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Civil action continues

TUESDAY
29/04/2008
17:14:14

FBI 'blocked' Omagh trial testament

The High Court has heard that the FBI refused to let Real IRA infiltrator David Rupert testify at the Omagh bomb civil action following the

assassination of a top republican unmasked as a British spy.

Jason McHugh -the London-based solicitor for the families of victims suing five men over the atrocity which claimed 29 lives- went into the witness box to disclose how Denis Donaldson`s murder led to a heightened threat assessment against the American.

The lawyer said he was rebuffed by the US authorities and told the risk against Rupert would increase if he became involved in the trial in Belfast because of the "oxygen of publicity" it would cause.

During cross-examination by Michael O` Higgins SC, for convicted Real IRA leader Michael McKeivitt, Mr McHugh also denied any offer of cash was ever made to the trucker turned FBI mole.

It followed a series of questions where Mr O` Higgins renewed allegations that Rupert demanded \$2 million as part of his deal to help bring down the dissident republican mastermind.

Further claims were made that he was paid for another three years after McKeivitt`s 2003 trial in Dublin.

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Mr McHugh was called to give evidence on Day 12 of the case against McKeivitt, Seamus McKenna, Liam Campbell, Colm Murphy and Seamus Daly.

All five men deny the families claims that they were responsible for the August 1998 bombing.

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DIRECTOR: John Sayles.

STARRING: Danny Glover, Charles S. Dutton, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Mary Steenburgen.

DETAILS: US / 123mins (PG)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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