

BELEAST TELEGRAPH

ADVERTISEMENT

Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year

Search Site

Advanced Search

- Loadzajobs.co.uk
 - Propertynews.com
 - Belfast Telegraph TV
 - Family Notices
 - Ads For Free
- Belfast Telegraph**
- Home
 - News
 - Local & National
 - World news
 - Politics
 - Environment
 - Education
 - Letters
 - Opinion
 - Technology
 - Breaking News
 - Northwest Edition
 - Business
 - Business Telegraph
 - Sport
 - Health
 - Features
 - Columnists
 - Entertainment
 - Homefinder
 - Weather
 - Archive
 - Calendar 2008
 - Telegraph Travel
 - Shopping Directory
- Inside Belfast**
- Jobs
 - Training
 - Dating
 - Casino
 - Bingo
 - Reader Offers
 - Diners' Club
- Services**
- RSS
 - Media Kit
- Other Titles**

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local & National](#)

Local & National

Tell us how our son died

Wednesday, December 05, 2007

By Chris Thornton

The family of a teenager shot by police 25 years ago have appealed for his inquest to proceed as quickly as possible so his elderly parents can hear what happened before it's too late.

The chance of inquests into the "shoot to kill" deaths of 17-year-old Michael Tighe and five republicans improved yesterday when the PSNI dropped decades of objections and agreed to show the top secret Stalker report to Northern Ireland's Senior Coroner, John Leckey.

The report details the investigation by English policeman John Stalker into how Michael Tighe was shot by police staking out a hayshed where IRA explosives were stored in November 1982.

That same month RUC officers killed IRA members Eugene Toman, Sean Burns and Gervaise McKerr, and in December 1982 INLA members Roderick Carroll and Seamus Grew were also shot. All six were unarmed when they were killed.

Mr Stalker was called in to investigate allegations that police set out to kill republicans rather than arrest them.

He was later removed from the investigation in controversial circumstances, and the inquiry was completed by Sir Colin Sampson.

Mr Leckey will begin reading the top secret report - and a further report by Sir Colin Sampson, another English policeman who completed the investigations - under controlled circumstances in a secure police location next month.

But the contents will not be made public.

Mr Leckey told a hearing yesterday that the material is currently "for my eyes only".

The PSNI indicated that they may resist attempts to give the reports wider circulation if Mr Leckey thinks they are needed for the inquests.

That raised concerns about more legal battles delaying the inquests, which have already been on hold for 25 years.

The Tighe family's solicitor, Paddy Moriarty, told yesterday's special hearing in Belfast that the family is "somewhat suspicious" of further delays.

"On a human level, Michael Tighe was the youngest of the six people here," Mr Moriarty said.

"His parents are now elderly and would be concerned that if there are going to be inquests eventually held that they would be plagued by delays for a number of years."

Michael Tighe was not a member of the IRA, but another teen wounded in the shooting - Martin McAuley - later became one of three republican fugitives on the run from Colombia.

Mr Leckey has appealed for McAuley, who is believed to be living in the Republic, to get in touch with him because he is a "crucial witness".

There were reports that the shooting in the hayshed was taped by MI5.

In his book about his investigation, John Stalker said Michael Tighe had no security record and was a good and considerate son.

He wrote: "Perhaps one day Mr and Mrs Tighe, whose son's death was a bewildering tragedy for them, will

- Email Article
- Print Version
- Search
- +Most Emailed
- +Most Read

ADVERTISEMENT

Don't miss . . .

In Pictures: Crown Bar



Crown bar, a Belfast institution, is finally restored

In Pictures: United in the States



Paisley and McGuinness out to impress in the US

Led Zeppelin



Rock dinosaurs or the last word in rock'n'roll?

Rocket blasts off



Wayne sees red after preparation is questioned

Shoukri reign of terror is over



Law catches up with terror boss Andre Shoukri

In Pictures and Video: BT Woman of the Year



Applauding Ulster's most exceptional women

Homefinder TV



Helen Carson visits a stone cottage in Antrim

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

3 Sunday Life

3 Ireland's Saturday Night

3 Community Telegraph


learn exactly how and why their 17-year-old son died in a hail of police bullets."


More articles in Local & National


- [Nobel prize scientist joins Ulster researchers](#)
- [Pigeons off for charity](#)
- [Old mills turned tide for energy](#)
- [Allister to unveil new unionist grouping](#)
- [Durkan takes stand to keep Freedom of Information](#)


ADVERTISEMENTS


Comment & Blogs


**Catherine Townsend:
Sleeping Around**
 Spending the Xmas holidays alone sucks

**Cooper Brown:
He's out there**
 I'm on heat thinking about Catherine Townsend


Lindy McDowell
 Can chuckle all you like, we still hate each other


Gail Walker
 The dark secrets that lie behind closed doors


Pól Ó Muirí
 Marty Mc: a Deputy First Minister's blog


Jan de Vries
 Chronic Fatigue Syndrome affects everyday life


Video


Omagh blaze tragedy
 Special report on Northern Ireland's worst house fire

**Belfast Telegraph
Property Awards**
 Celebrating excellence at the inaugural awards gala

Best view in town
 Special multimedia report on Belfast Wheel

Fashion Week
 Ulster struts the catwalk with a stylish confidence

Carl Verheyen
 Interview with one of the world's best guitarists

**Final moments
of Uboat diver**
 The last dive of Dublin man Michael Hanrahan

Big Man's big fry



First Minister's vision is outlined over breakfast

[Ulster's boy wonder](#)



Watch our interview with golf sensation Rory McIlroy

[Twelfth parades](#)



Watch the video of this year's parade in Belfast

[Paisley interview](#)



Exclusive: First Minister Ian Paisley talks to Ed Curran

In Pictures . . .

News

- [Ulster Fry event](#)
- [The Twelfth](#)
- [Bull Run](#)
- [Award-winners](#)
- [Flooded Ulster](#)
- [Sunny Northern Ireland](#)
- [Devolution Day](#)
- [Assembly Elections](#)
- [Maze tumbles](#)
- [Blair quits](#)
- [Last watchtower](#)
- [Carrick-a-rede](#)

Events

- [Xmas: what a turn on](#)
- [Property Awards](#)
- [50 Cent](#)
- [Enrique Iglesias](#)
- [Halloween](#)
- [Fantasy Fest](#)
- [Rolling Stones](#)
- [Oxygen 07](#)
- [Beach Party 07](#)
- [Balmoral Show](#)
- [Razorlight](#)
- [St Patrick's Day](#)
- [Mardis Gras](#)
- [Justin Timberlake](#)
- [Brit Awards 07](#)

Sport

- [Spain 1 Norn Iron 0](#)
- [Win over Denmark](#)
- [Windsor win](#)
- [Golf: Rory McIlroy](#)
- [British Open](#)
- [Copa America Final](#)
- [N Ireland v Sweden](#)
- [Six Nations](#)
- [World in Sport](#)

Eye on the World

[Malise Ruthven](#)



How the Saudis exported a hardline ideology

[Apocalypse now?](#)



Hersh predicts major conflict if US attacks Iran

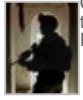
[Burmese junta?](#) [Knickers to that](#)



'Panties for peace' is latest ploy by Burma

activists

Conquering sectarianism



Can Ulster be the blueprint for Iraq's future?