make an initial court appearance in federal court on Thursday. She faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

Some pro-life advocates said they believe Meek may have been trying to mislead authorities and the media, to portray abortion opponents as violent fanatics who will stop at nothing to end the practice.

Republican state Rep. Mike Ritze, who supports pro-life legislation, said the bomb scare is part of a growing trend among abortion activists to represent opponents as violent and dangerous in order to divert public scrutiny from themselves.

"Either she did it maliciously to harm the opposition or is trying to draw attention away from the abortion industry," said Ritze, a family practice physician in Broken Arrow.

Tony Lauinger, chairman of Oklahomans for Life and vice president of the National Right to Life Committee, said "there was an apparent rush to judgment" that pro-life proponents were behind the incident.

Planned Parenthood of Oklahoma City chief executive Anita Fream said she did not have enough facts on the bomb scare, but said it isn't the policy of abortion rights activists to make pro-life advocates appear violent or dangerous.

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