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## Family of UDA victim 'have lost faith in system'

(Allison Morris, [Irish News](#))

The mother of a 21-year-old man murdered during a loyalist feud has said her family has lost faith in the justice system. Loyalist William 'Mo' Courtney (43) walked free from Belfast Crown Court on Thursday after Mr Justice McLaughlin ruled he had no case to answer on a charge of murdering Alan 'Bucky' McCullough.

The prosecution will now apply to the Court of Appeal in a bid to have the ruling overturned.

Alan McCullough's mother Barbara said the family were devastated by the ruling but lived in the hope that leave to appeal the verdict would be granted.

Alan McCullough, a father-of-one, pictured, had fled Northern Ireland with members of Johnny Adair's 'C company' in the aftermath of the murder of rival loyalist 'brigadier' John 'Grugg' Gregg in 2003.

He returned home to the Shankill area of Belfast after his family sought assurances from the leadership of the UDA that he would be safe.

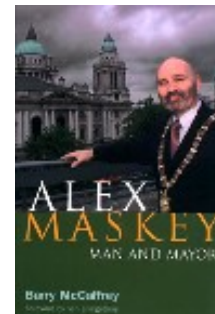
He was last seen leaving his mother's Denmark Street home on May 28 2003 in the company of two senior loyalists.

His remains were discovered eight days later by a member of the public in a shallow grave on the outskirts of north Belfast. He had been shot in the head.

The murdered man's father, UDA leader William McCullough, was shot dead by the INLA in 1981.

Speaking from her Denmark Street home yesterday (Friday) Barbara McCullough said she was struggling to come to terms with the outcome of the murder trial.

"You have to ask yourself is there any justice in the world at all, but we just have to keep going and keep on hoping," she said.



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by Barry McCaffrey

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"As a mother Alan never caused me any bother. He was the baby of our house and the older ones always looked out for him.

"Thing is, he grew up listening to stories about his father. They bring young lads into these organisations and then get rid of them when they are no use to them any more.

"He got caught up in the feud and was forced to leave home but he didn't belong in England and missed his family and his wee girl.

"Alan's death was just like history repeating itself after the murder of his father.

"We always said we didn't want any retaliation, all we wanted was justice.

"This was all supposed to be over by Christmas now we face the new year no better off than we were with the possibility of another trial head of us."

Mrs McCullough said that she was grateful her son's body was discovered so she could give him a proper burial.

His body was found by a member of the public who recalled seeing suspicious activity in a rural area on the outskirts of north Belfast after reading an appeal for information in *The Irish News*.

Mrs McCullough said her sympathies were with the families of the disappeared, including Vera McVeigh whose son Columba (17) was murdered in 1975. Mrs McVeigh was pictured this week meeting DUP leader Ian Paisley.

"We were lucky to get Alan back to bury him. It was no thanks to the people who killed him for they had no intention of telling anyone.

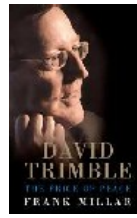
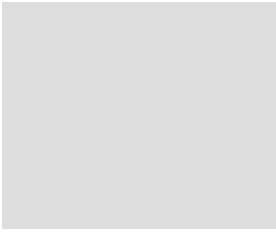
December 4, 2006

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This article appeared first in the December 2, 2006 edition of the [Irish News](#).

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