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## Local & National

### Special Branch facing second collusion probe

Thursday, January 25, 2007

By David Gordon

Special Branch is facing a second Police Ombudsman investigation into officers' collusion with UVF killer Mark Haddock.

The follow-up probe is centring on suspected links between Haddock and two UVF murder bids on a north Belfast man in the 1990s.

The targeted man - John Flynn, from the Bawnmore estate - is referred to as Victim Six in the report published by Nuala O'Loan this week.

It stated that the victim grappled with an attacker who tried to shoot him in 1992. He gave police a description of the gunman and the photomontage resembled "Informant One" - Haddock.

It is "clear" that Haddock was a "potential suspect" in the case but he was not arrested, the report said.

Five years later, close UVF associates of Haddock were arrested for placing a bomb under Victim Six's car.

"Informant One was not arrested for this second murder attempt, although briefing notes viewed at Forensic Science Northern Ireland state he was in the area at the time," the Ombudsman stated.

Mr Flynn has alleged that police investigations into attempts to kill him were stymied to protect informers.

A probe into his complaint by Mrs O'Loan's office is still ongoing.

Mr Flynn had no comment to make when contacted by the Belfast Telegraph.

Meanwhile, an ex-Special Branch chief has hit back at allegations that officers refused to co-operate with Mrs O'Loan.

After the identities of three former top officers - Chris Albiston, Raymond White and Freddy Hall - at the centre of the row were revealed, they claimed Mrs O'Loan kept them in the dark about her dossier.

Mr Albiston, a retired Assistant Chief Constable, writing in today's Belfast Telegraph, insisted that the Ombudsman's report failed to take into account the number of lives saved by the intelligence gathering operation.

And Larne's Mayor, Councillor Danny O'Connor, has hit out at the allegation that Haddock extended his drugs empire into the town with the knowledge of some Special Branch handlers.

Further reports: pages 4 and 7; Albiston hits back: page 17

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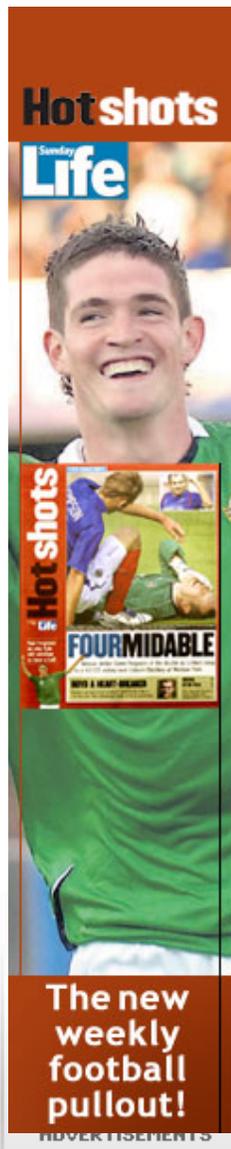


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