


[HOME](#)
[History](#)
[NewsoftheIrish](#)
[Book Reviews
& Book Forum](#)
[Search / Archive](#)
[Back to 10/96](#)
[Papers](#)
[Reference](#)
[About](#)
[Contact](#)

UDA informer linked to 20 sectarian killings

(Barry McCaffrey, [Irish News](#))

Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan will be asked to investigate allegations that a notorious UDA killer was protected from prosecution despite be-ing implicated in more than 20 murders because he was a Special Branch informer.

Stephen 'Inch' McFerran (39) was sentenced to five years' imprisonment earlier this year after he pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of former UDA colleague Roy Green in south Belfast in January 2003.

While it unexpectedly em-erged during the trial that the well-known loyalist had been a Special Branch agent, his links to more than 20 sectarian murders remained secret.

As a UDA 'commander' in the Ormeau area of south Belfast during the mid-1990s McFerran was implicated in a series of attacks, including the murder of five men at Sean Graham's bookmakers in February 1992.

His gang was also responsible for murdering five taxi-drivers during the 1990s.

The gang carried out nearly a dozen more murders on the Ormeau Road during McFerran's 13-year reign, including the killing of two women.

Mother-of-two Theresa Clinton was killed in April 1994 when UDA gunmen shot her 16 times through the front window of her home.

Her husband Jim said he would ask Mrs O'Loan to investigate whether McFerran had been protected from prosecution as a Special Branch agent.

"I want to know how long he was working as an informer and if he was protected by his handlers despite evidence that he was involved in dozens of murders," he said.

"I want Mrs O'Loan to investigate exactly how much information he passed on to Special Branch and what actions, if any, were taken to catch the killers.

This article appears thanks to the *Irish News*.
Subscribe to the [Irish News](#)



"We have always suspected that the people who murdered Theresa were being protected after the identities of four witnesses were made known to one of the main suspects during an ID parade.

"I will be asking Mrs O'Loan to find out if there was ever any proper investigation into my wife's murder or were the killers being protected."

Mark Sykes was one of seven people wounded during the gun attack at Sean Graham's bookmakers.

His brother-in-law Peter Magee was killed.

Mr Sykes said he would ask Mrs O'Loan to investigate whether police agents had been involved in the atrocity.

"There were so many people killed on this road yet hardly anyone was ever convicted of any murders," he said.

"The dogs on the street knew who was carrying out the murders yet they seemed to be above the law.

"The victims' families have a right to know if their loved-ones' killers were being protected."

April 15, 2007

This article appeared first in the April 13, 2007 edition of the [Irish News](#).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

[About](#) [Home](#) [History](#) [NewsoftheIrish](#) [Books](#) [Bookstore](#) [Contact](#)