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Local & National

Father of Billy Wright wins legal challenge

Thursday, December 21, 2006

The father of murdered loyalist killer Billy "King Rat" Wright has won a legal challenge to the British government over the rules governing the inquiry into his murder.






London had tried to hold the inquiry under new laws restricting the independent of public inquiries but the court has ordered against the move.

The British government had ruled the inquiry into how Billy Wright was murdered in jail at Christmas nine years ago should be held under the new Inquiries Act.

That would mean London could halt the inquiry at any stage and could restrict what evidence revealed in public.

In court today, a judge ruled that although there was no evidence that the Northern Secretary, Peter Hain, had acted from an improper motive, he had acted unlawfully.

He said Mr Hain had underestimated the importance of the inquiry being independent and had been ill-advised.

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