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## HET to investigate informer link to McCausland murder

North Belfast News

By Ciarán Barnes

03/09/2007

The PSNI's Historical Enquiries Team (HET) is investigating the role of informants in the murder of a Shankill Road woman 20 years ago. Lorraine McCausland was beaten to death outside a Tyndale drinking club in the Ballysillan area in 1987.

Initially it was thought she was killed in revenge for the role of her brother-in-law, Noel McCausland, in the murder of Mark Rosborough – a close friend of UDA leader Johnny Adair.

Ms McCausland was murdered a week before her relative received a life sentence for the killing.

However, it has now emerged she was attacked after getting into a row with UDA men in the club.

Two decades later Lorraine's only son, 19-year-old Craig McCausland, was murdered by the UVF during the 2005 loyalist feud.

After coming under pressure from the McCausland family the HET is now probing the North Belfast woman's brutal death.

And one of the key aspects of the investigation is that she was beaten to death by police informants.

Last month respected human rights organisation, British Irish Rights Watch (BIRW), accompanied the McCausland family to a meeting with HET detectives.

The group's director, Jane Winter, said there is strong evidence linking UDA informants to the murder.

"The evidence certainly suggests informants were involved and that is what we have asked the HET to investigate," said Ms Winter.

"We don't think Lorraine's killers set out that night to murder her. The killing arose out of an altercation in the club and Lorraine ended up dead. She had no idea that she would be murdered."

The BIRW chief said she fears the role of UDA informants in the murder was covered up by their police handlers.

"Our biggest fear is that there was a cover-up by police to protect informants," she added.

The North Belfast News understands that at least one of the UDA informants involved in the murder of Ms McCausland is now living in England.

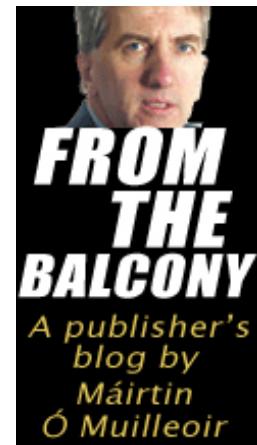
He is understood to have fled Belfast during the 2003 UDA feud.

Four months before the McCausland murder the body of Ballysillan man Robert Coggles was found outside the Tyndale drinking club. He died from

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