



Billy Wright

3 comments
 WEDNESDAY
 06/02/2008
 18:05:33

Robinson at Billy Wright inquiry

DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson has told the Billy Wright inquiry that the LVF leader had information that David Ervine warned John Major in 1996 that the loyalist paramilitary was causing difficulties and had to be "dealt with".

He was one of the most outspoken campaigners for an inquiry into Billy Wright`s murder and today Peter Robinson became its first high profile political witness.

Mr Robinson has for years demanded answers about how INLA gunmen were able to murder the LVF leader with such ease in the Maze Prison in December 1997.

Billy Wright`s father David who claims there was state collusion in the murder was in Banbridge court to listen to Peter Robinson.

Mr Robinson spent 75 minutes in the witness box. His evidence centred on two meetings he had with Billy Wright.

At the first in his constituency office in Belfast in the summer of 1996, Wright told him he feared loyalists were planning to kill him. At the second meeting at Maghaberry Prison, Wright said he believed republicans were plotting to murder him.

Mr Robinson said that the first meeting came in the wake of Drumcree 1996, when Wright was a prominent figure during the stand off.

He said Wright told him about his concerns about a meeting between loyalist politicians and the then British Prime Minister John Major in Downing Street.

Mr Robinson said one of the politicians had confided to Wright that David Ervine told Mr Major that the LVF leader was causing difficulties and needed to be - in his words - dealt with.

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Shortly afterwards, loyalist paramilitaries warned Wright to leave Northern Ireland or be killed.

Wright was later arrested and jailed for eight years for threatening to kill a woman in Portadown, County Armagh. Wright`s supporters have claimed he was framed to silence his opposition to the peace process.

Outside the court today Billy Wright`s father revealed his son had been planning to call John Major as a witness at an appeal.

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On 6 Feb at 22:38 - Paul from Toronto said:

This inquiry is a waste of tax payers money IMO

On 7 Feb at 01:53 - Andy from Co. Down said:

Its funny how Robinson had two meetings with Billy Wright in the late 1990's. On the other hand, he and the DUP would not meet with Sinn Fein because of their links to terror. Go figure!

On 7 Feb at 09:50 - Hugh from Ireland said:

I wonder if the honourable Mr. Robinson would've felt so duty-bound to look for the truth if the terrorist in question was involved in murdering Protestants, when you consider his party's lambasting of the Saville enquiry into the murder of 14 innocent Catholics?

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