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News

Two years on, after 70 searches, six arrests and 53 interviews, Lisa Dorrian's family still can't lay her to rest

Sunday, February 25, 2007

By Stephen Breen

The heartbroken family of murdered Bangor woman Lisa Dorrian last night told how they were still struggling to come to terms with their "terrible" loss.

But speaking just before the second anniversary of the Co Down woman's disappearance and murder, Lisa's sister Joanne vowed to step up the campaign for justice over the coming months.

Although detectives have undertaken 70 searches, made six arrests, conducted 53 interviews of suspects and identified and spoken to more than 3,500 people, no one has been charged with the 25-year-old's murder.

Police will use the second anniversary of Lisa's killing on Wednesday to make a fresh appeal for information.

Joanne, who has given her family's full-support to the police probe, can't believe it has been two years since her family's world fell apart.

Said Joanne: "I don't know how we have got through the last 24 months. We have just taken it day by day. People say it gets easier, but it doesn't.

"We are dreading my sister's anniversary, because it just brings home the horror of the situation our family was put into through no fault of our own, because of the terrible actions of very evil people.

"Our lives have become engulfed by this and we just want to bring Lisa home. I want people close to the killers to search their conscience and ask themselves how they would feel if was one of their brothers or sisters.

"If they could just step into our world for 10 seconds, they would see the devastation which has been caused to an innocent family. It must hurt these people knowing what they know.

"It may be two years since our sister was taken from us, but we are still pleading for people to be strong and come forward with the information that they know.

"These people didn't just destroy one life - they destroyed all our lives."

The Co Down woman also reminded people that a £30,000 reward was in place for information leading to the recovery of Lisa's body.

"The money is there for anyone who can tell us where Lisa is.

"My sister deserves a Christian burial.

"We know she is not coming back, but we should have a grave to go to so that we can pay our respects at times like Christmas and put wee things on it.

"We are fully supportive of the police and we remain confident that they will one day get the people who murdered my sister into court.

"We have devoted so much energy into finding my sister and we will continue to do so. We will never give up our campaign."

The top cop leading the hunt for Lisa's killers, Detective Chief Inspector Sean Wright, also used the anniversary to send a defiant message to Lisa's killers.

He said: "We will be doing a number of new things throughout the course of the year and will never give up in this investigation.

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"The people who have withheld information from us should be aware that we will come knocking on their doors down the line - now is the time for them to make a real difference.

"I am appealing directly to the people that killed Lisa and the people who know her killers to speak to us.

"It was a unique set of circumstances which led to Lisa's murder and if they arose again the community should remember what these people are capable of.

"I shouldn't be having this conversation now, but if I have to do it again, I will.

"We are here for the long haul."

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