WHNT

Attorneys: UAH Ignored Behavior, Threats From Mass Shooting Suspect

Suit Alleges University Provost Asked For Personal Protection, Suspect's Husband Also Named

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Attorneys for two deceased victims in the UA-Huntsville shootings say the university ignored ample evidence that the suspect was on the brink of turning violent.

The claims were made in a new filing obtained by WHNT News 19, which are part of an ongoing civil lawsuit against Dr. Amy Bishop and UA-Huntsville. Bishop is facing capitol murder charges after she allegedly gunned down three colleagues and wounded three others.

Huntsville attorney Allen Brinkley is representing family members of Dr. Adriel Johnson and Dr. Maria Ragland Davis, two of the three professors who were killed in the horrific mass shooting in February 2010. Brinkley said the new revelations on Bishop's alleged behavior paint a stunning picture of red flags and stop signs that were ignored by university administrators.

The 28 page claim was added to a lawsuit originally filed in January, and alleges that university Provost Dr. Vistap Kharbari locked himself inside his office after learning Bishop was coming there to speak to him after her tenure application was denied.

"We expect the truth will come out," said Brinkley. "Amy Bishop was on her way to visit him [Kharbari], and he immediately called armed security and had his office ringed with armed security. That's our understanding of the facts."

Attorneys did not specify when the alleged incident happened, and only said it occurred in the weeks leading up to the shooting. The claim also alleges that Bishop harassed other university leaders and colleagues during that time, with visible outbursts of anger and other inappropriate behavior. It also lists Bishop's husband James Anderson as a defendant, and accuses Anderson of ignoring his wife's troubling hehavior.

"He got her the gun," said Brinkley. "He too knew of her dangerous propensities, and he more than anybody."

James Anderson declined to be interviewed on camera. Officials at UA-Huntsville also turned down our request for an interview, but said the civil case was without merit.