

Affidavit: Columbine shooter posted threat on Web

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DENVER, Colorado (CNN) -- Police Tuesday released the contents of an affidavit asking for a search of the home of Eric Harris a year before he and classmate Dylan Klebold carried out one of the nation's deadliest school attacks.

Many family members of the 12 students and one teacher killed in the April 20, 1999, shooting-and-bomb spree at Columbine High School in nearby Littleton say the rampage could have been prevented if the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department had carried out the search.

The affidavit, written by two Jefferson County sheriff's deputies in 1998 came after a complaint by the family of a former Columbine student, Brooks Brown, that Harris had threatened to kill Brown.

According to the affidavit, Brown's mother gave the police 12 pages of profanity-laced messages posted by Harris on his Web site. One passage stated, "All I want to do is kill and injure as many of you ... as I can, especially a few people. Like Brooks Brown."

Harris also wrote of planting explosives around the town and detonating them. The affidavit describes a pipe bomb found in a field in Jefferson County in February 1998 made up of materials that were consistent with what "Harris described as components of his explosive devices."

The proposed search warrant was never submitted to a judge for review and, therefore, never carried out. But its existence supports the contention that authorities were suspicious of Harris long before the country's worst school shooting was committed.

Brian Rohrbough, father of slain student Daniel Rohrbough, told CNN, "I'm happy to learn more of the truth. They (Jefferson County Sheriff's Department) had denied this application existed. Columbine never should have happened. It begs the question, 'Why did you deceive everyone?' I think we're going to find out a ton more."

Rohrbough said he and five other victims' families have filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit alleging, in part, that the Harris family had a friend in the sheriff's department who kept the search warrant application from being processed.

Law enforcement officials would not respond to Rohrbough's remarks.

"The department has no comment at this time," said Sgt. Mike Julian with the sheriff's department in Golden.

Harris and Klebold were Columbine seniors who wrote about their planned attack on the school for at least a year in advance. Twelve students and a teacher were shot fatally before Harris and Klebold killed themselves.

Police also released a written timeline of 47 events that happened in the library, where the heaviest shooting occurred. The report describes how Harris and Klebold calmly and methodically went through the library and shot 24 students, killing 10 of them and injuring 14 others.

Two notebooks of evidence and audiotapes of interviews will be released later.