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Ex-RUC agent contacts families to deny any part in pub murders

(Barry McCaffrey, [Irish News](#))

A self-confessed RUC informer implicated in one of the worst atrocities of the Troubles has been in contact with the victims' families to protest his innocence, *The Irish News* has learned.

Former RUC agent Terry Fairfield last night (Friday) confirmed that he had contacted the families of six Catholic men shot dead when a UVF gang burst into the Heights Bar in the Co Down village of Loughinisland on June 18 1994.

Last year Fairfield admitted that he had owned the Triumph Acclaim used in the murders.

However, he denied any part in the murders insisting that he had sold the car before the attack.

Fairfield, a Catholic from the New Lodge in north Belfast, first infiltrated the UVF on the Mount Vernon estate after befriending Mark Haddock, one of its leaders.

Their friendship was so strong that Haddock was godfather to Fairfield's daughter.

However, Fairfield was forced to flee Northern Ireland in July 1997 after the UVF discovered he was working as a police informer.

When Haddock went on the run from police in 2003 following the attempted murder of a Newtownabbey barman he sought refuge with Fairfield in Britain.

Earlier this year Haddock was confirmed as having been a Special Branch agent who had been protected from prosecution despite involvement in up to 16 murders.

But speaking from his hiding place in Britain last night Fairfield revealed the PSNI had informed him in recent days that the UVF was planning to kill him.

Following that warning he decided to contact solicitors representing the Loughinisland families on Thursday.

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"I contacted the Loughinisland families after the PSNI told me that my life was in danger because if something happens to me I wanted them to know I had nothing to do with the murder of their loved ones," he said.

He said the PSNI told him to take the threat against his life very seriously. However Fairfield insists he is being "set up" for Loughinisland.

"I did own that car but it was sold it on to a third party before the attack," he said.

"I told that to the police at the time. I knew nothing about Loughinisland.

"I believe someone is trying to divert attention away from themselves by pointing the Loughinisland murders at me.

"I told the families I had nothing to do with the deaths of their loved ones."

However the Loughinisland families' solicitor Niall Murphy last night urged Fairfield to cooperate with a Police Ombudsman investigation into the murders.

"We believe this individual could have potentially vital information regarding the Loughinisland massacre and have advised him to cooperate with Mrs O'Loan's inquiry," he said.

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