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LOCAL NEWS



Burcombe denies murder

Monday 02 June 2008 18:11

Relatives of two teenagers killed in County Armagh attend court

Relatives of Tandragee murder victims Andrew Robb and David McIlwaine have heard for the first time, the gruesome details of their horrific killings eight years ago.

Afterwards the families attacked the dropping of murder charges against a man who's turned supergrass.

Andrew Robb's father and David McIlwaine`s mother were in court for the first time today as details emerged of what happened to the two Portadown teenagers who were brutally murdered on a country road outside Tandragee in February 2000.

The revelations came at a pre-sentence hearing for 27-year-old Mark Burcombe from the Ballynahinch Road in Lisburn who's pleaded guilty to conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm to Mr Robb.

Murder charges against him were dropped after he agreed to give supergrass evidence against his co-accused Stephen Brown, also known as Stephen Revels.

A prosecution lawyer said what sparked the murders were dismissive comments which Mr Robb made in a house about the LVF murder of loyalist feud victim and UVF leader Richard Jameson.

In a 43 page statement Burcombe named the killers as Brown and Noel Dillon, who has since killed himself.

He said he didn't believe the intention had been to murder McIlwaine. But after killing Robb the men murdered him because it was in his words easy to do.

Burcombe told police he wished he had been killed that day. He said the families were wrong to believe he was receiving a financial reward and after his release from jail into a witness protection scheme. He said he would be looking over his shoulder for the rest of his life.

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On his way from court the victims families shouted for Burcombe to tell the truth, feeling he hadn't told the whole truth about his involvement.

He will be sentenced at a later date.



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