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I did not kill Paul Quinn says Treanor

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

A south Armagh man says his life has been put in danger since he was linked with the murder of Paul Quinn by an Ulster Unionist peer.

Speaking publicly for the first time, Vincent Treanor said he had been involved in a previous altercation with Mr Quinn but denied that he had been involved in his murder.

The 21-year-old died after being savagely beaten by a gang at an isolated farmhouse in Co Monaghan last month. His parents blamed the IRA for the murder.

Earlier this month Ulster Unionist peer Lord Laird used parliamentary privilege to name Vincent Treanor as an IRA leader in south Armagh and claimed that he had ordered Paul Quinn's murder.

However, the 58-year-old last night (Monday) denied involvement in the murder and said police had told him that his life is under threat since being publicly linked with the killing.

Mr Treanor confirmed that he had been involved in an altercation with Paul Quinn a month before he was murdered.

"I'd had words with one of his sisters at a taxi rank and when I returned home Paul appeared from nowhere and hit me," he said.

"However, the next day a guy who'd been with Paul came and apologised for what happened and as far as I was concerned the matter was closed.

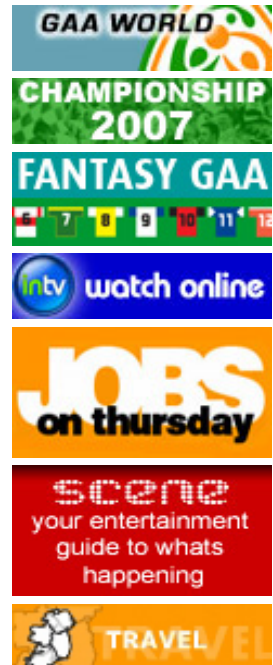
"I honestly believe the only reason my name has been linked to Paul Quinn's murder is because I was the last person he'd had a row with.

"I condemn his murder for the horrific crime that it was and believe that those responsible need to be brought to justice."

Mr Treanor denied being a member of the IRA and said that he had never been arrested during the Troubles.

"John Laird and others have chosen to link me and my son to

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Paul Quinn's murder.

"But neither of us had anything to do with it.

"I have cooperated fully with the gardai and PSNI and have provided evidence to show that I was at a wedding with my wife on the day of Paul Quinn's murder and my son has witnesses to show that he was working."

Mr Treanor said his home had come under repeated attack since he was linked with the murder.

"I don't sleep at night because I'm afraid they're going to burn the house down," he said.

"If I had anything to do with Paul Quinn's murder I would put my hands up and admit it because I couldn't have it on my conscience.

"But I had nothing to do with it.

"All I want now is for my family to be left alone and for these people to call off the attacks on my home."

Ulster Unionist peer Lord Laird last night insisted that he stood over the allegations that he made made in the House of Lords.

A spokesman for the Paul Quinn Justice Campaign group said it wanted to study Mr Treanor's comments before making public comment.

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