NATION 12 CHICAGO TRIBUNE SECTION 1 ★ ★ THURSDAY JULY 25, 2002

## NEW YORK

Sharpton suit against HBO alleges libel

NEW YORK — Al Sharpton filed a \$1 billion libel lawsuit Wednesday against the HBO cable TV network for airing an FBI videotape of him being approached about a cocaine deal.

The lawsuit alleges "defamation, libel and slander," and demands \$500 million in compensatory and \$500 million in punitive damages from HBO Inc., HBO Real Sports, AOL-Time warner Inc., reporter Bernard Goldberg and ex-mob captain Michael Franzese.

Sharpton, who has said he is exploring a possible presidential run in 2004, maintains there is another tape that shows him telling the FBI he wants nothing to do with drugs.

An HBO spokesman called the lawsuit "unworthy of comment."