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Former driver to Sinn Fein MLA questioned over Quinn murder

By Andrea McKernon

24/11/08

A former driver to Stormont minister Conor Murphy was arrested by gardai in connection with the south

Armagh murder of Paul Quinn, it has emerged.

Padraig 'Paudie' Treanor (21) from Co Armagh was arrested in Castleblayney, Co Monaghan, the weekend before last and questioned for two days before being released on Tuesday last week.

Mr Treanor, a tyre dealer from Cullaville, had worked as the Sinn Fein MLA's driver before Mr Murphy's ministerial appointment earlier this

year.

He was the 14th person to be questioned and released in relation to the October 2007 murder.

He was one of a pool employed to drive members of Sinn Fein. The party had refused to use the official ministerial pool that is drawn from the ranks of former police officers and employed its own.

Mr Quinn was savagely beaten to death by a gang who lured him to a cowshed in Castleblayney, Co Monaghan, in October last year.

Immediately after his death, the victim's family accused the IRA in the area of involvement in the killing and have repeatedly challenged Mr Murphy over claims that the south Armagh man died as the result of a criminal feud in the area.

The dead man's parents say he was killed because he had defied an IRA expulsion order to leave south Armagh.

Mr Murphy and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams have insisted republicans were not involved.

The Independent Monitoring Commission said earlier this year that it believed former IRA members or associates had been among the gang who carried out the brutal attack on Mr Quinn but said it could find no evidence that the IRA had ordered the killing.

Responding to the report at the time, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness said: "There is a duty and responsibility on everybody within

society, including the republican/nationalist community in south Armagh, to cooperate with the gardai and the PSNI to ensure that these criminals are brought to justice."

The Northern Ireland affairs committee at Westminster last month met the Quinn family and spoke to his parents Stephen and Briega.

The committee said it shared the "widespread concern" that no-one has been charged with the murder.

Several people have denied involvement in Mr Quinn's murder after they were named or attacked.

Supporters of the Quinn family have condemned a number of such incidents as well as the naming by Lord

Laird of Vincent Treanor (no relation) through parliamentary privilege in the House of Lords.


Mr Treanor (58) said his life had been put in danger by the allegations.

Last night the Quinn family campaigner, Jim McAllister, challenged Mr Murphy about his claims on a criminal gang involved in the killing.

“Conor Murphy has never come forward with a scrap of evidence who this gang might be,” he said.

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