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## Victim's father murdered by loyalist Wright's gang

By Allison Morris

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CONCERNS: Eamon Hughes, pictured in 2004 for an Irish News interview, holds a picture of his father Frank Hughes who was murdered by loyalists in 1990 PICTURE: Seamus Loughran

Dungannon murder victim Eamon Hughes's father Frank was abducted and killed by a UVF murder squad headed by Portadown loyalist Billy Wright in October 1990.

The sectarian murder of the Co Tyrone taxi driver is being investigated by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET).

In 2004 a Police Ombudsman's probe concluded that all policing opportunities had been pursued in relation to the murder of the 61-year-old.

However, the family said at the time that they had a number of serious concerns about the original RUC investigation.

Since then the HET cold-case team has been re-examining the murder which is being linked to several other killings carried out by Wright's UVF gang.

Frank Hughes had disappeared after being last seen picking up a fare outside a hotel in Dungannon.

His badly charred remains were found in his burnt-out cab close to a derelict farmhouse in Moy around five miles outside of the town.

The Tyrone Protestant Action Force (PAF) a cover name at the time being used by the UVF admitted responsibility for Mr Hughes's murder.

Despite a number of suspects being arrested no-one was ever charged with the murder.

Wright, known as King Rat, and his associate Mark 'Swinger' Fulton, who later split from the UVF and formed the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF), were implicated in the killing as well as a spate of other brutal murders carried out in the area.

It is thought that HET investigations into earlier murders carried out by Wright's gang may have discovered a link which could reopen new lines of inquiry in the case.

The same gang was also implicated in the murder of pensioner Roseanne Mallon.


The 76-year-old Co Tyrone grandmother was shot as she watched television in her sister-in-law's house in Killymoyle in May 1994.

Wright was arrested at an RUC checkpoint on the Portadown Road an hour after the shooting but released without charge.

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