

According to media reports, Todashev was about to sign a confession implicating himself and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who is now dead, in the 2011 slayings of three men in Waltham. Instead, Todashev lunged at the agent, who was injured, according to reports. The agent shot Todashev multiple times, according to family members who released photos of Todashev's dead body as part of their call for an inquiry into his death.

Family members and advocacy groups have questioned the media accounts, pointing out that Todashev had repeatedly cooperated with the FBI and had been weakened by recent knee surgery.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations and the ACLU have called for independent inquiries into the shooting.

The council said in a letter to the Department of Justice, which oversees the FBI and is participating in the internal inquiry, that FBI agents had approached Todashev in an aggressive manner. In one instance, the council said, six law enforcement agents drew their guns and pushed Todashev to the ground.

Todashev, a 27-year-old ethnic Chechen like Tsarnaev, came to America in 2008 to study English and won asylum that year from his native Russia. He lived in Allston and Cambridge before moving south to Florida.

A mixed martial arts fighter, Todashev was arrested in 2010 in Boston for a road-rage incident and again in Florida weeks before he was killed for allegedly beating a man in a fight over a parking space.

According to CAIR in Florida, which is conducting its own investigation into Todashev's slaying, Todashev had spoken to the FBI at least three times at their offices after the Marathon bombings. Family and friends have said he postponed a trip home to Chechnya to speak with the FBI the night of May 21, staying up with them past midnight until he was killed.

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Body of Ibragim Todashev is flown to Russia

Delta refused, won't say why

By **Wesley Lowery**
| GLOBE STAFF

JUNE 18, 2013

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Almost a month after he was shot and killed by a Boston FBI agent, Ibragim Todashev's body was loaded on a 5:40 p.m. flight to Russia on Tuesday, concluding his family's nearly monthlong process of getting his body home.

Todashev's family has attempted to ship the body back to Russia since it was released by the Florida medical examiner the week after the shooting on May 22. However, according to family members and friends, the FBI has yet to release his green card and passport, both confiscated during their investigation, making it difficult to book a flight.

Todashev, 27, a Russian native living in Orlando when he was killed, was a friend of accused Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev and was interviewed several times about that relationship.

During his final voluntary interview, Todashev was shot multiple times and killed by an agent who said the man attacked him. Details of what happened in the moments before the shooting remain shrouded in secrecy, with the FBI refusing to release any information, citing an ongoing investigation.

Unnamed law enforcement officials have leaked various, conflicting versions of the altercation to various news organizations, including the Globe. Some allege that Todashev wielded a knife, sword, blade, or broomstick. Others have told reporters that he was unarmed.

The Muslim civil rights group representing the family has called for an independent investigation into the shooting and has begun its own examination of whether excessive force was used.

Todashev's family was forced to scrap plans to ship his body to Russia last weekend when they were informed by Delta Airlines, citing a similar decision regarding the body of Tsarnaev, that the company would not fly the body back, according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, retained by Todashev's family as legal counsel.

After unsuccessfully petitioning Delta, the family had Todashev's body loaded onto another commercial airline's flight Tuesday evening, accompanied by his wife and father.

"We want to see justice done here," said Hassan Shibly, CAIR's spokesman. "There is an endless number of unanswered questions surrounding this shooting."

Abdul-Baki Todashev traveled from Russia last week to help finalize travel plans for his son's body and view the scene of the shooting.

The group's civil rights attorneys said they are looking into whether Delta's refusal to transport the body meets the legal threshold for a discrimination suit.

The airline's corporate policy states the airline will ship a body as long as a birth certificate can be produced, said Thania Diaz Clevenger, the group's civil rights director. But even when that document was produced, an airline representative informed CAIR that it would not ship the body, citing a similar decision made during the effort to bury Tsarnaev.

"It's outrageous," said Diaz Clevenger.

Delta Airlines confirmed to the Globe Tuesday that it had turned the body away, but would not explain why.

"Delta made a business decision not to transport the remains back to Russia," said Russell Cason, a Delta spokesman, in a statement. He declined to elaborate.

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FBI director admits to lapse before Marathon bombing

By **Noah Bierman**
| GLOBE STAFF

JUNE 14, 2013

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WASHINGTON — FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III acknowledged on Thursday that a lack of formal communication within the agency may have prevented investigators from alerting Russian authorities that Tamerlan Tsarnaev had returned to Russia before the Marathon bombing, information that Russian officials say could have averted the act of terrorism.

Mueller also told the House Judiciary Committee that the government's recently exposed surveillance techniques, which have been criticized as too sweeping, can be credited with helping spur an investigation of an associate of Tsarnaev, Ibragim Todashev, 27. Todashev was shot to death by an FBI agent in Florida last month during an interview related to his and Tsarnaev's possible involvement in a Waltham triple homicide. Mueller declined to comment on the specific circumstances during Thursday's hearing, citing an ongoing investigation.

Mueller, who is preparing to step down after 12 years leading the FBI, said that the agency has changed its procedures following the Boston Marathon bombings to require a more formal process of communication between investigators. But he disputed speculation that any communication breakdown facilitated the bombings. "Even if [procedures] had been fixed prior to the Boston bombing, I do not think it would have stopped it," he said.

Mueller had acknowledged during congressional testimony last month that the agency needed to "scrub and see what we could have done better" in regard to notifications among US intelligence officials about Tsarnaev's trip in early 2012 to Dagestan, a republic of Russia that is a cauldron of Islamist militancy. But his comments Thursday appear to be the furthest the FBI director has gone in acknowledging the extent of the procedural flaws during the investigation that preceded the bombings.

his brother, Dzhokhar, 19, who is in custody, are suspected of planting the two bombs that killed three and injured more than 260 on April 15.

Mueller testified Thursday that the FBI did a "thorough job" investigating Tsarnaev when Russian authorities alerted the agency in March 2011 of their belief Tsarnaev was a terrorism threat. But he blamed Russian authorities for failing to respond three times to an FBI request for follow-up evidence after the US-based investigation.

After Mueller testified, an FBI official detailed the new notification procedures, saying that they involve creating a written record in possible terrorism cases so that investigators — in this case the Boston Joint Terrorism Task Force — would formally be alerted to a potential suspect's whereabouts.

When Tsarnaev traveled to Dagestan, the FBI investigators in Boston who had interviewed him earlier were alerted to his trip only by word of mouth — and nothing was added to his case file about it, said the FBI official, who was not authorized to speak publicly.

The FBI's informal communication procedures, at issue soon after the bombing investigation began, drew particular scrutiny in late May when a congressional delegation traveled to meet with Russian

intelligence officials and was told that better communication between the FBI and the Russian security agency, known as the FSB, could have prevented the bombing. The FSB was especially concerned that its agents had not been alerted to Tsarnaev's trip to Dagestan.

Russian authorities believed Tsarnaev "had plans to join the insurgency back in" Dagestan, Representative William R. Keating told the Globe in May, following meetings with Russian authorities. Keating, a Bourne Democrat, was a member of the delegation.

But the FSB did not independently realize he was in Dagestan because he had traveled on documents issued by the country where he grew up, Kyrgyzstan, not Russia or the United States.

Another member of the congressional delegation, Representative Stephen Cohen, a Tennessee Democrat, confronted Mueller with that account during Thursday's hearing.

"The impression I got, and this is a big leap: They said if they would have known, if you would have followed up and they would have known that he was coming back to Dagestan, that possibly the Boston Marathon bombing would not have occurred," Cohen said. "I presume that means they would have 'offed' him, which would have been great."

Mueller did not respond directly to the suggestion that Russian agents would have killed Tsarnaev if they had received better intelligence from the FBI. He told Cohen that, "For a variety of reasons, not the least of which the case had been closed some time ago, that particular indication that he was on his on his way back to Russia did not get acted upon."

Mueller's other significant disclosure involved Todashev, the Tsarnaev associate killed in Florida. Federal law enforcement officials have been quoted anonymously in various publications as saying that Todashev was confessing to a role in a Waltham triple homicide in 2011 and also implicating Tsarnaev in that crime. The FBI has yet to clarify the circumstances of death of Todashev, who has not been linked to the Marathon bombings.

Mueller shed no new light on that investigation Thursday, saying only "there was a response to a threat," apparently referring to reports that Todashev threatened an FBI agent during questioning.

But in his comments Thursday he used the case to bolster his argument that government surveillance techniques revealed recently are an important tool for law enforcement. There has been extensive debate over two programs to collect millions of phone, e-mail, and Internet records.

When asked how Todashev came to the agency's attention, he said it was through "a number of ways including one of the programs that is under scrutiny today."

Mueller spent much of his three-hour testimony on Thursday defending those programs, facing skepticism from some lawmakers who argued that they are too invasive. At one point, he said that if such programs had existed before the Sept. 11 attacks, those acts of terrorism might have been derailed.

Matt Viser and Bryan Bender of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Noah Bierman can be reached at nbierman@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @noahbierman.

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Section: News

ACLU joins calls for outside probe
Details sought in Orlando killing

Wesley Lowery

Globe Staff

Almost two weeks after Ibragim Todashev was shot and killed by an FBI agent in Orlando, one of the nation's leading civil liberties groups has joined calls for the bureau to release details of the shooting, as well as for an independent investigation.

With little information from the government so far, the American Civil Liberties Union said it is monitoring the case.

"We're concerned, like many other groups, about the way this story has changed," said Michael German, senior policy counsel in the ACLU's legislative office. "What we'd like to see is an independent and transparent investigation into what happened in this case."

Todashev, 27, was shot and killed May 22 after being interviewed for hours in his Orlando apartment by FBI agents. A Chechen man and a friend of accused Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev, Todashev had been monitored since the days immediately following the Marathon bombing and had been previously questioned about his relationship with Tsarnaev.

The FBI has refused to officially disclose what led to the shooting or if Todashev had a weapon. However, unnamed law enforcement officials have spread inconsistent versions of what occurred in the apartment through the Globe and other news outlets.

German added that the details being leaked by the FBI to news media via unnamed sources - that Todashev was in the process of confessing to an unsolved 2011 triple murder in Waltham - could unfairly influence public perception of Todashev before the full set of facts come to light.

"Those types of accusations are easy to make," German said. "The longer that it takes for these details to be released, the more concern develops and the less good faith there is in whatever story eventually comes out from the FBI," German said.

FBI officials in Tampa and Boston have said they will not be releasing any further information on the shooting. An FBI spokesman in Washington, D.C., did not respond to requests for comment.

Todashev's friends and family, both in the United States and in Russia, have called for an independent investigation of the shooting, as has the Council on American-Islamic Relations, one of the nation's most prominent Muslim advocacy groups.

On Monday, Russia's state-owned media, ITAR-TASS, reported that Russian officials have asked the FBI to hand

over investigative documents related to Todashev's shooting, including Todashev's autopsy report, which remains sealed, as well as documentation related to the firearms used in the shooting.

Elected officials in the United States have remained silent on the shooting. Governor Rick Scott of Florida, Mayor Buddy Dyer of Orlando, and US Representative Daniel Webster of Florida did not respond to requests for comment.

US Representative William R. Keating, a member of the Homeland Security and Foreign Affairs committees, said Saturday that he had not received FBI briefings on the shooting, but he urged patience and noted the need for details to remain secret while the FBI completes its investigation.

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---- **Index References** ----

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Man Tied to Boston Suspect Is Said to Have Attacked Agent Before Being Shot

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT and ELLEN BARRY

Published: May 30, 2013

WASHINGTON — A man who was killed in Orlando, Fla., last week while being questioned by an F.B.I. agent about his relationship with Tamerlan Tsarnaev, one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, had knocked the agent to the ground with a table and ran at him with a metal pole before being shot, according to a senior law enforcement official briefed on the matter.

The official's account of the shooting, the most detailed to date, came several hours after the man's Chechen father claimed at a news conference in Moscow on Thursday that his son, Ibragim Todashev, was unarmed when he was killed on May 22. The father, Abdulbaki Todashev, displayed photographs of his son's bullet-ridden body and demanded that the United States government explain how he was killed.

On the day of the shooting, federal law enforcement officials provided differing accounts of the episode, initially saying Mr. Todashev had a knife. Later they said Mr. Todashev had "exploded" at the agent and might have had a pipe or might not have had anything in his hands.

The shooting occurred after an F.B.I. agent from Boston and two detectives from the Massachusetts State Police had been interviewing Mr. Todashev for several hours about his possible involvement in a triple homicide in Waltham, Mass., in 2011, according to the law enforcement official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was continuing.

Mr. Todashev, according to the F.B.I., confessed to his involvement in the deaths and implicated Mr. Tsarnaev. He then started to write a statement admitting his involvement while sitting at a table across from the agent and one of the detectives when the agent briefly looked away, the official said. At that moment, Mr. Todashev picked up the table and threw it at the agent, knocking him to the ground.

While trying to stand up, the agent, who suffered a wound to his face from the table that required stitches, drew his gun and saw Mr. Todashev running at him with a metal pole, according to the official, adding that it might have been a broomstick.

The agent fired several shots at Mr. Todashev, striking him and knocking him backward. But Mr. Todashev again charged at the agent. The agent fired several more shots at Mr. Todashev, killing him. The detective in the room did not fire his weapon, the official said.

Under the F.B.I.'s guidelines, agents can fire a gun at someone if they feel the person is a threat to them or someone else. The episode is being reviewed by a team of F.B.I. investigators who specialize in shootings and by the district attorney in Orlando, the official said.

At the news conference in Moscow, the elder Mr. Todashev said his son had been interrogated for eight hours in his home on the day of the shooting because he had refused to report to an official building for what would have been a third round of questioning. He said that judging from his son's wounds, he had been shot seven times, including once on the crown of his head.

"I want justice," said Mr. Todashev, who works for the city government in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. "I want this to be investigated, so that these people will be put on trial in America. These are not F.B.I. agents, they are bandits. They must be put on trial."

Mr. Todashev, said the agents had focused exclusively on the Boston bombing the first time they questioned his son, and they raised the 2011 killings in subsequent conversations. He said his son was planning to fly to Russia on May 24 for a visit because he had received his American green card two months earlier and was now free to travel.

"Probably he was tired of these interrogations," he said. "He said, 'I am home; you should come to me.' That kind of conversation took place. And they came to his home."

Mr. Todashev, a father of 12, said his son was with a friend, Khusen Taramov, when the agents arrived. He said they had separated the two men and questioned Mr. Taramov outside, before releasing him after four hours. When Mr. Taramov asked about his friend, Mr. Todashev said, "They pushed him off, told him, 'We're going to be with him a long time.'" Mr. Taramov returned later to find the house surrounded by police officers and emergency vehicles.

"I have questions for the Americans," said Zaurbek Sadakhanov, a lawyer who has worked with the Todashev family as well as the family of Mr. Tsarnaev and his brother, Dzhokhar, the other suspect in the Boston bombings. "Why was he questioned for the third time without a lawyer? Why wasn't Ibragim's questioning recorded on audio or videotape, seeing

as he was being questioned without a lawyer? What was the need to shoot Ibragim seven times, when five fully equipped police officers with stun guns were against him?"

He also complained about the muted response of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The ministry often responds vocally to the treatment of Russian citizens by officials of foreign governments, but it has made no statement about Mr. Todashev's shooting. Much of the news conference focused on the actions of United States law enforcement.

"We will never know whether Ibragim Todashev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev were criminals, because the investigation ends with their death," Mr. Sadakhanov said. "If that's what happens in American democracy, then I am against the export of that democracy to Russia."

Mr. Todashev said Ibragim had graduated from a university in Chechnya and then traveled to the United States in 2008, hoping to improve his English. He said his son befriended the Tsarnaev brothers in Boston, but had moved to Florida two years ago. This relationship was of central interest to the agents who questioned Ibragim, Mr. Todashev said, adding that his son told them he did not believe the Tsarnaev brothers were guilty.

"He did not believe the Tsarnaevs did this," he said. "He said they had been set up. These were his exact words."

He said he hoped to receive an American visa so that he could retrieve his son's body and take it back to Russia for burial. He said that he has so far received no account of his son's death from American officials, and that he had received the photographs of his son's corpse from a friend who had sent them to him electronically. The photographs were published Thursday on the Russian Web site Kavkazskaya Politika.

Wife says man killed by FBI agent was never questioned in Waltham murders

By Wesley Lowery
| GLOBE STAFF

MAY 23, 2013

ORLANDO — The wife and best friend of the Chechen man shot and killed here by an FBI agent on Wednesday insisted today that authorities never questioned him, or them, prior to the fatal confrontation, about an unsolved triple slaying in Waltham.

Ibragim Todashev acknowledged a role in the 2011 triple homicide when he attacked the agent early Wednesday with a blade, the Globe reported today. Todashev was not considered a suspect in the Marathon terror attacks, law enforcement officials told the Globe.

Todashev's wife, Reni Manukyan, said her husband could not have been involved in the Waltham murders, and that the subject had never been brought up in FBI interviews.

Manukyan, 24, said today that Todashev told her that his previous interviews with law enforcement dealt with just two subjects: the Boston Marathon bombing and Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

Manukyan, who separated from Todashev in November, said that in her own interview with the FBI, conducted in Georgia where she lives, the unsolved murders were never mentioned.

"It never, ever came up," she said, wiping tears from beneath her sunglasses. "Everything they asked was about the bombing."

Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan issued a statement today defending the pace of the Waltham investigation, a statement that also made clear Ryan's office believes it is constrained by ethics rules for lawyers from publicly discussing it.

"While we can not discuss details pertaining to the investigation, including evidence, suspects or witnesses, this office and its law enforcement partners have conducted a thorough, far-reaching investigation beginning in 2011 when this horrific crime occurred," Ryan said in the statement. "This investigation has not concluded and is by no means closed."

The statement did acknowledge that the FBI is now part of the investigatory team, which also includes prosecutors and Waltham and State Police. The FBI does not routinely participate in murder investigations in Massachusetts.

Manukyan said she and Todashev met in Boston and married in 2010. First, they lived in Atlanta, near Manukyan's family, before moving to Florida sometime in 2011, she said today.

Manukyan, an Armenian immigrant who converted to Islam before marrying Todashev, stood near the apartment she once shared with her late husband dressed in gray jeans, a blue scarf, and a black shawl.

Also today, Todashev's best friend in Florida, Khusen Taramov, said the two had been interviewed many times by FBI agents, and had been followed for weeks by an unmarked law enforcement vehicle since the Marathon bombings.

Taramov, a fellow Chechen and immigrant from Russia, said his slain friend had been called almost daily by agents since the bombings, but Todashev had been assured that the Tuesday night interview would be the final one.

"They told us they needed just one more interview," he said. "They said the case was closed after this."

Fearful it would make them look suspicious, neither he nor Todashev had a lawyer present during the FBI questioning, Taramov said.

Taramov, who said he had spent nearly every moment with Todashev since the bombing, insisted that his friend had never been asked about the triple slaying in Waltham.

"We told each other everything, everything," Taramov said. "He never said anything about any murder and they never asked him anything about that. Just about the bombings and [Tamerlan] Tsarnaev."

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, and his younger brother, Dzhokhar, 19, allegedly planted two bombs on Boylston Street during the Boston Marathon April 15, a terrorist act that claimed the lives of three people and wounded more than 260. The brothers are also suspects in the April 18 murder of MIT Police Officer Sean A. Collier, who was shot to death inside his cruiser.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed after being shot by police and then run over with a car driven by his brother during a violent confrontation with police in Watertown on April 19. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is in federal custody facing charges that could bring the death penalty. He faces a probable cause hearing in federal court on July 10.

The Globe has reported that authorities suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was responsible for the Sept. 11, 2011, murders of three men in a Waltham apartment. Brendan H. Mess, Rafael M. Teken, and Erik H. Weissman were found with their throats cut and their bodies sprinkled with marijuana and cash. Mess and Tsarnaev were close friends.

Just before noon here, Manukyan and Taramov left the Kissimmee, Fla., apartment complex where all three once lived, heading to identify Todashev's body, which has yet to be released by the FBI.

Once the body is released, they plan to arrange for it to be shipped back to Russia for burial.

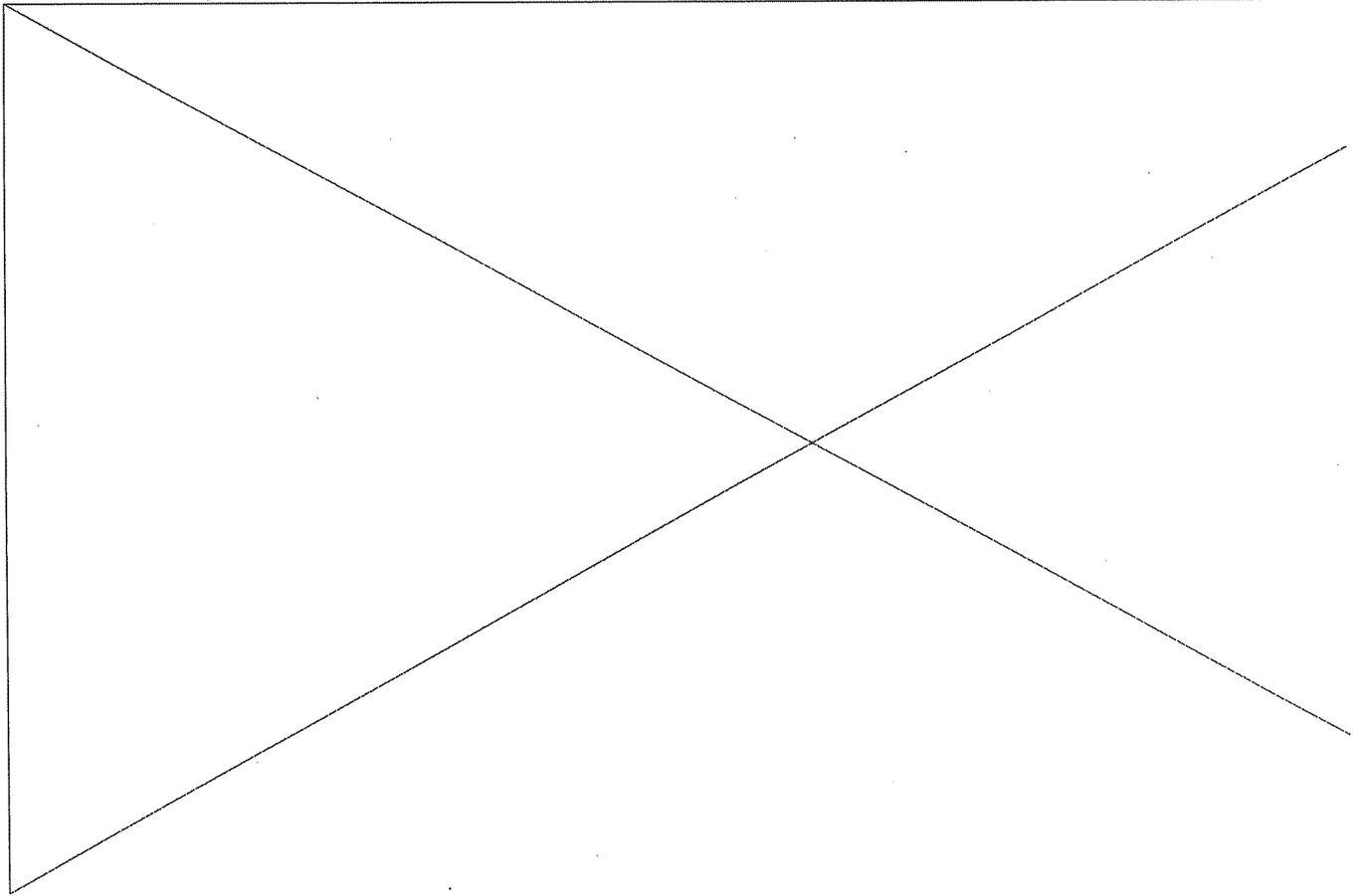
"It is very important to his family that the body is buried in Russia," Taramov said. "And, knowing him, [Todashev] would have wanted to be buried in his country, back at home."

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Slain suspect had thought about missing FBI interview

By Wesley Lowery, David Filipov and Mark Arsenault
| GLOBE STAFF

MAY 23, 2013



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ORLANDO — Last Sunday, FBI agents called Ibragim Todashev to schedule what they said would be their last interview about the Chechen native's relationship with one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, said his friend, Khusen Taramov.

Todashev agreed to a Tuesday night interview, but only at his Orlando apartment, because he feared that if he went to an FBI office, he would never be let out, said his friend.

As the 7:30 p.m. appointment approached, Todashev considered skipping the meeting. "He thought something bad was going to happen," said Taramov. "He thought they were going to make up some charge and arrest him."

Hours into that interview, Todashev was shot and killed by an FBI agent, after he allegedly attacked and injured the interrogator.

The Globe has reported that the fatal shooting occurred after the 27-year-old mixed martial arts fighter had implicated himself in an unsolved 2011 triple homicide in Waltham. Investigators now believe Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who was friendly with one of the Waltham victims, may also have played a role in the grisly slayings.

Taramov and Todashev's estranged wife, Reni Manukyan, insisted Thursday that authorities never questioned them or Todashev, about the Waltham slayings before the night of the fatal encounter with the FBI.

The FBI declined to comment Thursday on the Orlando shooting, beyond saying that an FBI team from Washington continues to investigate what happened in the apartment.

Todashev's violent death brought a shocking end to the FBI's intense scrutiny of the former Allston and Cambridge man, which began within days after authorities identified Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, and his brother, Dzhokhar, 19, ethnic Chechens like Todashev and Taramov, as the alleged bombers who planted explosives near the finish line of the city's historic race on April 15.

The terrorist attack killed three and wounded more than 260. The brothers are also suspects in the April 18 slaying of MIT police Officer Sean Collier in Cambridge.

The family of one of the victims killed in the blasts, 8-year-old Martin Richard, announced Thursday that his younger sister, Jane, was discharged from Boston Children's Hospital and will continue her recovery at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

"While we remain devastated over Martin's death and all that has happened to us, Jane's determination for getting better is an inspiring source of strength for the entire family," the family said in a statement.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed after a shootout with police in Watertown during the early hours of April 19. Dzhokhar is in federal custody facing a possible death sentence and has been scheduled for a July 10 probable cause hearing in US District Court in Boston.

On the day Todashev was interviewed in Florida for the final time by the FBI, he was preparing for a trip home to Russia, said his anguished father.

"He was supposed to be on a plane tomorrow, but he [was] told he had to meet with the FBI," the father, Abdulkaki Todashev, said Thursday in an emotional telephone interview from Grozny, Russia, in which he clearly struggled to understand the events that led to his son's death.

"My son is not capable of this," he said, of Ibragim Todashev's alleged attack on an armed agent. "He would never attack a police officer. He believed in justice, and perhaps this was his failing. He could not bear injustice."

Asked how this trait might have affected his son's reaction Wednesday, Todashev said, "If they came to your house at night and bullied you for eight hours, would you be able to keep calm? I think any person's innate survival instinct would switch on."

Todashev said that he has not been contacted by US authorities about his son's death and that he found out about the fatal shooting from friends who saw the news on the Internet.

The father said his son never mentioned any connection to the unsolved Waltham murders, and he does not believe his son had anything to do with them or with the Marathon bombings.

“If they suspected him for something, why did they give him a green card?,” the father said. “There is a clear picture emerging that this is all fabricated. They killed my son, and then they made up a reason to explain it. If there’s an earthquake somewhere, they blame Chechens. If there’s a flood in Africa, they blame Chechens.”

On Thursday, a quiet hush hung over the site of the shooting, a series of two-story housing units. Just after 5 p.m., Orlando police officers removed some of the crime scene tape from the apartment complex, opening a strip of roadway that had been closed since the shooting.

Moments later, two FBI agents emerged from the apartment and told reporters that the investigation at the scene was still active and it was unclear how much longer it would take.

Ibragim Todashev arrived in the United States several years ago on a visa to study. He was granted asylum, protection given to foreigners with a credible fear for their safety in their homelands because of religious, political, or other specific forms of persecution, the Globe has reported.

But, his father, who is a ranking official in the mayor’s office in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, which is a region in Russia, said his son would not have been persecuted in Chechnya and he did not know why he would have been granted asylum.

In February, Todashev was granted legal permanent residence in the United States.

Todashev, by some accounts a hothead, was arrested at gunpoint May 4 after allegedly beating up a man in a dispute in a parking lot. He was also arrested in Boston in 2010 after an altercation following a traffic accident.

Taramov said FBI agents first called Todashev just days after Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed, and they interviewed him daily by phone. The agents repeatedly grilled Todashev about when and how often he spoke to Tsarnaev, said Taramov.

Todashev’s estranged wife, Manukyan, said Thursday that the couple had met in Boston and married in 2010. First, they lived in Atlanta, near Manukyan’s family before moving to Florida sometime in 2011, she said.

The revelation that Tamerlan may have been involved in the Waltham killings has raised the possibility that the Marathon bombing could have been prevented if the triple homicide had been solved.

Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan issued a statement Thursday defending the pace of the investigation into the Waltham murders.

“While we can not discuss details pertaining to the investigation — including evidence, suspects or witnesses — this office and its law enforcement partners have conducted a thorough, far-reaching investigation beginning in 2011 when this horrific crime occurred,” Ryan said in the statement. “This investigation has not concluded and is by no means closed.”

The statement acknowledged that the FBI is now part of the investigatory team, which also includes prosecutors and Waltham and State Police.

Ryan said her office would not discuss the investigation with the public.

Todashev's body will be shipped back to family in Russia, which is expected to cost the family about \$10,000, said his friend.

Tearful yet focused on the task at hand, Manukyan prepared Thursday to identify the body. "I'm the only one he needs to hold it together, who needs to be holding up. So I am," she said. "Once this is finished, then I can mourn."

Even after the body is buried, Taramov's life will not be returning to normal. He said he quit his job at a pizzeria.

"My boss called me and said: Don't show up here, it's too dangerous," Taramov said in disgust.

"Not even a 'I'm sorry for your loss.' Nothing."

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Stark overtones in '11 Waltham killings

For victims, Tsarnaev, ally, many strands of violence

By Michael Rezendes and Bob Hohler
| GLOBE STAFF

MAY 24, 2013



JOANNE RATHE/
GLOBE STAFF/
FILE

At first it seemed a grisly triple homicide in waltham on Sept. 11, 2011, was a drug deal gone bad.

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On a Sunday afternoon in summer 2010, Brendan H. Mess, a close friend of Tamerlan Tsarnaev and a

specialist in mixed martial arts, was walking along a Cambridge street when he came face to face with a police officer. The patrolman was investigating a complaint that Mess, then 24, had attacked a group of people near Inman Square, breaking one man's nose and leaving another with a bloody mouth.

Rather than cooperate, Mess began yelling at the officer, at one point saying, "I can knock you out if I wanted to," according to the officer's report. Soon, three additional officers arrived, and Mess was hit with a chemical spray, wrestled to the ground, and handcuffed.

Even then, police said, Mess continued threatening the officers.

A year later, Mess was dead, his throat slashed in a grisly triple homicide in Waltham on Sept. 11, 2011, that was widely assumed to be a drug deal gone bad and all but forgotten. But 18 months later it has burst again into the public eye, an international incident with links to the alleged Boston Marathon bombers, a man shot this week in Orlando, Fla., and a world of extreme violence they inhabited.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and clearly there are some very dangerous people involved in this whole series of crimes," Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis said Thursday.

Authorities now say bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev may have helped kill the three men, along with Ibragim Todashev, who was shot by an FBI agent after he allegedly lunged at the agent with a blade during an interview in Orlando.

“The Orlando questioning was focused on what happened in Waltham,” Davis said.

Little has been publicly known of the three men who were discovered in Mess’s apartment, where they had gathered to watch a football game. Investigators said they appeared to have been ambushed, their throats slashed and marijuana covering them.

Killed with Mess were Erik H. Weissman, 31, and Raphael M. Teken, 37. All three were familiar to police. Teken, who attended Brookline High School and Brandeis University and whose father, Avi Teken, is the spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation in Newton, had received six months of pretrial probation in 2005 after he was charged with assaulting a woman and maliciously damaging property.

Weissman, who, like Mess and Tsarnaev, attended Cambridge Ringe & Latin School, had run into deeper legal trouble. According to court records reviewed by the Globe, on Jan. 17, 2011, Boston police searched Weissman’s Roslindale apartment and seized more than \$21,000 in cash, along with drug paraphernalia and a wide assortment of drugs, including marijuana, hashish, cocaine, and Oxycontin.

Weissman was also charged in 2008 with drug possession with intent to distribute after Boston police stopped him for traffic violations in Allston and found marijuana in his car.

Weissman’s lawyer, Norman S. Zalkind, said Weissman was not attempting to negotiate a plea deal by informing on other criminal suspects, which would virtually eliminate the possibility that the three men were killed as an act of retribution by a drug supplier who may have been involved with Weissman.

“We were working out a very positive situation for Erik; he had a very good case,” Zalkind said, adding that Weissman was challenging the legality of the warrant used to search his apartment. “He wasn’t afraid of any significant problem.”

Friends and relatives of the victims said the apartment was rented by Mess and that Weissman, after having his cash and drugs seized by the police, was staying there temporarily. Teken also lived in Waltham.

It has always been clear, authorities say, that those who committed the killings were strong and skilled combatants. On their death certificates, Mess is listed as a martial arts instructor and Teken as a personal trainer. Yet the three men were overpowered and killed without a shot being fired.

Mess once challenged a person who tried to rob him at gunpoint in Cambridge, said a friend who witnessed the incident. Though the gun turned out to be fake, the friend said, Mess approached his assailant and said, “Pull the trigger. Do what you have to do.”

“Brendan was nobody to mess with,” the friend said. “He wouldn’t lay down and get his throat cut.”

The Globe reported last month that friends and relatives of the victims began suspecting Tsarnaev of the homicides for a variety of reasons, including a change in behavior after the slayings. The killings also occurred on a date of great significance to jihadists.

Initially, neighbors of the victims said they were told by police that the killings were probably drug related. But some family members disagreed, as did Zalkind.

“With a drug killing, people come over and – bang, bang – it’s over,” Zalkind said. “They want to get out of there as fast as they can.”

It remains unclear whether authorities investigated Tsarnaev in connection with the killings before friends and family of the victims began calling Waltham police and federal authorities last month to report a possible link, after Tsarnaev and his brother, Dzhokhar, were publicly identified as the suspected Marathon bombers.

But there is no question about Tsarnaev’s ties to Mess, who had recently moved to Waltham from Cambridge at the urging of Mess’s girlfriend, Hibatalla Eltilib, according to friends and relatives of the victims who spoke with the Globe. Mess and Tsarnaev had grown close as neighbors near Inman Square, sharing a love of fighting, as well as hip-hop music.

Newly named Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan on Thursday said she would have no comment on any aspect of the investigation. But friends and relatives of the victims, in hindsight, said police should have examined the relationship between Eltilib, a native of Sudan, and Tsarnaev.

Although friends knew Tsarnaev to be Muslim, they did not consider him to be an extremist.

Eltilib, by contrast, was outspoken about her Islamic beliefs and disdain for many American values, friends said.

“She and Tam got really close and became friends,” said a friend of Mess, Tsarnaev, and Eltilib. “This was closer to Brendan’s death. They would share stories of their distaste for American culture. She was extremely aggressive and violent and had this radical way of thinking.”

All the friends and relatives of the victims who spoke with the Globe asked for anonymity due to fear of retribution from a killer who might still be at large.

Eltilib has since returned to Sudan. Repeated attempts to reach her in recent weeks were unsuccessful. It is unclear when she left the Greater Boston area, but her departure mirrors those of Tsarnaev and Todashev, each of whom also left the area following the triple homicide. Tsarnaev visited Russia for six months last year, and Todashev moved to Florida.

Only in retrospect did Tsarnaev’s behavior after the killings become suspicious to friends and family of the victims. They say he was absent from Mess’s wake a week after the slayings. Friends also wondered why he was absent again the next day when hundreds of Mess’s friends and relatives gathered for a memorial service at Ryle’s Jazz Club in Inman Square, near Tsarnaev’s home.

Several friends said he also behaved strangely during encounters in the weeks after. No longer humorous and engaging, they said, he was aloof, and one longtime acquaintance said Tsarnaev suddenly acted as if he did not know him.

Maria Sacchetti of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Michael Rezendes can be reached at rezendes@globe.com; Bob Hohler at hohler@globe.com.

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HEADLINE: Man Linked To Suspect In Boston Is Shot Dead

BYLINE: By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT, WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.; Michael S. Schmidt reported from Waltham, Mass., and William K. Rashbaum and Richard A. Opperl Jr. from New York. Reporting was contributed by Ellen Barry from Moscow, Serge F. Kovaleski and Deborah Sontag from New York, Jeffrey Billman from Orlando, Fla., and Scott Shane from Washington. Kitty Bennett contributed research from St. Petersburg, Fla.

BODY:

One lingering mystery in the investigation of the Boston Marathon bombings is whether the dead suspect, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, played a role in the unsolved murders of three men, one of them his best friend, in a Boston suburb in 2011.

That question deepened early Wednesday when a man in Orlando, Fla., who was being interviewed by at least one F.B.I. agent and other investigators, implicated himself and Mr. Tsarnaev in those murders, and then was fatally shot after he apparently tried to assault the agent, two senior law enforcement officials said.

The man, Ibragim Todashev, had been speaking for two hours in his apartment to officials from the Massachusetts State Police and the F.B.I. about Mr. Tsarnaev and the Sept. 11, 2011, murders in Waltham, Mass., when he suddenly grabbed an object and tried to attack the agent, one official said.

"He exploded and leapt at him," said the official, who said the F.B.I. agent sustained minor injuries that required stitches.

A second law enforcement official said the shooting occurred after Mr. Todashev had admitted his role in the killings and had also implicated Mr. Tsarnaev. The official said he had begun writing out a statement when he asked to take a break.

"They got him to confess to the homicides, and they say, 'Let's write it down,' and he starts writing it down. He goes to get a cigarette or something and then he goes off the deep end," the second official said. "I don't know what triggered him, and he goes after the agent."

The official said Mr. Todashev had something in his hand, "a knife or a pipe or something."

It was not certain who, or how many officers, had fired on Mr. Todashev. Nor was it clear why, with at least three law enforcement officials in the room, deadly force was used on someone without a firearm in his hands. Asked, one law enforcement official said: "If somebody jumps on you and you have a gun, and you don't do something, the gun will quickly come into play."

Mr. Todashev's alleged oral admission and his subsequent death marked a bizarre twist in investigators' attempts to determine whether Mr. Tsarnaev participated in the gruesome killings in Waltham on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. The throats of his close friend, Brendan Mess, and two other men were slashed and marijuana was spread over their bodies.

The second official described what in effect appears to be a drug robbery.

"So Tamerlan says they have dope, they rip them off. Tamerlan says, 'They can identify me, so let's kill them.' And they kill them," the official said.

If Mr. Tsarnaev was involved, then the murders may shed light on the crucial question of what may have turned him violent and unstable, and whether that was before he traveled to his homeland in the North Caucasus

region of Russia last year.

The recent focus on Mr. Tsarnaev's possible involvement in the Waltham murders has also raised questions about whether authorities in Massachusetts missed an opportunity to thwart the marathon bombings by not adequately pursuing Mr. Tsarnaev as a murder suspect.

There was no indication on Wednesday why Mr. Todashev -- who, like the Tsarnaevs, was an ethnic Chechen -- would have implicated himself and Mr. Tsarnaev in the murders. Investigators, who are seeking to determine how Mr. Tsarnaev made money, have been looking into whether Mr. Todashev and Mr. Tsarnaev were drug dealers, one of the law enforcement officials said.

Mr. Todashev had not signed a written statement about the Waltham murders before he was fatally shot. "He had only said it orally but had not signed anything," said the first official. "But that was where it appeared to be heading."

The shooting occurred in a sprawling condominium complex in Orlando, less than a mile from an entrance to Universal Studios, where many of the residents work. On Wednesday, several streets in the complex were blocked off by federal and local law enforcement officials.

The law enforcement official said that the authorities had spoken to Mr. Todashev at least twice since the April 15 bombings in Boston, which killed three people and injured more than 200.

Mr. Todashev and Mr. Tsarnaev saw each other regularly in Boston before Mr. Todashev moved to Florida about two years ago, though they were not particularly close, Mr. Tsarnaev's mother said in an interview in Russia.

"Tamerlan said he was a good guy, he said he was a boxer or some other kind of athlete," Zubeidat Tsarnaeva said by telephone from Dagestan. She said she had broken down when she heard the news on Wednesday.

"Now another boy has left this life," she said. "Why are they killing these children without any trial or investigation?"

The triple murder stunned the community of Waltham, 10 miles west of Boston. The police were called to Mr. Mess's home on the afternoon of Sept. 12, 2011, after witnesses said a woman had rushed out screaming about dead bodies covered in marijuana, and blood everywhere.

Mr. Mess was strong and would have been difficult to subdue, and Mr. Tsarnaev was one of the most accomplished amateur boxers in Boston, a heavyweight. Some in nearby Cambridge who knew Mr. Mess and the Tsarnaevs also grew suspicious of Mr. Tsarnaev when he did not show up for Mr. Mess's funeral, despite being a close friend.

URL: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/23/us/officer-involved-in-shooting-of-man-tied-to-tsarnaev.html>

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Ibragim Todashev (A22)

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Updated May 23, 2013, 8:44 p.m. ET

After Murder Suspect's Death, Probe Is Decried, Defended

Todashev's Family Doubts His Involvement in Massachusetts Triple Killing; Prosecutor Says Case Isn't Closed

By JON KAMP, JENNIFER LEVITZ and PAUL SONNE

WALTHAM, Mass.—A state prosecutor probing an unsolved 2011 triple homicide defended the investigation on Thursday after federal officials said they believe Boston bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev helped carry out the murders.

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, who was appointed to the post last month, said the case is still open and active. "This office and its law-enforcement partners have conducted a thorough, far-reaching investigation beginning in 2011 when this horrific crime occurred," Ms. Ryan said. "This investigation has not concluded and is by no means closed."

She released the statement a day after two U.S. officials said that investigators believe Mr. Tsarnaev participated in the September 2011 murder of three men who were found in an apartment outside Boston with their throats slit. Ms. Ryan said she was legally barred from speaking more specifically about the case.

Mr. Tsarnaev's possible involvement in the murders raises a delicate issue for local law enforcement: It would represent a missed opportunity to apprehend him before the April 15 bombing at the Boston Marathon that left another three people dead and more than 260 injured. Authorities believe Mr. Tsarnaev, who died at age 26 after an April 19 shootout with law enforcement, carried out the attack

with his younger brother Dzhokhar, who is being held in a prison hospital.



Reni Manukyan seen with her husband, Ibragim Todashev, in an undated photo.

Dzhokhar, 19 years old, has been charged but hasn't entered a plea. Authorities also believe the brothers killed a campus police officer in Cambridge, Mass., after the bombing, but charges haven't been filed in that case.

The probe into the marathon bombing has shed new light on

the murders of Brendan Mess, 25, Erik Weissman, 31, and Raphael Teken, 37. Mr. Mess was a friend of Tamerlan Tsarnaev who trained with him at a gym in Boston, according to mutual friends. The three victims were found dead in Mr. Mess's apartment in Waltham, their bodies covered in marijuana and cash. Authorities believe they were killed the previous day.

Another man authorities believe was an accomplice in the murders, Ibragim Todashev, was a mixed martial-arts fighter who had a Chechen background like the Tsarnaev brothers and trained at the same Boston gym before settling in Florida. He was shot dead at an Orlando apartment early Wednesday after he lunged at and cut a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, who with two Massachusetts state troopers, had been questioning him about the murders in Waltham, two law-enforcement officials said, citing preliminary reports from the scene. The FBI declined to comment on the incident Thursday.

Mr. Todashev didn't make a full confession but implicated himself and Mr. Tsarnaev in the murders before he was killed, the U.S. officials said.

Relatives and friends of Mr. Todashev, 27, said they found it difficult to believe he would have participated in a grisly triple murder. His 24-year-old widow, Reni Manukyan, 24, said Thursday that federal authorities also questioned her Tuesday night—at the same time they began interviewing Mr. Todashev—at a separate location. She said investigators had questioned both of them before.

"They never, ever—in all the interviews that I had and all the interviews that he had—never did they mention anything about a murder," Ms. Manukyan said in a telephone interview. "Everything was about the bombing and about him knowing Tamerlan. They would show me a picture of Tamerlan or Tamerlan's wife or some other guys that I haven't a clue who they are, but nothing about a murder—nothing ever."

The FBI declined to comment. The agency has interviewed dozens of people who knew the suspected bombers

Mr. Todashev's father, Abdalbaki Todashev, also said his son was disabled by knee surgery earlier this year and was learning to walk again at about the time of the Boston Marathon bombings. The father said in an interview broadcast by Kremlin-funded television from his hometown of Grozny that his son was a "very calm" person who would never hurt anyone.

The younger Mr. Todashev was arrested in a 2010 road-rage incident in Boston. He was found guilty, but the charges were eventually dismissed after he committed no other misconduct, according to prosecutors.

Ms. Manukyan, an Armenian who converted to Islam before marrying Mr. Todashev, says she met her late husband in 2010 through a mutual friend in Boston. She says she separated from Mr. Todashev in November but was still in regular contact with him and was partly supporting him through their joint bank account. He lived in the Boston area from 2008 to 2010 before moving to the Atlanta area, and then Florida, she said.

He returned to Boston in the summer of 2011, Ms. Manukyan said, and she believes he returned to Florida before September 2011 but wasn't sure about the exact dates.

Meantime, she said her late husband couldn't have been friends with the three victims because he "doesn't have any American friends," associating instead mainly with other immigrants who moved to the U.S. from Russia. She also said that it was hard to believe that Mr. Todashev would have been involved in anything related to drugs.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev and Mr. Todashev did share some commonalities on the surface, said Damien Trites, an MMA fighter who trained closely with Mr. Todashev and knew Mr. Tsarnaev.

They had Chechen backgrounds and a similar, flashy style of dress. They trained at the same gym, lived only blocks apart in Cambridge, at one point, and prayed separately before working out.

Mr. Todashev did share some commonalities with Mr. Tsarnaev, at least on the surface. They were tough men, an MMA fighter and boxer, with Chechen backgrounds who trained at the same gym and at one point lived only blocks away from each other in Cambridge, Mass. They both dressed well, with a flashy, European look. They were also Muslims who prayed before working out, Mr. Trites said.

But their personalities were very different. Mr. Tsarnaev was outgoing and jocular, Mr. Todashev serious and reserved, Mr. Trites said. He hardly ever saw the two Chechens talking to each other. Also, Mr. Todashev didn't appear to know Mr. Mess, who also trained at the Wai Kru gym.

"Honestly, I don't think that Ibragim killed them," Mr. Trites said. "I really don't. I don't see what motive he would have."

Mr. Trites, 33, recalled seeing Mr. Tsarnaev at the gym about a year ago, and for the first time since the Waltham slayings. He wanted to express condolences over Mr. Mess, a mutual friend.

The slayings stunned the community of Waltham, particularly on Harding Avenue, a pleasant tree-lined street where the deaths occurred.

Jay Morgan, a 54-year-old financial planner and neighbor, found it curious there were no apparent screams or sounds of struggle, despite it being a late summer night when many people had their windows open.

Mr. Morgan, who lives next door to the yellow multifamily house where the incident occurred, recalls a lot of police activity at first. Police impounded a BMWBMW.XE -1.34% SUV belonging to one of the victims, he said.

But since, until just recently, neighbors had heard little about the investigation and often wondered what had happened, he said.

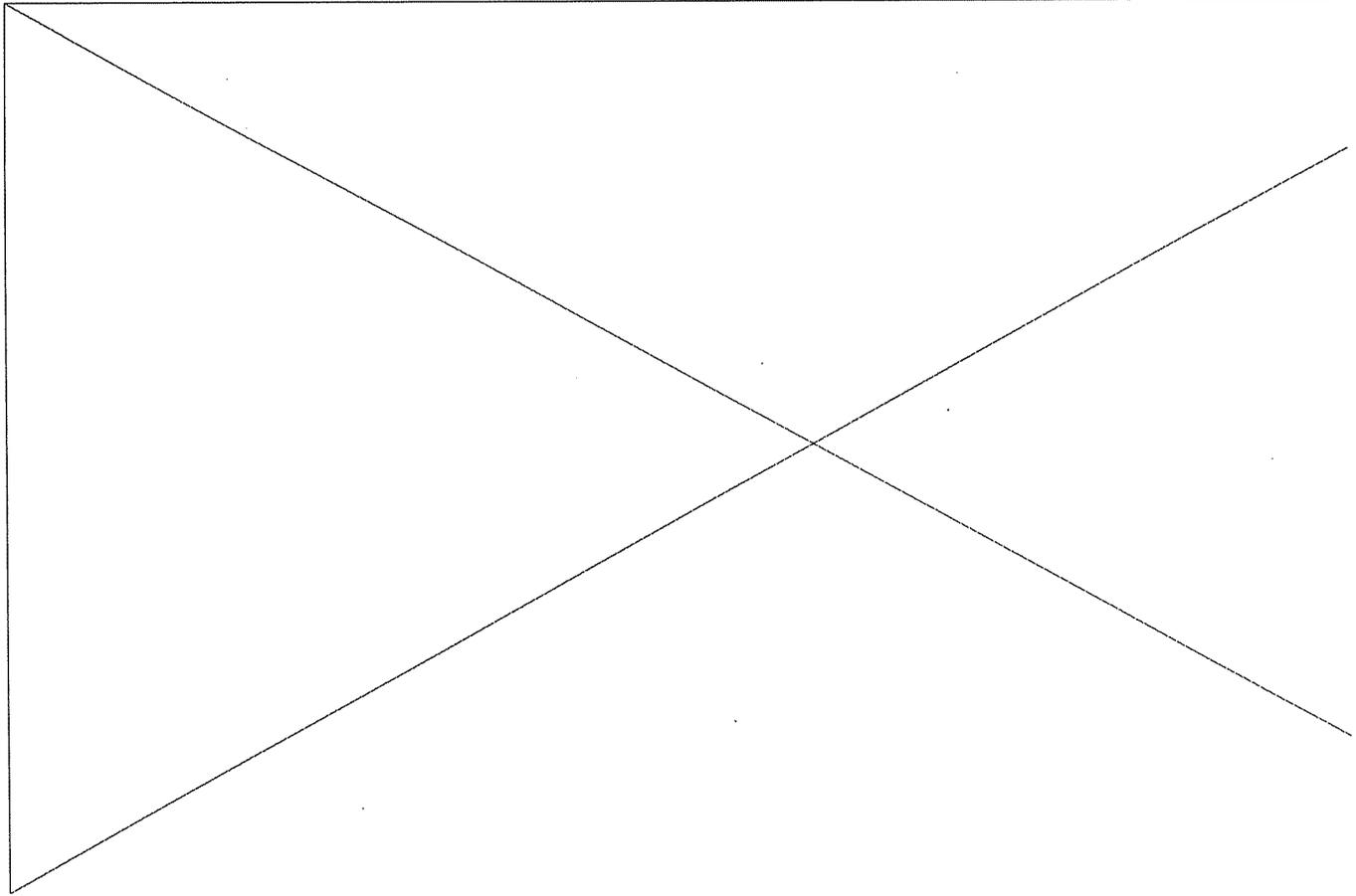
"It would be nice to find out and get some closure," he said.

—Alan Cullison contributed to this article.

FBI agent kills man after questioning in Waltham murders

By Michael Rezendes, Wesley Lowery and John R. Ellement
| GLOBE STAFF

MAY 22, 2013



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A Chechen man with ties to Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was shot and killed by an FBI agent in Orlando while he was being questioned about an unsolved triple homicide in Waltham, according to two law enforcement officials with knowledge of the investigation and the FBI.

The FBI identified the person shot and killed as Ibragim Todashev, 27.

Two Massachusetts State Police troopers were participating in the questioning “in connection with the Boston Marathon bombing investigation” at the time of the fatal shooting, the FBI said. State Police spokesman David Procopio had no comment.

Todashev attacked the officers with a knife, according to another source with knowledge of the investigation.



Photos: FBI shooting in Orlando, Fla.

Todashev was a suspect in the 2011 triple slaying in Waltham, a crime that authorities now suspect may have also been committed by Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the two law enforcement officials said.

The Waltham victims' throats were slashed and marijuana was sprinkled over their bodies when they were slain on Sept. 11, 2011. The officials said authorities had questioned Todashev about the murders during a series of

interviews in recent days. "Both Tsarnaev and Todashev were suspects in the murders," one of the officials said.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was a close friend with one of the Waltham victims, Brendan H. Mess, 25. Also killed were Rafael M. Teken, 37, and Erik Weissman, 31.

Todashev, like Tsarnaev and Mess, was a mixed martial arts fighter, according to colleagues and public records. The Globe has reported that after the Marathon terror attacks, authorities began probing Tamerlan Tsarnaev's alleged role in the Waltham killings.

Mike Lee, co-owner of The Jungle, an Orlando gym, said today that Todashev had belonged to the gym about a year and a half ago.

"He was entirely unmemorable," he said.

Lee said Todashev didn't use the gym's coaches or banner for his fights, just the equipment. Lee believes Todashev had paid the gym membership in full and had no outstanding bills.

Todashev was not considered to be a suspect in the Marathon bombings allegedly committed by Tamerlan Tsarnaev and his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who is in federal custody and is facing possible death sentence.

Ibragim Todashev

The bombings on April 15 near the Marathon finish line killed three people and wounded more than 260. MIT Police Officer Sean Collier was also allegedly murdered by the brothers.

According to the FBI and local news accounts, the fatal shooting of Todashev happened in an apartment on Peregrine Avenue in Orlando.

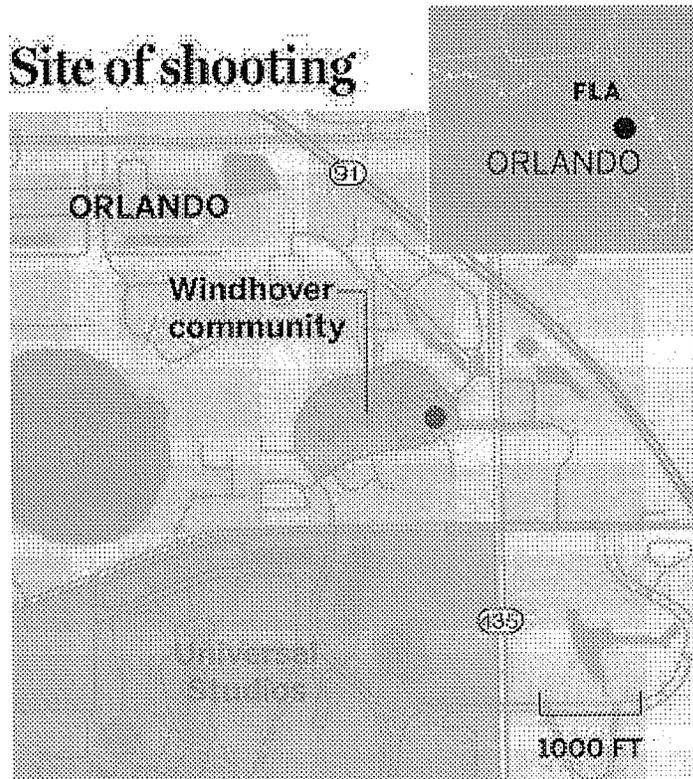
"The agent along with two Massachusetts State Police troopers and other law enforcement personnel were interviewing an individual in connection with the Boston Marathon bombing investigation

when a violent confrontation was initiated by the individual,” the FBI said in a summary of the incident released around 10:30 a.m.

“During the confrontation, the individual was killed and the agent sustained non-life threatening injuries,” the FBI said. “As this incident is under review, we have no further details at this time.”

Khusen Taramov, a friend of Todashev, told WESH-TV in Orlando that both he and Todashev were questioned about his ties to Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who was killed after a shootout in Watertown with police on April 19. Tamerlan

The FBI said today that a Washington-based deadly force investigative team is being sent to Orlando to investigate the shooting on Peregrine Avenue.



Taramov said he was released by the FBI, but Todashev was still being questioned by the agents.

Taramov said Todashev met Tsarnaev when both lived in Massachusetts, and that the two men spoke with each other “months before” the Marathon bombings.

Taramov said his friend was not close to Tsarnaev. “They were not best friends,” Taramov told the Orlando station.

Taramov insisted that Todashev was not a radicalized Muslim, and that he had no role in, nor did he know anything about, the Marathon terrorist attack.

“He was not a radical. He was a Muslim,” Taramov said. “I’m a Muslim. That’s it. ... He never had a

gun. ... He was shocked” by the attacks.

Taramov said Todashev was worried about the direction of the questioning by the FBI agents, that he was going to be “set up” by the law enforcement agency.

“He had a bad feeling,” said Taramov, who quoted Todashev as telling him that the FBI was “making up this crazy stuff” that there was a connection between the terror suspect and himself.

Taramov said that Tsarnaev and Todashev spoke recently, likely via Skype, but had only limited contact with each other since Todashev had moved to Florida.

Milton J. Valencia of the Globe staff and Globe correspondent Todd Feathers contributed to this report. Wesley Lowery can be reached at wesley.lowery@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@WesleyLowery](https://twitter.com/WesleyLowery). John R. Ellement can be reached at ellement@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@JREbosglobe](https://twitter.com/JREbosglobe).

Suspect killed in Fla. was in fight over parking space in early May

By **Todd Feathers**, **Erin Ailworth**, **Mark Arsenault**, **Andrew Ba Tran** and **John R. Ellement**
| GLOBE CORRESPONDENT AND GLOBE STAFF

MAY 22, 2013

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ORANGE COUNTY CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Ibragim Todashev

Ibragim Todashev would not be pushed around, at least not on May 4 when he got into an argument over a parking space at an Orlando shopping mall. The dispute ended with the other man lying in a pool of blood.

The 27-year-old Todashev was at the Premium Outlet Mall in Orlando when security noticed a fight break out in the mall's parking lot, followed by the departure of one of the combatants in a white Mercedes Benz, according to an Orange County Sheriff's Department report released today.

Todashev was driving the Mercedes and was stopped at gunpoint by police, handcuffed, and brought back to the scene, where Deputy Larry Clifton wrote that he found one man lying unconscious in "a considerable amount of blood."

According to police, Todashev and Lester Garcia Baez had argued over a parking space and when the man's son, Lester Garcia Perez, stepped in to protect his father, Todashev lashed out.

"Todashev began fighting with [Perez]," Clifton wrote. "Todashev said Perez came at him swinging. Todashev said he was only fighting to protect his knee because he had surgery in March."

When it was over, Perez had a "a split upper lip, several teeth knocked out of place and head injuries," Clifton wrote.

Clifton added that "by his own admission Todashev was recently a former mixed martial arts fighter. This skill puts his fighting ability way above that of a normal person."

According to a number of websites that follow the sport, Todashev made his debut as a pro in Tampa, Fla. in July in a bout with Bradford May. In a telephone interview today, May recalled his contest with Todashev.

Todashev, he said, was "eerily" quiet.

“He didn’t say a word to anybody, just kept to himself,” said May. “Normally you’d say hi to someone. I don’t think he said hi to anybody.”

Both fighters weighed in at 155 pounds for the contest.

Todashev won the fight when he caught May in a choke hold — called a “guillotine choke” — a legal move in mixed martial arts. It was apparently Todashev’s first professional fight. He likely made about \$500, said May.

Mike Lee, co-owner of The Jungle, an Orlando gym, said today that Todashev had belonged to the gym about a year and a half ago.

“He was entirely unmemorable,” he said.

Lee said Todashev didn’t use the gym’s coaches or banner for his fights, just the equipment. Lee believes Todashev had paid the gym membership in full and had no outstanding bills.

It was not immediately known how Todashev injured his knee, but he was treated at the Florida Hospital in Orlando on March 13, treatment that left Todashev owing the hospital \$25,277, according to court records.

The bill was paid in full May 1, three days before the parking lot confrontation, according to court records.

Todashev was free on \$3,500 cash bail at the time of today’s shooting.

(Jeremiah Manion of the Globe Staff contributed to this report.)

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May 23, 2013

Section: us

Man Being Queried on **Tsarnaev** Ties Is Killed by Officer

*** Start Section

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MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

The man was being questioned about links to Tamerlan **Tsarnaev** and a 2011 triple murder. The authorities had spoken to him at least twice since the bombings.

BOSTON

BOSTON — A man in Orlando, Fla., who was being interviewed early Wednesday morning by law enforcement officers about his ties to the deceased Boston Marathon bombing suspect was fatally shot after he tried to attack the officers with a knife, according to a federal law enforcement official.

The officers — who included an F.B.I. agent from the Boston field office and two Massachusetts state troopers — were questioning the man, Ibragim Todashev, about whether he had played a role in a triple murder on Sept. 11, 2011, in Waltham, Mass., which had been one of the biggest mysteries in the aftermath of the bombings.

The officers had been interviewing Mr. Todashev in his apartment for some time when he tried to attack them, the official said. The shooting occurred in a sprawling condominium complex in Orlando less than a mile from an entrance to Universal Studios, where many of the residents work. On Wednesday, several streets in the complex were blocked off by federal and local law enforcement officials.

"The investigators were working on the theory that he and Tamerlan" had played a role in the murder, the official said, referring to Tamerlan **Tsarnaev**, the deceased marathon bombing suspect. One of the victims was a friend of Mr. **Tsarnaev**.

The F.B.I. agent sustained minor injuries that required stitches, the official said. The official said that the authorities had spoken to Mr. Todashev at least twice since the April 15 bombings, which killed three people and injured about 200.

The murders in Waltham were considered one of the more violent acts in the Boston area in recent years. Three men were found with their throats slit and sprinkled with marijuana.

The authorities believe that Mr. Todashev and Mr. **Tsarnaev** were involved in the murders and are seeking to determine whether the police missed an opportunity to thwart the marathon attacks. They have not ruled out that Mr. **Tsarnaev**'s younger brother, Dzhokhar, played a role in the murders.

The mother of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects said in a telephone interview that her older son knew Mr. Todashev.

The mother, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, said Tamerlan **Tsarnaev** and Mr. Todashev saw each other regularly in Boston,

though they were not particularly close, and that Ibragim had moved to Florida around two years ago.

"Tamerlan said he was a good guy, he said he was a boxer or some other kind of athlete," she said in a telephone interview from Dagestan. She said she had broken down when she heard the news on Wednesday.

"Now another boy has left this life," she said. "Why are they killing these children without any trial or investigation?"

Since the attacks, the F.B.I. and state and local law enforcement officials in Boston have sought to interview friends and others who knew the **Tsarnaev** brothers.

Investigators want to know how the brothers were radicalized, and they want to determine if there were accomplices.

The F.B.I. has also focused on Chechens who may have ties to extremists in Russia. Before the attacks, the bureau had not thought that they were a significant threat in the United States.

As part of those efforts, the F.B.I. has questioned many members of the small community of ethnic Chechens in the United States. Since April 29, agents have repeatedly interviewed a Chechen refugee and former rebel fighter, Musa Khadzhimuratov, of Manchester, N.H. Tamerlan **Tsarnaev** used a firing range in Manchester to practice shooting and bought fireworks in New Hampshire to extract the explosive powder used in the marathon bombs.

Mr. Khadzhimuratov, 36, and his wife, Madina, 32, say they had only brief social visits with Tamerlan **Tsarnaev**, including one a few weeks before the bombing. They said they did not know about his purchase of fireworks or guns and had no hint that he was plotting the Boston attack.

Some advocates for the Chechen community have expressed concern that Russian intelligence officers might be steering the F.B.I. to target Chechens in the United States who are hostile to Russia but have nothing to do with terrorism.

Ellen Barry contributed reporting from Moscow, Scott Shane contributed from Washington and Jeffrey Billman contributed from Orlando, Fla.

--- **Index References** ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); International Terrorism (1IN37); Legal (1LE33); Murder & Manslaughter (1MU48); Police (1PO98); Social Issues (1SO05); Top World News (1WO62); Violent...

FBI completes inquiry into death of Tamerlan Tsarnaev's friend

By **Wesley Lowery**
| GLOBE STAFF

JANUARY 09, 2014

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said Thursday that it has completed an internal investigation into the fatal shooting of Ibragim Todashev, a friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev, and that it is "eager" for the results to be released.

Both the FBI's investigation into the May 22 shooting and the Florida state's attorney probe have now been completed, FBI spokesman Paul Bresson said. All that remains is for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to review the FBI investigation, Bresson said. The Justice Department will then write its report, which he said would be made public soon.

Reached by the Globe on Thursday, a DOJ spokeswoman would not provide a timeline for when that department would release its report.

Todashev was shot and killed in his Orlando apartment after a lengthy interrogation by an FBI agent. FBI officials have never formally discussed the shooting, other than to say they are investigating.

Various media outlets have reported conflicting details about the shooting in accounts they attributed to anonymous law enforcement officials.

The FBI said that Todashev injured an agent. Media reports have alleged that, in the moments before he was killed, Todashev was in the process of signing a confession about his and Tsarnaev's involvement in an unsolved 2011 triple murder in Waltham.

FBI Director James Comey told reporters gathered Thursday for a briefing at FBI headquarters in Washington that his department's review of the shooting has been finished for some time.

The meeting was the second that Comey has held with reporters since taking over the agency in September.

"I am eager for the report of that incident to be released," Comey told reporters, [according to the Huffington Post](#).

In declining to provide a new comment, a DOJ spokeswoman referred to a previously issued statement about the status of the investigation.

"The comprehensive inquiry into the shooting death of Ibragim Todashev that is being conducted by DOJ's Civil Rights Division, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, and the FBI Inspection Division is ongoing," the Justice Department said in a statement in early January.

Comey's pledge that details will be forthcoming was delivered just weeks after Todashev's father, a Chechen government official, released an e-mail he sent in December to President Obama petitioning for an intervention.

"I am not asking you to share my pain, but I am asking you, as the head of the great country, the guarantor of democracy in the modern world, to help the law and justice prevail," Abdulkali Todashev said in the e-mail.

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More bombing questions for FBI



By Joan Vennoch
| GLOBE COLUMNIST

DECEMBER 22, 2013

Bottom of Form

WE MAY never know exactly why young men like Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev might decide to plant two bombs at the Boston Marathon finish line.

But we should be able to find out exactly what law enforcement authorities did well before and after the attack — and what they could have done better. That's what Representative William R. Keating has been trying to find out.

A [recent Globe investigation](#) painted a picture of the two bombing suspects as the product of a dysfunctional immigrant family. But Keating cares less about the dysfunctional Tsarnaev family and more about the possibility of a dysfunctional system of government information sharing. Government dysfunction, he still fears, might have allowed the brothers to slip through the cracks and execute a deadly plan. And it might allow another tragedy to occur if it is not properly addressed.

Keating, a former prosecutor who sits on the Homeland Security Committee, has been asking such questions since the bombs went off. Last July 31, he sent a letter to newly appointed FBI director James Comey, seeking specific information about what the agency knew about the alleged bombers before the attack and what was shared with local police. In no apparent rush to respond, the FBI got back to the Democratic Bay State congressman on Nov. 22.

The FBI's letter basically reiterated the agency's past contention — that local police had access to everything they needed to know through a computer system called "Guardian." The letter also mentioned the need to protect "civil liberties and privacy" while investigating crime, terrorism, and threats to national security — a curious consideration, given recent headlines about the extensive government-sanctioned data collection program that routinely violates the civil liberties and privacy of millions of American citizens who have no connection to crime, terrorism, or threats to national security.

It helps to understand any breakdown in law enforcement's ability to identify threats. It's not about blame; it's about prevention.

The FBI's response left Keating still questioning the quality of information-sharing between law enforcement authorities. Searching the Guardian database, he said, is like looking for "a needle in a haystack." He predicts the Homeland Security Committee's upcoming report on the Marathon bombings — expected in early 2014 — will address those concerns and recommend procedural changes.

Keating is also looking forward to an upcoming report from a Florida prosecutor about the FBI's shooting of Ibragim Todashev, who was being questioned about a triple slaying in Waltham, which might be somehow tied to Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The circumstances of Todashev's death are mysterious and raise questions about the actions of the FBI, as well as about Massachusetts state troopers who participated in the Todashev investigation.

"I just wonder this out loud," said Keating. "I'll be curious to see what this investigation entailed. How much of it is original? How much of it was given by the FBI? Will it really be an independent review by Florida?"

It helps to understand the "why" behind the actions the Tsarnaev brothers are believed to have taken. It's not about sympathizing with killers; it's about sensitizing us to people who are so desperate and unhappy they turn to violence. What we learn about the Tsarnaev brothers could help us see danger signs in others and stop them before they act.

But it helps even more to understand any breakdowns in law enforcement's ability to identify threats and act on them. It's not about blame; it's about prevention. Keating finds the bureaucratic obstacles frustrating, and they should be to the rest of us, too.

There has already been a lot of turnover at agencies involved in the Marathon investigation.

Robert S. Mueller departed as FBI director in June. So did Richard DesLauriers, the head of the Boston FBI office. Janet Napolitano, the Homeland Security secretary, resigned in July. In September, Edward Davis announced his resignation as Boston police commissioner.

In his testimony before Congress, Davis said the FBI should share more information about potential terror threats with local police. Those concerns shouldn't disappear with the leaders who left their posts.

Accountability should be more than one city's concern, but Boston has a special interest in learning the whole story. If "Boston strong" means resilience, "Boston smart" should mean asking tough questions and demanding complete answers — no ducking allowed. We owe that much to the victims.

Joan Vennochi can be reached at vennochi@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter [@Joan_Vennochi](https://twitter.com/Joan_Vennochi).

Friend implicated Tamerlan Tsarnaev in Waltham slayings

By Milton Valencia

| GLOBE STAFF

OCTOBER 23, 2013

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Federal officials disclosed for the first time publicly late Monday that Ibragim Todashev, a friend of Tamerlan Tsarnaev, told investigators that the deceased alleged Boston Marathon bomber participated in a triple murder in Waltham in 2011. Todashev was killed by an FBI agent who was interviewing him in May. His death remains under investigation. Federal prosecutors confirmed in court records Monday that, "according to Todashev, Tamerlan Tsarnaev participated in the Waltham homicides." But prosecutors refused to elaborate on their statement.

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September 26, 2013

SECTION: MA NEWS; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 444 words

HEADLINE: Editorial;
Public deserves update on multiple investigations

BODY:

It's now been two years since three men were killed in a Waltham apartment, a crime that was shocking to Waltham at the time, and has sparked much wider interest since the investigation is reportedly linked to a suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing.

What have we learned about the investigation in those two years? Unfortunately, not much.

We know that several different levels of authorities are said to be still investigating the crime: Waltham detectives, State Police, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and the FBI. But beyond that, it's agonizingly tough to say where they are in the investigation because no one will say anything about it.

It's understandable that authorities would not want to compromise an investigation, but this goes beyond "tight-lipped."

Relatives and friends of the victims deserve to know if the investigation has progressed at all since those first few days following the homicides on Sept. 11, 2011.

Reports and rumors have circulated that one of the marathon bombing suspects, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was possibly linked to the killings. How and why is this the case? It's difficult to say with any certainty because no law enforcement official will go on the record about it.

Tsarnaev died in a gunfight with police several days after the bombing.

The New York Times has reported that during the initial investigation, several people suggested police interview Tsarnaev, a friend of one of the victims and a frequent visitor to the apartment, but that investigators never followed through. Is it true? That question, like all others, draws a "no comment" from the Middlesex DA's office and from then District Attorney Gerry Leone.

The same thing goes for Ibragim Todashev, the man killed by an FBI agent in Florida, who anonymous sources have told reporters was going to admit his involvement in the homicides before he was shot. Is that true? The FBI won't say, only that it is still investigating the shooting, as is a Florida prosecutor.

Surely investigators are working hard on getting to the bottom of the homicides, or at least we'd like to think so.

Official silence breeds distrust. To stop the finger-pointing and guessing, authorities should disclose the current status about how the investigation is progressing and if there are any leads.

We understand that law enforcement officials often need to keep quiet about the progress they are making while a case is being actively investigated. But they should understand that, when two years go by without any official saying anything, citizens may well fill the information vacuum with assumptions about the investigation and about law enforcement agencies themselves.

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Girlfriend of Ibragim Todashev, friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect, talks about her weeks in custody

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By Wesley Lowery, Globe Staff

The live-in girlfriend of Ibragim Todashev says that while her boyfriend was being interviewed about the Boston Marathon bombings, she was grilled by FBI agents, turned over to immigration officials, and then held in solitary confinement, where, days later, she learned that he had been killed.

Todashev, a friend of accused Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was questioned by FBI agents and Massachusetts State Police in his apartment for more than five hours on May 22 before being shot and killed.

Last week, Tatiana Gruzdeva, who lived with him in Orlando, gave her first interview since his death. In the detailed interview with Boston magazine, Gruzdeva recalled the days leading up to her boyfriend's killing.

She recalled Todashev being upset after the bombings and his initial questioning by federal agents.

On May 16, Gruzdeva said, she had traveled with Todashev for a voluntary interview with the FBI when agents pulled her into a room, interrogated her, and then turned her over to immigration officials.

“They asked me again and again about Ibragim and all this stuff. They asked me, ‘Can you tell us when he will do something?’ I said, ‘No! I can’t!’ Because he wasn’t doing anything, and I didn’t know anything.” Gruzdeva told Boston magazine. “And they said, ‘Oh, really? So why don’t we call immigration.’”

On May 30, an immigration judge ordered Gruzdeva be deported, but in August she was released and granted another year’s stay in the United States.

In broken English, Gruzdeva confirmed Friday for the Globe the account she gave to Boston magazine and said that she did not plan to do future interviews.

“I don’t want to have any problem with the FBI. I already had a lot. ... It was the worst time in all my life,” Gruzdeva said. “I just don’t want to have more problem.”

That fear of the FBI has been echoed by various friends of Todashev, members of Orlando’s small community of Chechen immigrants, who believe the FBI has been monitoring them since before Todashev’s killing.

Law enforcement officials have leaked conflicting reports to the media about Todashev’s shooting. Some have alleged that he attacked agents, but reports have differed over whether he was armed. Some have said he was about to write a confession implicating him and Tsarnaev in a triple homicide in Waltham in 2011.

The FBI has refused to comment on the reports, has sealed the autopsy and all other medical records, and — four months after Todashev was shot seven times — has not issued any report on the shooting.

For months, state officials in both Massachusetts and Florida — including Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley — said they would not call for an independent probe or themselves investigate whether Todashev’s shooting was justified.

However, in August, attorney Jeffrey L. Ashton, the top state prosecutor in Orlando, announced he would mount an independent probe of the shooting.

The Globe has also confirmed that Ashurmamad Miraliev, 23, of Orlando, a friend of both Todashev and Gruzdeva, has been arrested on charges of threatening a witness in a 14-month-old battery case against Todashev.

Miraliev was arrested Wednesday on a charge of tampering with a victim by threat. The case was not connected with the Marathon bombings or with Todashev’s death, according to Florida law enforcement officials.

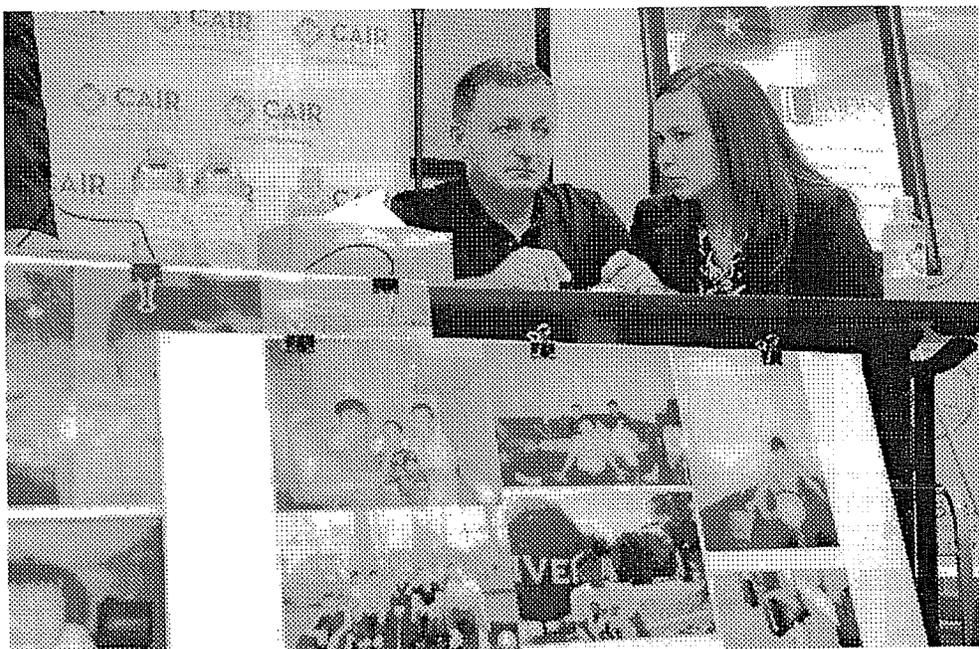
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Father of Tsarnaev friend says FBI contacted him

Refused to meet with any agents

By **Maria Sacchetti**
| GLOBE STAFF

AUGUST 13, 2013



BRIAN BLANCO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abdulkali Todashev listened to his interpreter during a press conference with his lawyers in Tampa.

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The father of a Chechen man fatally shot by the FBI was sought for questioning by the bureau after he arrived in the United States last week to pursue a possible wrongful death lawsuit against the bureau, his lawyers said Tuesday.

FBI agents approached Abdulkali Todashev at a private residence in Florida after he arrived from Russia to seek answers in the May shooting death of his son, Ibragim Todashev, a friend of suspected Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Todashev's father refused to meet with the agents and has had no contact since.

"We're not going to talk to them, with a lawyer, without a lawyer," said Barry Cohen, the lead counsel on the legal team Todashev assembled with the help of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Florida. "He will not be talking to the FBI."

The FBI declined to confirm Tuesday whether agents had approached Todashev, who lives in Chechnya, a region in southern Russia where he is a government official.

“While individuals are free to speak about their interactions with the FBI, we do not, as a matter of practice, discuss or describe any contact we have or allegedly have with individuals,” spokesman Paul Bresson said. “It is our policy not to confirm or deny whether we spoke with members of the public, because to do so would, in many instances, have a chilling effect on the public’s cooperation with us.”

Abdulgani Todashev revealed the encounter with the FBI at a press conference to announce his legal team Tuesday at the Tampa office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. His lawyers said they would monitor the state and federal investigations into the May 22 shooting death of his son in his Orlando apartment and, once the investigations are complete, decide whether to file a lawsuit.

The FBI, with the US Department of Justice, is leading the federal investigation into the shooting. The top prosecutor in Orlando is conducting an independent state investigation into the death, which advocates welcomed Tuesday.

Cohen, a prominent lawyer in Tampa, said Todashev would cooperate only with the Orlando prosecutor and the local US attorney. In an unexpected twist Tuesday, Cohen sent an e-mail to the FBI and other agencies accusing the bureau of sending a clandestine observer to the council’s press conference to report back to the bureau. The FBI declined to comment on the assertion.

Since the fatal shooting of Ibragim Todashev, the FBI has drawn criticism for providing scant details about the death and for barring the Florida medical examiner from releasing the autopsy report.

The FBI has said only that Todashev was shot during interrogation by the FBI and the Massachusetts State Police related to the bombing investigation. The bureau has said that Todashev initiated a violent confrontation and that an agent was injured.

News reports differed over whether Todashev was armed. Some said he was about to write a confession implicating himself and Tsarnaev in a triple homicide in Waltham in 2011, though Eric Ludin, one of Abdulgani Todashev’s lawyers, said he had seen no evidence of that.

Todashev, a 27-year-old mixed martial arts fighter, had two arrests in violent cases, including a road-rage case in Boston and a parking lot altercation in Florida.

But Todashev’s father has said his son was unarmed and recovering from a recent knee surgery, suggesting he was unable to attack the investigators. He said his son had voluntarily submitted to several FBI interrogations before the final interview. “He didn’t do anything wrong,” Todashev said.

Federal and state investigators contacted Ibragim Todashev after the April 15 bombings killed three people and injured more than 260. Todashev came to the United States in 2008 from Russia to study English and won asylum that year. He lived for a time in Allston and Cambridge, before moving to Florida, and was an acquaintance of Tsarnaev, also an ethnic Chechen.

Tsarnaev and his younger brother, Dzhokhar, are accused of carrying out the bombings and later killing an MIT police officer. Tamerlan Tsarnaev died after a police shootout.

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Fla. prosecutor to investigate Todashev shooting

By **Maria Sacchetti**
| GLOBE STAFF

AUGUST 10, 2013

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Civil liberties groups praised a Florida prosecutor Friday for launching an independent review of the fatal shooting of a Chechen man by a Boston FBI agent, saying they hoped he would hold government officials accountable if they are found negligent.

Jeffrey L. Ashton, the top prosecutor in Orlando, announced Thursday that he is reviewing witness and forensic evidence from the US Department of Justice's preliminary investigation into the death of Ibragim Todashev, a friend of suspected Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

The prosecutor's inquiry marks the first state investigation of a shooting that has been cloaked in secrecy and follows repeated calls from Todashev's family and civil-rights groups for an independent review of the case. Until now, only the FBI and the Department of Justice, which oversees the bureau, have investigated the death.

"It's certainly a breakthrough and something to be hopeful about that we may ultimately learn what happened," said Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida.

Simon added that he hopes for a thorough review. "It's not going to mean very much if it's simply an independent set of eyes reading whatever report the FBI sends them," he said.

Todashev, a 27-year-old ethnic Chechen, was killed May 22 in his Orlando apartment during an interrogation by the FBI, Massachusetts State Police, and other law enforcement officers. The FBI claimed he initiated a violent confrontation and that the Boston agent was injured. But unlike past shootings by agents, the bureau has released few details and barred a Florida medical examiner from releasing an autopsy report.

Conflicting news reports soon emerged and inflamed the controversy: Some said that Todashev was armed with a blade or a pole, while others said he did not have a weapon.

The FBI has said only that they were questioning Todashev in connection with the Boston Marathon bombings, which killed three people and injured more than 260 on April 15. But news reports later said Todashev was about to sign a confession implicating himself and Tsarnaev in a triple homicide in Waltham in 2011. Tamerlan Tsarnaev died in a police shoot-out days after the bombings, and his brother, Dzhokhar, is in custody facing federal charges.

Todashev's family, the ACLU, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations have clamored for an outside investigation of the shooting with little success. The Massachusetts attorney general and Florida's law enforcement commissioner declined to investigate, though officers from both states were at the scene. The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has not said if it will look into the matter.

In Orlando, Ashton had previously said he would not investigate, but announced Thursday that he had changed his mind. He declined to explain why through a spokesman.

“Mr. Ashton will conduct an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the use of deadly force in this case, as he does in all cases involving use of force by a law enforcement officer resulting in death,” his office said in a statement.

The Department of Justice confirmed Friday that the department had briefed Ashton July 25 in Orlando on their shooting investigation, including witness and forensic evidence. “No conclusions or recommendations regarding the inquiry have been reached,” said department spokeswoman Dena Iverson.

Ashton’s announcement comes days after Todashev’s father arrived in Florida from Russia to file a wrongful death lawsuit against the bureau. Abdulbaki Todashev has said he does not believe his son would have attacked law enforcement and has accused the FBI of “premeditated, intentional murder.”

Also Friday, federal immigration officials mysteriously released Todashev’s former roommate, 19-year-old Tatiana Gruzdeva, and granted her permission to stay in the United States for another year. She had been jailed since May 16 for immigration violations and was ordered to return to Russia by an immigration judge, who also reports to the Department of Justice.

Todashev was a mixed-martial arts fighter who came to the United States in 2008 from Russia to study English, settling for a time in Allston and Cambridge. He won asylum that year and later married, but he also had two arrests for violent incidents, including a bloody attack on a man over a parking space a few weeks before he was killed.

Todashev’s supporters have pointed out that he had cooperated willingly with the FBI, sitting down for three interviews at their offices until the final interrogation at his home.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations in Florida, which is aiding Todashev’s father with his lawsuit, hailed the investigation and said they hoped Ashton’s review will “shed light as to why a cooperative, unarmed Florida resident was shot multiple times during interrogation by federal agents in his home.”

“We have faith that the justice system will ensure that any wrongdoing on behalf of the agents and agencies involved will be successfully prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law to ensure no officials feel they are above the law,” the council said.

Lawyers and government officials said the state and federal investigations could lead to a reprimand or even criminal charges against the agent, though the ACLU and others have pointed out that FBI shooting investigations have almost always cleared agents of wrongdoing.

The FBI declined to comment on the state prosecutor’s review, but the bureau said its own investigation is ongoing and could take months to complete.

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Fla. FBI shooting reviewed; ties to Boston bombing

By MIKE SCHNEIDER / Associated Press / August 8, 2013

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The top prosecutor in Orlando said Thursday that he will review what led to the fatal shooting of a Chechen immigrant during questioning by the FBI and other agents over the man's ties to one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects.

State Attorney Jeff Ashton said he has received a preliminary report by the federal Department of Justice about its investigation into the death of Ibragim Todashev (IH'-bruh-heem TOH'-duh-shehv) last May.

Ashton says there is no schedule for when he will complete his review.

Todashev was killed while being questioned by FBI agents and police from Massachusetts and Florida. Officials originally said Todashev lunged at an FBI agent with a knife. They later said it was no longer clear what happened.

An investigation is being led by the FBI.

A spokesman for the FBI's Tampa office referred all questions to the agency's Washington office. A spokesman for the Washington office didn't respond to an email inquiry.

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August 1, 2013 Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Metro; Pg. B,1,13

LENGTH: 821 words

HEADLINE: Fla. refuses to probe FBI's fatal shooting of Chechen suspect

BYLINE: By Maria Sacchetti, Globe Staff

BODY:

Florida's law enforcement commissioner has refused to investigate the fatal shooting of a Chechen man in Orlando by a Boston FBI agent, days after the top prosecutor in Massachusetts also declined to look into the case.

In a letter to the American Civil Liberties Union, which urged the state officials last week to investigate the shooting, the commissioner said the FBI and the Justice Department are handling the inquiry.

"This is an active federal investigation," Gerald M. Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, said in a brief letter to the ACLU of Florida released Wednesday. "It would be inappropriate for FDLE to intervene."

Bailey's refusal to investigate leaves only the FBI and its overseeing agency, the US Department of Justice, investigating the May 22 shooting of Ibragim Todashev, 27, a friend of suspected Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The FBI has said little about the shooting, except that Todashev initiated a violent confrontation that led the FBI agent to shoot him. Advocates for Todashev however, have pointed out that he had voluntarily submitted to multiple interviews with agents.

Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley declined to investigate the shooting last week, saying it had happened outside her jurisdiction.

The ACLU chapters in Massachusetts and Florida had argued that the states should investigate because local police officials, including Massachusetts State Police troopers and an Orlando police officer, were also at the scene. The ACLU also pointed to the extreme secrecy surrounding the case and the fact that the FBI's internal investigations of shootings in the past 20 years have almost always cleared agents.

On Wednesday ACLU officials called the state officials' refusal to investigate the death of Todashev disappointing.

"If Massachusetts state officials have the authority to send law enforcement officers out of state to investigate crimes, then it's unclear why state officials wouldn't have the authority to investigate what those officers do," said Carol Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. "After all, the governing principle of this state isn't 'what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.' "

Howard Simon, executive director of the ACLU of Florida, said Bailey's refusal to investigate makes it likely that Todashev's family will have to file a lawsuit to find out how he died.

"It is extremely disappointing, given the incompatible and inconsistent explanations coming from the FBI, that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement would defer to them, allowing the only investigation to be the FBI investigating itself," Simon said. "A person was killed at the hands of law enforcement in Florida, and our state's government has chosen to evade their responsibility to explain to the people of Florida how that happened."

Todashev's family and friends and the Council on American-Islamic Relations have also called for an independent inquiry into his death. The council has urged the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to investigate, saying in a letter to the department in June: "It seems unlikely that the agents were justified in using deadly force against a single unarmed suspect."

Shootings by FBI agents are typically investigated only by the FBI with the Justice Department, but

independent inquiries are not unprecedented. The Michigan attorney general and the Dearborn police conducted their own investigations into the 2009 shooting of a Detroit imam by the FBI. Both inquiries found no evidence of wrongdoing by the agents.

In contrast to past shootings involving FBI agents, however, the FBI has refused to divulge details of the Todashev case over the past two months.

Instead, conflicting reports about what led the agent to shoot Todashev have emerged in news reports. Some said that Todashev was armed with a blade. Another said he was unarmed. Still another said that Todashev attacked the agent with a pole or a broomstick.

Todashev was allegedly about to sign a confession implicating Tsarnaev and him in a 2011 triple slaying in Waltham, according to news reports. Tsarnaev, 26, died after a police shootout days after the Marathon bombings. His brother, Dzhokhar, is facing federal charges in the explosions.

In addition to its refusal to provide details on the Todashev case, the FBI has also barred the medical examiner from revealing the cause of death.

Immigration officials have also detained Todashev's former roommate and a potential witness, Tatiana - Gruzdeva, for immigration violations since May 16. At a hearing later that month that was not disclosed to the public, a federal immigration judge ordered the 19-year-old Gruzdeva to return to Russia by July 1 and ordered her to remain jailed until she left. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a Homeland Security agency, later - extended her stay 30 days.

Maria Sacchetti can be reached at msacchetti@globe.com

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Time of Request: Friday, August 02, 2013 11:35:59 EST
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Research Information

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August 1, 2013 Thursday

SECTION: MA NEWS; Pg. 7

LENGTH: 344 words

HEADLINE: MARATHON BOMBINGS;
Florida will not investigate FBI killing

BODY:

Staff and wire reports

Florida law enforcement will not investigate the fatal shooting of a Chechen man who was friends with one of the accused Boston Marathon bombers, the Boston Globe reported Wednesday.

Ibragim Todashev, 27, a friend of suspected Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was shot and killed by a Boston FBI agent reportedly after he confessed to his role and Tamarlan Tsarnaev's role in a 2011 triple murder in Waltham.

Gerald M. Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, in a brief letter to the ACLU of Florida said it would be inappropriate for FDLE to intervene, the Globe reported.

The move follows a similar decision by Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley who declined to investigate the Florida killing because it was outside of her jurisdiction.

Last week, the American Civil Liberties Union asked state investigators in Florida and Massachusetts to look into the death of a Todashev who was being questioned about his ties to Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the Marathon bombing suspect killed following a shootout with police in Watertown during the bombing investigation. Tamarlan's younger brother, Dzhokhar, is in custody in Massachusetts on numerous charges linked to the bombings that killed three people, and injured hundreds. The brothers are also accused of killing an MIT police officer during the manhunt.

The ACLU in both states last week called on Coakley and the Florida Law Department of Law Enforcement to investigate the roles of Massachusetts state troopers and Orlando police officers in Todashev's death.

Todashev was killed May 22 while being questioned by FBI agents, Massachusetts state troopers and others.

Officials originally said Todashev had lunged at an FBI agent with a knife. They later said it was no longer clear what happened.

An investigation is being led by the FBI.

Todashev's family and friends and the Council on American-Islamic Relations have also called for an independent inquiry into his death, the Globe report said.

(Associated Press material was used in this report)

LOAD-DATE: August 2, 2013

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Time of Request: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 10:19:36 EST
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Number of Lines: 59
Job Number: 1828:419846853

Research Information

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Search Terms: us attorney boston

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July 24, 2013 Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Metro; Pg. B,1,16

LENGTH: 612 words

HEADLINE: It's time for clarity

BYLINE: By Adrian Walker, Globe Staff

BODY:

Ibragim Todashev was mysterious in life, but he has fallen into a void in death.

Todashev was fatally shot during an interrogation by Boston-based FBI agents in Orlando on May 22. The Russia native was being asked about his friendship with Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the presumed mastermind of the Boston Marathon bombing. Unusual as it is for someone to be shot to death during questioning, silence has reigned in its aftermath. The FBI's few statements have been more confusing than illuminating.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts made an attempt Tuesday to spur somebody, anybody, into providing clarity. It called on state authorities in Florida and Massachusetts to conduct their own investigations. The questioning was being done by the FBI and Massachusetts State Police, though some reports have indicated a lone FBI officer was in the room when Todashev was shot.

In response, Attorney General Martha Coakley made it clear her office has no intention of getting involved, pleading lack of jurisdiction. Florida officials have maintained all along that they have no standing to investigate. There doesn't seem to be any reason to think they are about to change their minds.

It's entirely possible the state attorneys general are not the ones to investigate this killing. Still, it's odd how little people seem to care about the fatal shooting of a witness.

The reasons for Boston's lack of public outrage are not hard to fathom. First, the shooting didn't occur here. More importantly, Todashev was a presumed friend of the greatest villain Boston has seen in many years. In the context of the Marathon bombing, the killing was quickly relegated to a footnote. If people here think about him at all, they seem to wonder what he was doing in the country.

But we should know better than to rush to absolve the FBI, no questions asked. After all, another of Boston's great villains, James "Whitey" Bulger, is being tried for decades of terrorizing the city while an FBI informant.

And while the verdict on Whitey is still weeks away, the evidence is clear that the FBI aided and abetted his activities for ages. Not just a rogue agent or two, either; much of the agency's Boston office was involved.

It's not comforting, either, to examine the FBI's record on examining its own shootings. According to a New York Times investigation, the FBI has cleared itself in nearly every agency-involved shooting of the past 20 years.

No doubt many -- maybe all -- of those judgments were correct. But there is a reason agencies aren't normally allowed to investigate themselves. It is reasonable that an independent voice should be brought to bear.

Let me be clear: I am not suggesting wrongdoing in Todashev's killing. I'm saying the public absolutely needs to know what went on there. So far, that isn't happening.

An agency invested with the tremendous power of the FBI requires oversight and accountability. Regardless of whom Todashev's friends were, or what he may have been involved in, surely we can all agree that the government can't just kill people without explaining -- clearly and in detail -- what happened.

Instead, this has become a battle of white hats versus black hats. At a time of high anxiety, a guy who is paid to protect us killed a guy who sounds like a menace. We have no problem thinking the best of the protector, and the worst of the guy under apparent suspicion.

That may be understandable, but it's a sorry substitute for justice. It shouldn't be good enough for our politicians, and it shouldn't be good enough for the rest of us, either.

Adrian Walker is a Globe columnist. He can be reached at walker@globe.com Follow him on Twitter @Adrian_Walker.

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August 1, 2013

Section: LOCAL NEWS
Despite ACLU request, FDLE won't investigate killing of Todashev
Susan Jacobson, Staff Writer

Florida law-enforcement officials have rebuffed a **request** by the American Civil Liberties Union to **investigate** the shooting death of Ibragim **Todashev**, **killed** during an interrogation in a condo in Orlando.

Todashev was a friend of one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects.

"This is an active federal **investigation**; it would be inappropriate for [the state] to intervene," Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald M. Bailey wrote to the **ACLU** in a letter dated Tuesday.

Bailey suggested that **ACLU** of Florida Executive Director Howard Simon contact the FBI or the U.S. attorney.

An **FDLE** spokeswoman said the agency had no further comment.

"A person was shot and **killed** at the hands of law enforcement in Florida. That alone should require Florida officials to **investigate** and explain to the public what happened," Simon said.

According to the Boston Globe, the top prosecutor in Massachusetts also has refused to **investigate** the shooting.

Todashev, 27, was shot to death during the interrogation May 22. He was friends with Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, who was **killed** April 19 during a shootout with Boston police.

Tsarnaev's younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was injured during the shootout and captured after a manhunt.

It's unclear whether **Todashev** was being questioned about the bombings, a 2011 triple **killing** near Boston or something else.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is charged with federal crimes, including using weapons of mass destruction.

Investigators say he and his brother set off pressure-cooker bombs that exploded near the finish line of the marathon April 15, **killing** three people and injuring more than 250.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations also has called for an independent **investigation** of the **Todashev** shooting, saying the FBI should not be **investigating** itself.

"Secrecy fosters suspicion, and the people of Florida deserve better than to be left without an explanation from their government about what led to a person being shot to death," Simon said.

Two Massachusetts state troopers and Orlando police officers were with FBI agents during the interrogation. Initially, the FBI said **Todashev** initiated a "violent confrontation."

Conflicting reports have emerged as to whether **Todashev** was armed.

--- Index References ---

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Research Information

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Source: Combined Source Set 28
Search Terms: boston marathon bombing

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1 of 100 DOCUMENTS

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SECTION: Pg. A6

LENGTH: 545 words

HEADLINE: U.S. News: Slain Chechen's Father Assails FBI

BYLINE: By Paul Sonne and Jon Kamp

BODY:

The father of a Chechen man killed in Florida earlier this month by a federal agent during an interrogation said Thursday his son appeared to have been shot multiple times.

Abdulbaki Todashev produced what he described as photographs of his dead son, 27-year-old Ibragim Todashev, at a news conference in Moscow. Mr. Todashev suggested the photos raised questions about how the Federal Bureau of Investigation treated Ibragim during the interrogation over his son's relations with Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the prime suspect in the April 15 bombings at the Boston Marathon.

"When you look at these photographs, it's like what you see in the movies," Mr. Todashev said. He said the killing looked like the work of bandits. The photos appear to show that Mr. Todashev was shot in the chest, and other wounds seem to indicate he was injured in the head and one arm. A Russian website later posted the photographs.

The FBI declined to comment.

The photos were taken at a Florida funeral home by a friend of Mr. Todashev, Khusen Taramov. He said he took the photos while the body was being washed in accordance with Muslim tradition. A person familiar with the situation said the photos appear to accurately depict the body.

Mr. Todashev's body now is in an undisclosed location while the family awaits permission to transport it to Russia, according to one of the funeral homes where the body was taken. His friend, Mr. Taramov, said the paperwork is almost completed.

Sheri Blanton, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office for Orange and Osceola counties, said it typically takes two to three months for a finalized autopsy report, and that no preliminary findings were available.

Ibragim Todashev became acquainted with Mr. Tsarnaev after moving to the Boston area from Russia in 2008. Both young men were of Chechen background and attended the same gym, according to mutual acquaintances.

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings, which left three dead, FBI agents repeatedly interrogated Ibragim, who had since moved to Florida. The final interrogation, which took place at Ibragim's Orlando-area home, ended in bloodshed: Ibragim was fatally shot May 22 after initiating what the FBI described as a "violent confrontation" with a special agent.

Initially, U.S. law-enforcement officials said Ibragim lunged at the agent with a knife or another cutting instrument. But this week, a U.S. law-enforcement official said Ibragim was unarmed and suggested that the agent might have been cut by a piece of furniture in the scuffle.

Ibragim's father and his wife, Reni Manukyan, both said Ibragim was innocent and had been cooperating with multiple inquiries from U.S. authorities.

After Ibragim's death, U.S. officials said he had made statements during an interrogation that incriminated him and Mr. Tsarnaev in an unsolved 2011 triple homicide in Waltham, Mass. Ibragim's friends and relatives have

denied that claim and pointed out Ibragim no longer can defend himself.

The Florida chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations called for an independent investigation into the shooting by the U.S. Department of Justice. The FBI said it was conducting its own internal probe.

Devlin Barrett contributed to this article.

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Number of Lines: 83
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Source: US Newspapers
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May 25, 2013 Saturday

SECTION: NEWS; Metro; Pg. A,1,3

LENGTH: 1013 words

HEADLINE: Waltham victim's girlfriend adds voice to mystery;
Says Tsarnaev frequented apartment

BYLINE: By Bob Hohler, Globe Staff

BODY:

The girlfriend of one of three men brutally killed in a Waltham apartment in 2011 said Friday that she told police soon after the slayings that Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev had been a frequent visitor to the apartment. She is the first to assert that police investigating the killings were aware that Tsarnaev, who previously had been questioned by the FBI for possible terrorist connections, had ties to the victims.

Waltham police and Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan have declined to comment on the homicide investigation, which appeared stalled until friends and relatives of Brendan H. Mess reported last month a possible link to Tsarnaev after his picture was released as a suspect in the bombings. Ryan declined to comment again last night.

The woman also said her boyfriend, Mess, kept a handgun in the apartment before the slayings and that police told her after the bodies were discovered that the firearm was missing. Friends of the victims had previously said they feared a gun stolen from the apartment had been used to kill MIT police Officer Sean Collier late on the night of April 18 and wound other officers shortly afterward in the shoot-out with police in Watertown.

The woman asked that her name not be used in this report for fear of retribution, although she was named in a previous Globe article.

Authorities have been looking at Tsarnaev in connection with the triple homicide, along with Ibragim Todashev, who was fatally shot this week by an FBI agent after he allegedly attacked the agent with a blade during an interview in Orlando, Fla.

It was Mess's girlfriend who discovered the bodies of the three men in the Waltham apartment on the morning after they were slain on Sept. 11, 2011.

She said she found the victims -- Mess, 25; Erik H. Weissman, 31; and Raphael M. Teken, 37 -- in separate rooms, their throats slashed, their bodies covered with marijuana.

The woman said she did not describe Tsarnaev to police as a suspect in the triple homicide but rather identified him as one of many visitors to the apartment. Police did not ask her about Tsarnaev after she gave them his name, she said.

"But if they questioned everyone whose fingerprints were in the apartment, I'm sure Tam's fingerprints had to be there," she told the Globe in a phone interview Friday.

The woman said Tsarnaev, who was born and lived his early years in former Soviet republics, had told Mess in the weeks before the killings that the FBI had placed him on a terrorist watch list.

"Brendan said, 'The FBI is watching him; they think he's a terrorist,'" the woman recalled. "We laughed about it. We never took it seriously."

Federal authorities have said that the FBI interviewed Tsarnaev in 2011 at the request of the Russian government.

Mess's girlfriend said she knew with certainty that he kept a handgun in the apartment. Another friend said earlier this week that Mess had been badly beaten by his marijuana supplier years earlier when he was short on his

payment and then familiarized himself with firearms.

Mess and his girlfriend shared the apartment with Weissman, who was struggling financially after Boston police had seized a large amount of cash and drugs in a raid on his Roslindale apartment.

"They were pretty peaceful people, but I know Brendan had one gun," his girlfriend said. "I think it was for protection. I don't understand why he couldn't have used it" during the deadly assault.

The woman said she never understood what the motive for the killings could have been, other than perhaps a robbery. Although about \$5,000 remained in the apartment after the slayings, she said, she was aware that Mess and Weissman had a much larger amount of cash. She could not estimate how much.

She said Mess was such a close friend of Tsarnaev that he often asked her to cook only halal meat for Tsarnaev to honor his Muslim customs when he visited.

"I just can't believe Tam would back stab Brendan like that," she said. "It's so painful to me, because Brendan was so open and loving with Tam."

In the week before the slayings, she said, she had an intense quarrel with Mess. She said she went to Florida to visit a friend and "clear my head."

She was scheduled to return on the morning of Sept. 12, 2011, and expected Mess to pick her up at Logan International Airport. She said she called him at 7:30 the previous night.

"It was the last time I heard his voice," she said. "He said, 'I love you.' "

She said Mess, Weissman, and Teken planned to watch a football game on television, but when she called back later to say good night, no one answered. And when she called Mess the next morning, he did not answer.

When she finally reached the apartment and opened the door, she said she was shaken by the grisly scene. Lying in the entry room was Weissman's body. She discovered Teken's in the kitchen, then Mess's in the bedroom. Furniture throughout the apartment had been toppled, she said.

The woman took strong exception to friends of the victims who initially had considered her a suspect in the killings and reiterated their suspicions in Friday's Globe. The friends said, for instance, that she held radical Muslim beliefs and spoke with Tsarnaev of their distaste for American culture.

"To be honest, I am not a practicing Muslim," she said. "I don't pray much. I don't cover up. I drink. Tam would look at me and say, 'You're not doing the things Muslim women do.' To me, religion is about how you treat people."

Some other friends of the victims questioned why Mess's girlfriend, an African immigrant whose family lived in a mid-Atlantic state, left the Boston area a week after the slayings.

"After what happened, I was completely shocked and traumatized," she said Friday. "I needed to be with my family."

She said she suffers symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, which have been exacerbated by the suspicions about her.

"It really hurt my feelings that anyone thought I could be involved in something like this," she said. "I am completely confident in my innocence. I'm a victim in this, too."

Bob Hohler can be reached at hohler@globe.com

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