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News

Cops deny bike tip-off after LVF murder

Sunday, May 13, 2007

By Stephen Breen

Cops last night denied they were told the identity of the owner of a bike used by an LVF gunman - just three days after he murdered an innocent Catholic.

Senior loyalist sources made the claim after police last month made a fresh appeal for information on the brutal killing of Adrian Lamph.

The 29-year-old was shot dead as he worked in the Fair Green area of Portadown on April 21, 1998.

Although cops urged anyone with information on the mountain bike to come forward, sources insist the RUC received a tip-off about the mountain bike's owner at the time of the murder

Said a top loyalist source: "The talk in the area was that police were told the owner of the bike within three days of the Lamph murder but didn't act on the information.

"The bike was apparently made up from the seat, handle bars and frame of three different bikes and everybody knew who owned it.

"Everybody is saying the owner of the bike made it look as if it had been stolen from Edenderry just two days before the Lamph killing.

"But after the killing it turned up at the owner's home, before it was later dumped in the River Bann.

"If the police did receive this information then people are asking why they didn't act on it. A lot of the LVF guys at the time were informers and maybe this has something to do with it."

But police rejected the rumours.

Said a PSNI spokesman: "We don't know anything about this, but we need the public's help in bringing these people before the courts.

"We as yet have not been able to identify the gunman. One woman was charged with and convicted of assisting offenders and is currently serving a jail sentence, but nine years on Mr Lamph's family still grieves and his killer is still free.

"Public assistance is vital to this investigation. We would like witnesses to come forward.

"Any cyclists who lived in the area or used that area at the time of Adrian Lamph's killing are being asked to contact police. Anyone who may have lost or had a bicycle stolen and not yet reported it to police should also make contact."

Terror granny Muriel Gibson was jailed for eight years for a string of offences including impeding the arrest and prosecution of the killers of Adrian Lamph, membership of the LVF, possessing firearms, detonators and pipe-bombs.

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