

Most PopularMost Emailed

BreakingSportBusinessWorldGossip



**Irish News**  
**Ulster All-Stars 2008**



Issue Changer:



NEWS >

## Trial hears claim that accused had baseball bat for 'Catholic beatings'

BY Staff Reporter

01/10/08

THE Michael McIlveen murder trial has heard claims that one of the accused showed a witness a "baseball bat – and other illegal weapons" which he was prepared to use against Catholics.

The claims were contained in a videotaped police statement screened to Antrim Crown Court yesterday, where six youths are on trial on charges arising out of the death of the 15-year-old from head injuries in May 2006

after being allegedly bludgeoned with a baseball bat and kicked and punched up to 60 times.

The young witness, who cannot be identified because of his age, claimed on the tape that one of the accused – 22-year-old Christopher Francis Kerr, of Carnduff Drive, Ballymena – told him he had a bat for his “protection” and that “it was for giving Catholics beatings”.

He said the wooden bat “looked brand new – it looked like it was for giving beatings”, although Kerr said he was thinking of selling it.

In his statement, he claimed he had been shown the bat about three weeks before the attack on ‘Mickey Bo’ in Ballymena.

He said Kerr “could have been joking” when he said it was for beatings, “but he never laughed”.

Defence QC Laurence McCrudden suggested to him that Kerr “never said anything like this at all”, to which he replied: “I didn’t make it up”.

The youngster said among other weapons shown to him were “Stanley knives and some are just little swords and pocket knives”

The witness further claimed that about two months earlier he was shown a “red sword – with dragons on – it was like a Chinese sword”.

Although the sword was sold, Kerr allegedly told the youngster that “that’ll go in through Catholics’ backs”.

“He said it was for giving Catholics beatings and stabbing them with it. That’s all he said to me about the sword and I’ve only seen it once”, he added.

Earlier, a friend who was chased with Michael McIlveen on the night he died blamed police for “mistakes” made in his initial statement.


Liam Phillips (19) accepted however that some of the mistakes could have been his.

However, when asked why he told police the attackers “had weapons, baseball bats with them – there could have been 15 of them (attackers)”, Mr Phillips claimed the number of bats was “mis-stated”.

“I have said that this has been mis-stated, someone has made a spelling mistake,” he said.

 Print  back to top

Bookmark:  Delicious  Digg  Reddit  Facebook  StumbleUpon

 Email this story

[print advertising](#) | [media pack](#) | [online advertising](#) | [privacy statement](#) | [about us](#) | [contact us](#) | [subscribe](#) | [login](#) | [archives](#) | [sitemap](#) | [careers](#) | [home](#)