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NEWS

4 comments FRIDAY 18/04/2008 17:40:52

### Families protest at 'supergrass' deal

Tandragee murder victims outside Tandragee eight years ago have

protested in court after it was revealed that one of the alleged killers has done a deal to turn supergrass.

The victims` families are to seek a judicial review.

Relatives of Andrew Robb and David McIlwaine were upbeat as they arrived for today's hearing.

But they left angry and upset after hearing details of the Crown's decision to accept an offer by one of the accused Mark Burcombe to give evidence against his co-accused Steven Brown.

The first indication that Burcombe had made the offer was welcomed in



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February by the relatives of the murder victims who were killed by loyalists outside Tandragee eight years ago.

The relatives hoped Burcombe would give evidence against other people involved in the murder.

But the families say they have been told today that Burcombe is only testifying against Brown.

Crown lawyer Donna McColgan said a formal witness statement would be taken from Burcombe within the next two weeks at what she called a covert location.

After that she said a new charge would be added to Burcombe`s indictment.

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The victims` families say the new charge is one of causing grievous bodily harm. Today`s development led to a courtroom protest from the families.

The victims` families say they have instructed lawyers to seek a judicial review of the prosecution`s decision.

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#### 4 comment(s)

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On 18 Apr at 15:26 - concerned from portadown said:

There should be no deal with this person without the consent of the young lads relatives.

On 18 Apr at 17:18 - Concerned from Derry said:

In some circumstances offering someone a deal would be seen as reasonable and although you could have asked for the families permission i doubt they would have given the go ahead for the simple reason, the male/female is as such escaping a mandatory sentence for giving police information. Therefore getting of scotfree for the murder of these people. Strange way on how the justice system works.

On 18 Apr at 20:22 - Andrew's Aunt from Portadown said:

#### On 19 Apr at 20:37 - Colin from South Down said:

There should be no deal unless he implicates all those terrorists involved and they all serve the maximum time. If they had any heart or brain they would give themselves up. Families protest at 'supergrass' deal - local & national news - UTV Northern Ireland

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