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High Court to decide on Hamill witness

Thursday, 26 March 2009

The High Court may compel the ex-girlfriend of a suspect in the murder of Robert Hamill to attend the inquiry into how the RUC dealt with the case, it has emerged.

A spokeswoman for the Robert Hamill Inquiry, which opened in January, said its chairman Sir Edwin Jowitt had referred the failure of Tracey Clarke to give oral evidence to the High Court.

"The referral provides for the High Court to commence civil enforcement proceedings against Tracey Clarke to compel her to attend under section 36 of the Inquiries Act 2005," the spokeswoman said.

Ms Clarke failed to attend an oral hearing despite a notice from Sir Edwin requiring her attendance. The spokeswoman said Ms Clarke was regarded as "a very important witness". She is the former girlfriend of Allister Hanvey, one of five men who were charged with Mr Hamill's murder.

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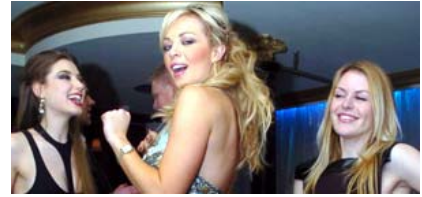
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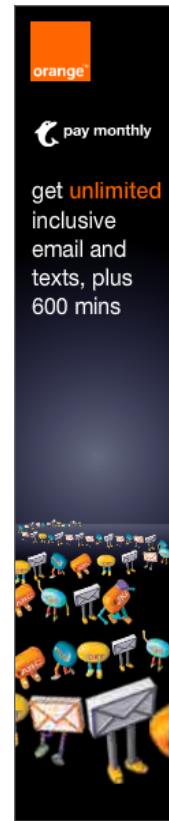
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