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News

Collusion victims plan Belfast rally

Sunday, July 01, 2007

By Stephen Breen

The campaigning father of a loyalist murder victim is planning to stage a public rally for victims of collusion.

Raymond McCord - whose son Raymond jnr was butchered by a gang of UVF informers in 1997 - told Sunday Life that he had been asked by a number of victims' families to help organise the event in Belfast city centre.

Several messages were also left on the popular Slugger O'Toole website urging the north Belfast man to hold the rally.

Mr McCord believes the event would be well-attended from both sides of the community. He said it would help keep the issue of collusion in the public eye.

Said Mr McCord: "This is something I am currently considering and something which would include everyone who has lost loved-ones as a result of collusion.

"It would obviously take more than one person to organise a rally, but I am going to look into it and see what we can do.

"I'll be looking at a number of different avenues and speaking to different people to see if we could get the go-ahead for such events. The rally could be very important because it would enable ordinary citizens to hear first-hand accounts of how people were affected by collusion.

"This is an issue which is not going to go away and I will continue to keep fighting for all victims of state-sponsored murder."

The crusading father also called on fellow victims' campaigner Willie Frazer to display placards for Protestant victims of UVF violence during his group's planned march in Dublin.

"People need to realise that it wasn't just the Provos who were killing people in north Belfast - it was the UVF who were killing most of the innocent Protestants.

"I don't think Willie should have a problem with one of the banners because we are only trying to highlight how innocent people from his own community were murdered by people who were also working for the police.

"I would also like to see more politicians from the unionist community supporting us because it shouldn't be left to people like me to fight for the rights of innocent victims."

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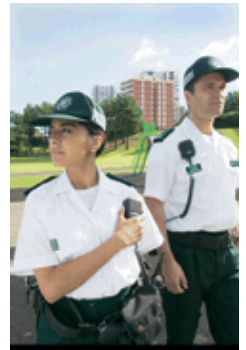
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