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Nuala O'Loan

FRIDAY
02/11/2007
18:57:50

Retired judge angry at Police Ombudsman's report

A retired magistrate whose daughter was murdered by the Irish Republican Army (IRA)

has told friends that a report into her killing by the Police Ombudsman in Northern Ireland is a whitewash.

In her last report before she leaves the post next week, Nuala O` Loan said she found no evidence of security collusion in Mary Travers` murder 23 years ago.

Mary Travers was shot dead as she left mass at a church at Derryvolgie Avenue in Belfast in April 1984.

Her father, Resident Magistrate Tom Travers, who was the IRA`s target, was critically injured.

A man identified by Mr Travers was cleared of the murder of his daughter.

In 2004, Tom Travers complained to Nuala O` Loan that the police investigation into the shooting was flawed and that the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) had colluded in the killing and protected the gunman ensuring he would escape conviction.

Mr Travers subsequently withdrew his co-operation but Mrs O` Loan said it was in the public interest to complete the investigation.

Today she said she found no evidence of collusion or that the police had any prior knowledge of the attack and that it could have been prevented.

She said she was satisfied that the man identified by Mr Travers was

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properly investigated by police and that she found no evidence that the RUC had colluded with the man to ensure he escaped conviction.

Mrs O`Loan has offered to personally deliver a copy of the report to Tom Travers and to go through her findings with him.

Mr Travers told friends the report is a whitewash and that Mrs O`Loan failed to address a number of salient points.

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DIRECTOR: Francois Girard

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