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SUNDAY  
29/07/2007  
15:48:11

**Wright inquiry faces court challenge**

A court challenge to the public inquiry into the murder of loyalist godfather Billy Wright will be

heard this week.

By: Press Association

Family of the notorious Loyalist Volunteer Force leader, known as "King Rat", have warned it could jeopardise progress in the £7.2 million investigation.

Wright, 37, was shot dead in December 1997 in the Maze high-security prison near Belfast by republican gunmen.

His father David said the Crown Solicitors` Office (CSO) wanted to change the terms of reference to shield individuals from blame for negligence or criminality.

"This is viewed as another attempt to move the goalposts," he said.

"The family want the inquiry to continue, they want the death and the circumstances of Billy`s killing investigated and we want this done as expeditiously as possible.

"We have waited 10 years and we don`t want any more delay."

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Wright was killed by three Irish National Liberation Army inmates who scaled walls within the prison compound.

He was waiting in a van to see a visitor when cornered.

Lord McLean and his panel are considering whether the INLA had any help from the authorities and how they managed to find their target so easily.

The CSO`s call for a review will be considered at the High Court in Belfast on August 3.

The Wright inquiry has been adjourned for the summer and is due to recommence in September in Banbridge, Co Down.

It has already been delayed by separate attempts to hold the hearing under rules set down by the Inquiries Act, which the family said would allow the Northern Ireland Secretary to impose a veto.

Former Northern Ireland Secretary Paul Murphy announced the public inquiry into Wright`s killing in November 2004 following allegations of security force collusion in his murder.

The Government agreed to set it up following the recommendations of retired Canadian Judge Peter Cory.

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