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Nuala O'Loan

WEDNESDAY
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 16:43:28

Mother wants to find truth behind son's murder

Nuala O'Loan is facing new demands to reveal any involvement of loyalist informer Mark

Haddock in the horrific murder of two teenagers, it has emerged.

By: Press Association

Ann Robb, whose son Andrew, 19, was abducted and stabbed to death along with David McIlwaine, 18, nearly seven years ago, has arranged a meeting with the Police Ombudsman in a bid to find out details of her confidential dossier on police collusion with Ulster Volunteer Force killers.

Even though detectives assured Mrs Robb that Haddock was never questioned during the investigation into the double murder near Tandragee, Co Armagh in February 2000, she believes he was interviewed.

She said: "I'm going to Nuala O'Loan to find out for sure.

"If Haddock was questioned then why are police telling us he was never arrested, or never a suspect."

Two men, Mark Burcombe, a 26-year-old stonemason from Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn and Steven Brown, 26, of Castleplace, Castlecaulfield, Co Tyrone, are due to go on trial later this year charged with the murders.

The victims` bodies were dumped by a country roadside at the height of a

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paramilitary feud between the UVF and the splinter Loyalist Volunteer Force.

The knife attack was so ferocious that they were almost decapitated.

Police and the families of both teenagers insisted neither were connected to any terrorist organisation.

Mrs O`Loan`s damning public report into collusion between the UVF`s Mount Vernon unit in north Belfast and their RUC Special Branch handlers revealed how Haddock was a paid and protected agent while his gang carried out up to 15 murders.

But it is the secret dossier, including the names of all those involved and sent to Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde and Secretary of State Peter Hain, which Mrs Robb wants access to.

She also claimed that a top UVF man working for police was heavily linked to her son`s killing.

"He was at a function in Tandragee Orange Hall that night, not far from the murder scene," she said.

"There was up to 70 people at that do but police have only questioned a handful, and they were all connected to this man through marriage."

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