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News

McCord campaign to go stateside

Sunday, February 11, 2007

By Stephen Breen

The father of Raymond McCord jnr is taking his campaign for justice to the United States.

Sunday Life can reveal Raymond McCord, whose son was murdered on the orders of UVF serial-killer and Special Branch agent Mark Haddock, has been invited to visit the United States by a number of influential US senators.

These include prominent politician Hillary Clinton (below), who is the wife of former US President Bill Clinton.

The visit - organised in conjunction with the British-Irish Human Rights Watch - will allow the north Belfast man to speak about Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's investigation into his son's murder at a number of different US cities.

Mr McCord, who will be standing as a candidate in this year's Assembly election, has vowed to speak on behalf of all victims of paramilitary violence and collusion during his week-long stay.

The crusading dad hopes his campaign across the Atlantic will prompt the US authorities to call for a congressional hearing into collusion later this year.

Said Mr McCord: "I want to tell the American people and their politicians about the findings of Mrs O'Loan's report.

"They need to hear first hand accounts of the devastating impact collusion has had on the relatives of victims whose murders could have been prevented.

"I haven't stopped since the findings of the O'Loan report were made public and I will go anywhere in the world to let people know what went on in a democratic state.

"I don't know what politicians I will be meeting yet, but I am looking forward to the trip. The Americans have a big influence on the British Government and maybe they can put pressure on them to call for a full public and independent inquiry.

"I believe that there will be a congressional hearing into collusion and I will tell them everything that I have learnt in almost 10 years since my son's murder."

The crusading father has also vowed to reveal the names of other top informers inside the UVF, over the coming weeks.

Added Mr McCord: "I have been told by different sources that there are parts of Belfast I still can't go into.

"The threat against me remains in place and I would like to know why. The UVF leadership knows that I have been vindicated for what I have been saying all along.

"They are frightened that I am going to reveal names of more informers in the UVF and these are people who hold the highest positions in the group.

"They didn't frighten me in the past and they don't threaten me now. I will continue to fight for all victims."

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