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## O'Loan urged to look into murder

(Allison Morris, [Irish News](#))

The family of murdered father-of-10 John Slane are to approach the Police Ombudsman to have the investigation into his killing re-examined.

*The Irish News* revealed on Saturday that loyalist Willie McClatchey, whose dismembered remains were discovered in a wheelie bin in east Belfast last week, was one of the chief suspects in the murder on March 14 1997.

McClatchey was identified as one of two unmasked gunmen who shot Mr Slane (44), pictured, five times in front of his twin daughters as he stood in the kitchen of his Thames Court home in the Broadway area of west Belfast.

An eyewitness who picked McClatchey and a second man from a line-up later retracted his evidence because of fears of reprisals from the UFF. No-one has ever been charged with the murder of Mr Slane.

His son Sean said the family now want Nuala O'Loan's office to look at the original police handing of the case.

"McClatchey may be dead but the second gunman is still very much alive," Mr Slane said.

"My family have always felt that there was no effort made at the time to bring the killers to justice. I never had any confidence in the police investigation.

"There is always still hope that charges could be brought against the second gunman.

"We want the ombudsman to examine the case in the hope that sufficient evidence exists to warrant a reexamination of the case.

"Ten years may have passed but the pain and sense of loss felt by my family hasn't eased.

"That loss has always been compounded by what we saw as failure on the part of police to bring those responsible to justice."

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McClatchey, who had been staying with relatives in the loyalist Taughmonagh estate in south Belfast at the time of his death, was also named as an accomplice to the 1997 shooting of Shankill butcher Robert 'Basher' Bates.

Bates was gunned down as he arrived for work at an ex-prisoner drop-in centre on the city's Woodvale Road just months after being released from prison for 10 murders.

His death was never claimed but was said to be in revenge for the murder of north Belfast UDA member James Curtis Moorehead two decades previously.

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