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## Local & National

### Was Donaldson's murder a botched kidnap bid?

Monday, April 02, 2007

By Lesley-Anne Henry

Garda officials refused to comment on claims that senior Sinn Fein member and British spy Denis Donaldson was murdered after an abduction attempt went wrong.

Gardai are understood to be working on the theory that the former MI5 and RUC agent was accidentally shot dead during a scuffle with an IRA gang sent to kidnap him.

However, last night a Garda Siochana spokesman said: "We cannot comment on individual investigations. All I can say is that the matter is still under investigation."

Gardai are said to be looking into claims the gunmen, thought to be from Londonderry, were sent to interrogate Donaldson about his work for the British - but were warned not to kill him.

It has been suggested that the gang lost control of the situation and fired four shots, hitting Donaldson in the chest and face and killing him on April 4 last year.

Two of the shots were thought to be fired from a shotgun situated near the door frame as Donaldson attempted to barricade himself into his cottage.

When they entered the abode, the killers appear to have chased him, then fired two more cartridges, hitting his chest and face and severing his right hand.

The gang then fled from the scene, leaving two spent cartridges behind.

Donaldson's death sent shock waves through the peace process and left Sinn Fein reeling. Some members called into question Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams' judgment after he promoted Donaldson to a senior position within the party.

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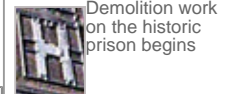
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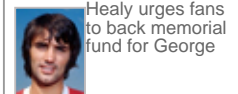
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