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 MONDAY
 28/04/2008
 18:03:39

McCord to set up victims' group

Breakaway victims' group

The father of a man murdered by a police informant in Northern Ireland is to lead a breakaway victims' group.

Raymond McCord and five other relatives affected by the Northern Ireland conflict are to tackle intimidation on a cross-community basis.

His intervention followed weeks of delay in the establishment of an official Victims' Commission to address 35 years of violence.

He said: *"There is no group here in this country dealing properly with people being intimidated, particularly at interface areas."*

Mr McCord's son, Raymond Jnr, 22, was beaten to death in a north Belfast quarry in November 1997 by an Ulster Volunteer Force gang.

Mr McCord said the new Victims' Commission, which has been held up by divisions between Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and Sinn Fein at Stormont, was a sham and added that there should have been action a year ago.

"It seems to be that it is a carve-up between the two major political parties here."

"We are going to set up our own victims' group."

"We will help people the way they should be helped and not (through) a political agenda."

Members of Mr McCord's team would include Paul McIlwaine, whose son



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David, 18, and Andrew Robb, 19, were stabbed in Tandragee, Co Armagh, in 2000.

Others are north Belfast priest Fr Aidan Troy and Bernadette O`Rawe, whose nephew, Gerard Devlin, was fatally stabbed in Whitecliffe Parade in west Belfast in February 2006.

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On 28 Apr at 17:14 - Clare from Belfast said:

Cross community? Ha thats a joke. It seems to me, yet again, its all about so-called Loyalist and State Collusion. Theres other victims besides Nationalist victims and theres other collusionists too, PIRA, INLA, RIRA not forgetting of course the Irish Establishment. Cross community my left eye.

On 28 Apr at 18:38 - noel from manchester said:

Wel done Ray. Keep up the good work and never give up.

On 29 Apr at 09:13 - To Clare from Belfast from Claire from Belfast said:

It's people like you who keep the divisions in our community alive and kicking. There is no question that collusion happened on both sides of the political divide, at least this group are trying to do something instead of sitting around whinging that one side is getting more attention than the other. What we should ALL be worried about is that the RUC, our own 'security' force colluded with terrorists, of both persuasions, in the murder of innocent victims. Why does that not seem to startle people?

On 29 Apr at 09:33 - Subby to Claire from Belfast from Belfast said:

I agree with what you said but the PSNI, now the RUC is defunct, was fighting a life or death conflict and things get done that aren't pretty, but war isn't pretty. We should move on and put the past to bed, it's in the past and trawling up what happened isn't going to do anything or bring these dead people back again. Sadly it'll take a long time to deal with, if ever at all

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DIRECTOR: Morgan Spurlock.

STARRING: Morgan Spurlock.

DETAILS: US / 93mins (PG)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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