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WEDNESDAY
10/10/2007
15:14:07

Inquest: RIRA killed Newry man

The Real IRA was responsible for the murder of an alleged drug dealer in a bar eight years ago, an inquest was told today.

Brendan "Speedy" Fegan was shot at least 14 times in the Hermitage Bar in Newry, Co Down, in May 1999 - three months after he survived being shot three times in Belfast.

No one has yet been charged with the killing and the murder of the 24-year-old has been passed to the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Retrospective Review Unit for re-examination.

In a statement read to the Newry inquest, Detective Sergeant Michael Hamilton said the killing had been subject only to a limited review and will be formally reviewed in 2010.

But he said: "It has been established the victim was murdered by the Real IRA as a result of his apparent drug dealing activities."

The inquest was told that Fegan, who came from Newry but had a home some miles away in Moira, had been officially warned by police that he was under threat in both December 1997 and March 1999.

His home was petrol-bombed in November 1998 and he was shot and injured in February 1999 before his murder in May of the same year.

A post mortem examination carried out hours after the killing showed that Mr Fegan had been shot nine times in the head and at least five times in the body.

The deputy state pathologist also found three bullets still lodged in Mr

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Fegan`s chest and arm from the gun attack three months before.

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RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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