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 MONDAY  
 13/08/2007  
 14:55:36

### Thomas Devlin's Mother Speaks Out

Thomas Devlin's mother

A grieving mother appealed directly to a Loyalist community in north Belfast today to 'shop' the child-killers who brutally stabbed her son to death.

On the second anniversary of the murder of 15-year-old Thomas Devlin as he walked home after buying sweets from a local shop, his mother urged those shielding the killers to do the decent thing and inform the police.

She spoke out as police launched a new poster campaign specifically directed at the Mount Vernon area depicting Thomas` parents holding a picture of their son and declaring: "If we knew who had murdered your child we`d call."

At the same time a senior police officer revealed new "potentially significant" forensic examinations were being carried out on a number of items.

In the past two years 12 people have been arrested and questioned, 77 searches mounted and more than 1000 statements taken.

But because of a wall of silence no one has been charged.

Speaking at a press conference in north Belfast Penny Holloway said the death of her son had left an enormous void in her family`s lives. "Part of us died that night.

The sadness we have felt since he was murdered will not go. Sometimes I cannot even bear to look at a photo of him."

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Two men are believed to have carried out the murder, one was leading a dog.

They walked up behind Thomas and two friends, stabbing him to death and injuring one of the others.

In a direct appeal to the people of Mount Vernon, Penny Holloway said: "These men returned to their homes in Mount Vernon and were met by people who assisted in the cleaning and disposal of their clothes.

"Those closest to the killers are giving them alibis in the full knowledge of the savage and unprovoked murder that these men carried out on a 15-year-old schoolboy - there are families protecting them.

"There are people in the Shore Road who have got information which would lead to their prosecution and conviction of Thomas` murder.

We have been waiting for two years for the people of their community to stand up against these vicious child-killers who continue to live amongst them."

Detective Chief Inspector Nick McCaw insisted the murder hunt was very much live. "The police are not going to give up on this.

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On 13 Aug at 16:31 - ger from belfast said:

Why would anyone stop this family getting justice?? This goes well beyond politics - these 'men' butchered a CHILD for no other reason than they thought he was a different religion. No civilised community would even want to know them nevermind protecting them.

On 13 Aug at 23:29 - SADIE from BELFAST said:

If the paramilitaries want to show this society that they are moving away from murder and criminality they must give up the scum behind this senseless murder to the PSNI and that includes the Lisa Dorrian saga !!!!

On 13 Aug at 23:50 - Colin from South Down said:

How can those sick satanic monsters that burtally murdered a child buying sweets be roaming the streets?

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Content provided by entertainment.ie

FILM: BRATZ: THE MOVIE

DIRECTOR: Sean McNamara.

STARRING: Logan Browning, Janel Parrish, Nathalia Ramos, Skyler Shaye.

DETAILS: US / 110 mins (G)

RATING: ★★★★★

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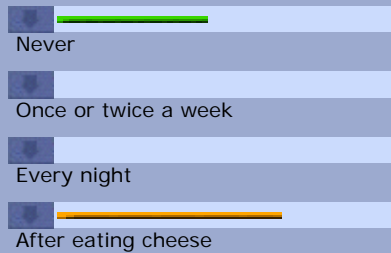
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