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## McCord awaits report

North Belfast News

By Ciarán Barnes

01/12/2007

A Police Ombudsman report into the murder of a North Belfast man by the UVF will be "dynamite", the victim's father has predicted.

Investigators from Nuala O'Loan's office will publish their findings on the 1997 killing of Raymond McCord Jnr and collusion between the Special Branch and Mount Vernon UVF on January 22.

The report, which Secretary of State Peter Hain has admitted will be "difficult", will detail how detectives covered up murders by their UVF informants in return for them providing information on the organisation. Between 1993 and 2000 the Mount Vernon UVF carried out more than a dozen murders. Informants played a role in the deaths of at least eight victims, yet no one was charged.

Raymond McCord Snr, the grieving parent whose campaign for justice sparked the Police Ombudsman probe, said it will show the full extent of UVF and police collusion.

"This report will be even bigger than the Stevens Inquiry into the Pat Finucane murder," he said.

"It will show in detail how Special Branch gave their UVF touts a licence to kill. I expect charges to be brought against UVF men and Special Branch handlers who feature in the report. The wheels are starting to fall off the organisation."

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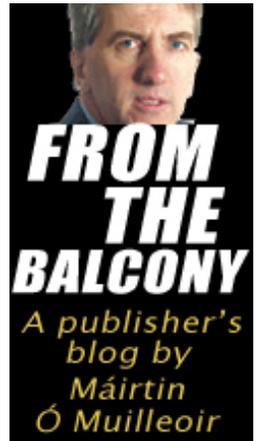
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