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Shaun Woodward

FRIDAY  
14/09/2007  
15:18:30

**Loyalist killer's release under review**

A challenge to the proposed release of a loyalist convicted of the double murder of Protestant and Catholic friends was being considered today

by Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward.

The Sentence Review Commission made a preliminary indication on September 7 that it may release Loyalist Volunteer Force member Stephen McClean who was serving a life sentence for the murders of Philip Allen, a Protestant and Damien Trainor, a Catholic in a pub in Poynztpass Co Armagh in March 1998.

However the Commission denied a bid for release by Noel McCready, the other LVF member who was jailed for the murders.

The proposal to release Mr McClean has been condemned by Damien Trainor`s father, Sean.

However a Prison Service spokesman today held open the possibility that the preliminary indication could be challenged by the Northern Ireland Secretary.

The murders of Damien Trainor and Philip Allen came just weeks before unionist and nationalist politicians forged the Good Friday Agreement.

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- 10:24 Petrol bomb attack in Antrim
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At the final session of the Stormont talks, former US Senator George Mitchell said the friendship of the two victims across the religious divide was a shining example of what Northern Ireland should be.

McClellan and McCready were originally due for early release in July 2000 under the Good Friday Agreement but were arrested while on temporary release following the beating of a man in a row over flags.

Although they were later cleared of all charges, they were kept in prison.

In July 2005 the House of Lords dismissed an appeal by McClellan.

Mr Trainor's father Sean told the Belfast-based Irish News today his son's killers should not qualify for early release.

"Those two innocent boys they murdered aren't coming back," he said.

"They should serve life for what they did. That's the way it should be.

"The heartache they have caused you couldn't describe."

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**DIRECTOR:** Quentin Tarantino.

**STARRING:** Kurt Russell, Rosario Dawson, Rose McGowan, Sydney Tamiia Poitier.

**DETAILS:** US / 113mins (18)

**RATING:** ★★★★★

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