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## News

### Victims of violence lend support to David's campaign for compensations

Sunday, July 29, 2007

By Stephen Breen

A young man left blinded after a gun-attack last night told how he has received massive support over his bitter row with the NIO.

Brave David Hanley - shot once in the head and five times in the stomach in 2005 - was contacted by victims of violence after we revealed how he faced "delay after delay" in his quest for compensation.

The Co Down man said he had received support from the survivor of a UDA murder bid, a rape victim and a man who was subjected to a vicious assault.

David, who believes his case should have been held before now, is set to meet with various victims of violence over the coming weeks.

His case is set to be heard in September, but he does not know if it will be delayed again.

David said he had been heartened by contacts from other victims.

"The response has been fantastic and I can't believe the people who have contacted me. They really have given me a great boost.

"These people have suffered terrible experiences and also faced delays over their own compensation claims.

"They have given me good advice about the red-tape surrounding claims for compensation and I can't thank them enough.

"I have been waiting a long time to get this matter resolved, but when people contact me it really does give me hope."

Some of the victims David is set to meet include Jason O'Halloran who was initially offered just £490 after surviving a UFF murder bid in 2002.

He was later offered £20,000 compensation, but the figure was reduced to £5,000 because of his convictions for motoring offences.

Jason told Sunday Life that he hopes his meeting with David will help highlight the problems victims of crime face encounter when seeking compensation.

Added Jason: "I think victims of violence should get something started here. We need to highlight the compensation issue together.

"I have already been speaking to David to offer him my support and I just hope that he gets a satisfactory result when the matter is finally heard.

"I was almost killed, but my injuries were nothing compared to David's. I will do all I can to help him get what he deserves."

David was riddled with bullets in a mistaken identity attack by a lone LVF gunman in north Belfast in July 2005.

He suffered severe internal injuries and has undergone a series of major operations since.

He spoke exclusively to Sunday Life last year in the hope his remarkable survival story could provide hope and inspiration to others.

? Anyone who would like to offer their support to David's campaign for compensation should ring (028) 9147 3345.

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