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Darren Moore (39), who appeared at Belfast Magistrates Court amid tight security, is the fourth man to be charged in connection with the killing of UDA chief Tommy English during a bloody loyalist feud in Belfast.

Moore stood in the dock yesterday as Detective Sergeant David Lowans said he could connect him with the offences.

The officer confirmed that when charged Moore replied: "I strenuously deny the allegations — not guilty."

During cross examination defence lawyer Roderick Friers said: "This is eight years old. There's absolutely no forensic evidence linking my client to this incident."

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Mr Lowans replied: "That's the case at present."

The detective also confirmed that Moore had been interviewed previously in connection with the shooting — in 2000 and 2004 — and was released without charge.

He agreed with Mr Friers' assessment that the only evidence against the accused came from two witnesses who were initially charged with the murder.

Moore was remanded in custody to appear again via video-link next week.

He is also accused of two counts of membership of the UVF between 1996 and 2000.

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