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News

'Please do not kill me'

David begged for his life but gang of UVF touts still butchered him...

Sunday, May 27, 2007

By Stephen Breen

The father of a loyalist murder victim has been told for the first time how his son pleaded for his life moments before he was butchered by the UVF.

Campaigning father Paul McIlwaine - whose boy David and friend Andrew Robb were murdered by a gang of loyalist informers in 2000 - told Sunday Life that he was left "distressed" after attending a court hearing last week.

Mr McIlwaine was in Belfast Crown Court as lawyers acting for the men accused of the grisly murders - Steven Brown and Mark Birkham - attempted to have the case against them dismissed.

Although the crusading father welcomed the court's decision to proceed with the trial, he spoke of his shock when extracts from a witness statement were read out in court.

He said: "Parts of one statement made to the police were detailed in court and this is something I wasn't ready for.

"This witness claimed they were told by one of his alleged killers that my son begged for his life before they killed him. This is the first time I ever heard this.

"We were also told in court that my son almost got away from the gang, and this is what has been going on in my mind.

"I had to tell my family what was said in court and they were also very distressed."

He added: "The court appearance was very difficult because I have had the image of my son's last moments in my mind for the last seven years.

"I'm pleased the court case is going ahead but I know how difficult it will be for my family to listen to the awful death my son suffered at the hands of UVF butchers."

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