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McCord promises bombshell book

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Sunday, January 20, 2008

By Stephen Breen

An explosive book on one of the most controversial murders of the Troubles is set to be published later this year.

The book - Justice For Raymond - highlights campaigning dad Raymond McCord's 10-year fight to bring his son's killers to justice

The former RAF man, also called Raymond (right), was murdered in November, 1997 by the notorious Mount Vernon UVF unit.

Since then, the murder-victim's father has defied numerous death-threats to fight a high-profile campaign in a bid to see the killers and their Special Branch handlers in court.

Although the book concentrates on McCord's fight for justice, it will also:

- ? focus on the issue of collusion;
- ? highlight former Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's report into the murder, and;
- ? reveal the names of loyalist killers who were also police informers.

McCord believes his book will send "shockwaves" across Northern Ireland.

He said: "The book is now completed and it's just with the lawyers at the minute.

"It will only be a matter of a few months now before it's out.

"I think people will find the book quite revealing because it proves that collusion did take place between senior Special Branch officers and top UVF members.

"I think there will be a lot of worried people out there when the book comes out.

"Names will be mentioned in the book and all the issues surrounding Raymond's case in the last 10 years will be explored.

"But I have also highlighted other murders which the UVF in Mount Vernon were involved in and I genuinely think people will be shocked at the amount of collusion that went on during the Troubles."

It's also believed a film could be made after the publication of the book.

The book - co-written by leading Belfast investigative journalist John Cassidy - is due to be published by Gill & Macmillan in May.

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