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News

Victims' families want answers from Orde

Sunday, February 11, 2007

By Stephen Breen

Campaigning relatives whose loved-ones were murdered by UVF serial killer Mark Haddock last night called for an urgent meeting with Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde.

Belfast-based solicitor Padraig O'Muirigh, who represents the families of murder victims Sharon McKenna, Gerald Brady, John Harbinson and Peter McTasney, has requested the meeting to discuss the findings of Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's report into the murder of Raymond McCord jnr.

Mr O'Muirigh has also requested meetings with Secretary of State Peter Hain, the Historical Enquiries Team and the Dublin government.

The grieving families, who met in Belfast last week, have vowed to step up their campaign for justice over the coming months.

The families also attended the Policing Board meeting last Wednesday in a bid to outline their concerns to local politicians.

Said Mr O'Muirigh: "The families have a number of concerns arising from the O'Loan report and they want to speak to Hugh Orde about them.

"They will also be raising concerns with the Policing Board and they want to know why it has taken so long for these findings to be revealed.

"It was the Police Ombudsman who uncovered the evidence about Mark Haddock's activities and the police still have important answers to address in relation to this issue.

"The families have requested a meeting, but they still haven't heard anything back from Hugh Orde. They have a right to the truth and a right to know if former officers who are now working for the HET will be investigating their loved-ones' cases."

Sharon McKenna's brother, Paul, who has already failed in a bid to secure a meeting with Sir Hugh Orde, urged the police boss to meet with victims' families.

He said: "We are still trying to get our head around this report, but it is clear that a lot of questions remain unanswered.

"The families have a number of considerations to make and we will be keeping our campaign going over the coming weeks.

"I just wanted to meet Hugh Orde to talk about the impact this murder has had on my family and I would hope that he gives us a small amount of his time.

"We have a number of concerns and it's important they are addressed sooner rather than later."

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