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Wright killer said to be close to death

By Allison Morris

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THE INLA gunman responsible for the 1997 Maze murder of leading loyalist Billy Wright was last night said to be just hours from death after a lengthy battle with a rare form of cancer.

Christopher 'Crip' Mc-Williams has been battling cancer for a number of years and his family were last night keeping a vigil at his bedside as his condition deteriorated.

In December 1997 Mc-Williams was one of a three-man INLA hit squad, along with John 'Sonny' Glennon and John Kennaway, who gunned down the LVF leader as he sat in a prison van.

The three had cut through a fence and climbed onto the roof of a building separating the INLA from the LVF prisoners who shared H-block 6 of the Maze prison.

As Wright sat in the back of a prison van waiting to transport him to a visit, Mc-Williams shot him seven times with a Makarov semi-automatic pistol that had been smuggled into the jail.


In October 1998 the three were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder but were freed under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement two years later.

Kennaway took his own life in Maghaberry prison last year. His licence for the attempted murder of former Tory Laurence Kennedy had been suspended after he became involved in a domestic altercation.

McWilliams had been serving life for the murder of pub manager Colm Mahon, shot after he barred the INLA man from a Belfast city centre bar.

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