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Loyalist feud killing: more charges

Thursday, 22 January 2009

Two 32-year-old men were charged last night in connection with the murder of a leading loyalist during a bloody feud in Northern Ireland.

The men were charged on the same day two other men appeared in court in relation to the killing of UDA member Tommy English in October 2000. Mr English (40), who was gunned down in his north Belfast home, was one of several to die in a bloody feud with the rival UVF.

Samuel Higgins (32) of the Meadow, and Philip Laffin (31) from Bridge Street, both in Antrim, appeared in Belfast Magistrate's Court yesterday charged with the murder.

Higgins was also charged with hijacking, false imprisonment and membership of a proscribed organisation.

A police officer told the court he believed he could connect them with the charges.

The pair were remanded in custody.

Senior UVF leader and alleged police informant Mark Haddock was one of two men also charged with the murder earlier this month.

Meanwhile, two other men — brothers David Stewart (38) and Robert Stewart (34), both of Newtownabbey — have pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the killing.

Earlier yesterday, officers from the police's Historical Enquiries Unit (HET) arrested a further suspect, aged 32. He continues to be questioned.

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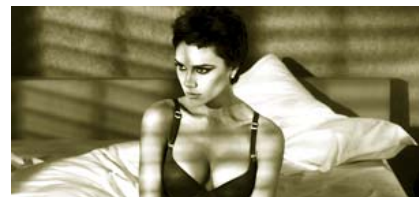


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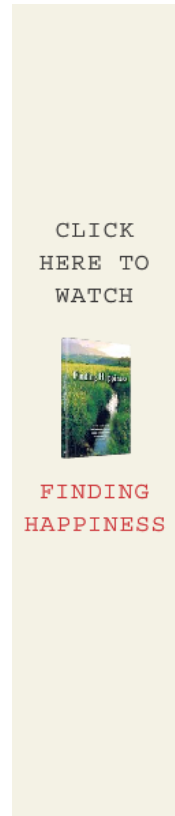
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