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O'Loan facing new demands over loyalist murder of teenagers

North Belfast News

By Ciaran Barnes

02/02/2007

Nuala O'Loan is facing new demands to reveal whether North Belfast UVF informer Mark Haddock was involved in the horrific murder of two teenagers in Co Armagh.

Ann Robb will meet with Police Ombudsman on February 14 in a bid to find out details of her confidential dossier on police collusion with UVF killers. Ms Robb's son, Andrew, and his friend David McIlwaine had their throats cut by a UVF gang seven years ago.

Even though detectives assured Mrs Robb that Haddock was never questioned during the double murder investigation she believes he was interviewed.

She said: "If Haddock was questioned then why are police telling us he was never arrested, or never a suspect."

Two men, Mark Burcombe and Steven Brown, are due to go on trial later this year charged with the murders.

The victims' bodies were dumped by a country roadside at the height of a paramilitary feud between the UVF and the LVF

The knife attack was so ferocious that they were almost decapitated. Mrs O'Loan's damning public report into collusion between the UVF's Mount Vernon unit in north Belfast and their RUC Special Branch handlers revealed how Haddock was a paid and protected agent while his gang carried out up to 16 murders.

But it is the secret dossier, including the names of all those involved and sent to Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde and Secretary of State Peter Hain, which Mrs Robb wants access to.

Despite police denials she insists Haddock is heavily linked to her son's killing.

"He was at a function in Tandragee Orange Hall that night, not far from the murder scene," she said.

"He was involved in the murder of Andrew, there can be no doubt about it."

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