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HET report into Cunningham murder RUC investigation a 'dirty disgrace'

Published Date:

18 June 2008

By [Michael McMonagle](#)

The brother of a Carndonagh teenager murdered by the UVF 35 years ago says it's a "dirty disgrace" that the British government didn't reveal what it knew about the killing.

Robbie Cunningham's comments follow the publication of a report by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) into the murder of Henry Cunningham in August 1973. The report uncovered evidence of collusion in the theft of a sub-machine gun - used in the shooting - from an

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Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) base.

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The teenager was shot when the van he was travelling in along with his brothers was fired on by a group of UVF gunmen. The Inishowen men were making their way home after working in Belfast.

The HET report concluded that one of the guns used in the murder had been stolen from a UDR base in Lurgan. It also uncovered evidence of collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in the theft.

The report also revealed that the gun had also been used in the murders of two Catholic workmen in 1974 and was received by the RUC later that year but destroyed in 1976.

Two men were arrested in connection with the murder in May 1978 but were later released. The Cunningham family was not told about the arrests or the recovery or the weapons at the time.

Speaking after the publication of the report, Robbie Cunningham, who was sitting alongside his brother when he was shot, said he was "very annoyed" at how they were treated by the RUC after the murder.

"The fact that they knew what was going on and did nothing and that the British government knew what was happening to their guns is a dirty disgrace. All this information is coming out now but the RUC knew it at the time and never told us," he said.

Mr Cunningham says the family now intend to lobby the Irish government to ask the British Prime Minister why details which could have been crucial in the investigation were not revealed at the time of the murder.

The full article contains 347 words and appears in n/a newspaper.

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