



TUESDAY  
04/03/2008  
11:52:48

### LVF inmates refused to help prison murder probe

Keys was a father of one

LVF prisoners refused to co-operate with the police investigation into the murder of one of their own men inside the Maze 10 years ago, it has been revealed.

David Keys, 26, was found strangled in a cell a fortnight after he and alleged associates were charged in connection with the double killings of two lifelong friends shot dead in a pub in Poyntzpass, Co. Armagh.

At a preliminary inquest hearing in Belfast today, the Coroner John Leckey said police had sought the cooperation of other inmates who were in the jail's LVF wing at the time.

He said: "They (the police) went to a lot of trouble, but got no co-operation at all.....some (prisoners) are now deceased themselves. It was a big task for the police to track them all down, but none of those remaining alive would co-operate."

Keys, a father of one from Highfield Gardens, Banbridge, was found hanging from a window frame in his H-Block Six cell in March 1998. His wrists were also slashed. A number of prisoners were questioned about the murder, but none was charged.

He had been held with 24 LVF prisoners including three charged with him in connection with the murders of Damien Trainor, a Catholic and Philip Allen, a Protestant, who died when gunmen opened fire on customers inside the Poyntzpass bar two weeks earlier.





Despite objections by Keys' father, Mr Leckey said a full inquest must take place and witnesses to be asked to attend the hearing would include Keys' partner, the pathologist who carried out the post mortem, a prison governor and a member of the prison staff who was present at the time the body was discovered.

Keys' father said he didn't care if it took another 30 years before the inquest was held. No-one from the prison service had contacted him since his son's death.

Relatives of Keys claimed they had been hounded by the press for years and would prefer that if there had to be a hearing, then it should be heard in private.

The date of the new hearing has been fixed for April 7.





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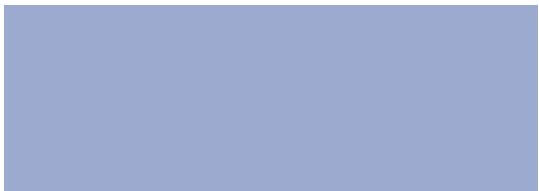
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**STARRING:** Andy Serkis, Reece Shearsmith, Jennifer Ellison

**DETAILS:** UK / TBC (16)

**RATING:** ★★☆☆☆

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