

Public to see report on cop torture allegations

Probe will include names of cops, others who would not testify

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Staff Reporters

A four-year investigation of torture allegations against a Chicago Police unit will be made public — including the names of officers and prosecutors who refused to testify before the grand jury.

Cook County Criminal Court Presiding Judge Paul Biebel ruled Friday that the public interest in clearing the air about decades-old allegations of torture and cover-ups outweighs the traditional expectations of privacy in grand jury proceedings.

"The release of the report will address the issues which have led to

rumor and speculation which have spread unimpeded over the fabric of the Cook County criminal justice system for more than 30 years," Biebel said.

Former Police Cmdr. Jon Burge and offi-



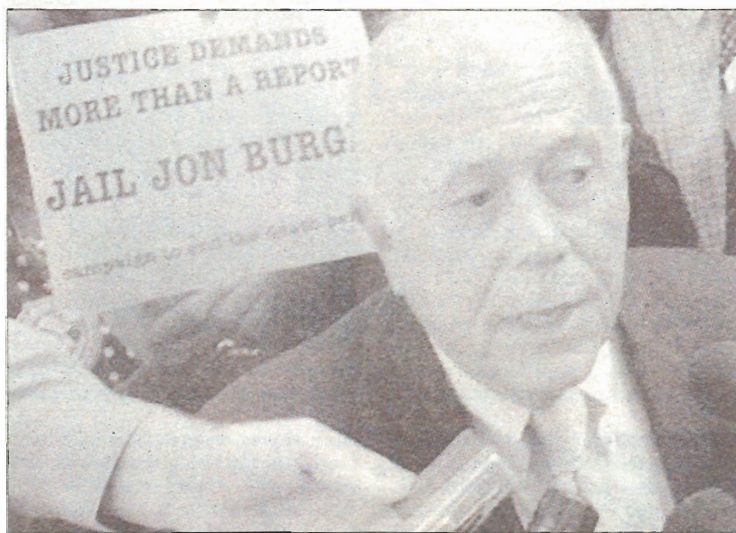
Jon Burge
Ex-commander

cers under him at Area 2 are accused of torturing confessions out of suspects in the 1970s and 1980s.

It will be at least two weeks before the report is finished and released.

Cook County taxpayers have spent more than \$7 million over the past four years for retired Appellate Justice Edward Egan, his deputy Robert Boyle, and other attorneys they have hired to compile the report. Chicago taxpayers have spent \$10 million so far on lawyers for police officers and others who were arguing to keep the report secret.

Part of the reason Biebel decided to make the report public is some officers have granted interviews offering their side of the story. Biebel noted that former Police Lt. Peter Dignan granted the Sun-Times an interview in 2001 giving his account



Joseph Roddy, an attorney for some of the officers and prosecutors, said Friday that he hopes the release of the report doesn't result in "vigilante justice" against his clients. —BRIAN JACKSON/SUN-TIMES

U.N. wants abuse probe to go further

GENEVA — A four-year investigation into allegations of torture at the Chicago Police Department needs to go further, a U.N. anti-torture panel said Friday, calling on the United States to ensure punishment for law enforcement officials who mistreat suspects.

A report by the U.N. Com-

mittee Against Torture says the United States "should promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigate all allegations of acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by law enforcement personnel and bring perpetrators to justice."

AP

of what happened in Area 2.

Attorneys for the allegedly tortured men — some of whom have had their convictions overturned — praised the decision to make the report public but said they hope that is not the end of it.

"I hope it's not just a stack of paper we receive for \$7 million — I hope someone gets indicted," said attorney Jon Loevy. Loevy said he hopes the report could be turned over to federal prosecutors to give them a "game plan to pick up the ball and run with it."

'Vigilante justice'

On the other side, attorneys for the accused officers and former

prosecutors who asked Biebel not to release the report said Friday they may consider asking the state Supreme Court to block the release.

Against a backdrop of anti-Burge protesters, attorney Joseph Roddy said he hopes the report's release does not result in "vigilante justice" against his clients.

One former prosecutor, however, won the right to keep his grand jury testimony secret. The prosecutor, who left the office in 1982 and is known as "John Doe," had his request to block the report's release referred to another judge because he apparently has an acquaintance with Biebel.