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TUESDAY  
09/10/2007  
14:18:53

### Coroner in call over reports into NI deaths

The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has been formally asked to hand over two controversial

Coroner to examine killings

unpublished reports into alleged shoot to kill deaths more than 25 years ago.

They were some of the most controversial killings of the Troubles, so much so that 25 years after their deaths inquests have still not been held.

But today coroner John Leckey said he intended to go ahead with the inquests.

All killings raised allegations that the security forces at the time were operating a shoot to kill policy.

Irish Republican Army (IRA) men Eugene Toman, Gervaise McKerr and John Burns, were shot dead by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) near Lurgan, County Armagh, in 1982.

Michael Tighe was shot dead that year at a hay shed near Craigavon and suspected Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) men Roddy Carroll and Seamus Grew were shot dead near Armagh also in 1982.

In 1994, the inquests into their deaths were abandoned because the coroner John Leckey was not allowed access to the Stalker and Sampson reports, both unpublished reports into allegations of collusion and an alleged shoot to kill policy.

But in light of a recent High Court ruling the coroner today said he believed they should now be handed over.

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Mr Leckey asked the Chief Contable`s barrister if the reports would be made available to him and he was told Sir Hugh had not yet made up his mind and needed to take further legal advice.

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