

Most PopularMost Emailed

BreakingSportBusinessWorldGossip



Issue Changer:



NEWS >

Spy 'asked for \$2m to testify at RIRA trial'

By Staff Reporter

11/03/2009

FBI spy David Rupert asked for \$2 million to testify at the trial of Real IRA leader Michael McKevitt, the

Omagh bombing civil action has heard.

Lawyers for McKeivitt set out security service papers where the US trucking boss allegedly described himself as a "whore" with a purely financial motivation for infiltrating dissident republican ranks.

They also accused Mr Rupert of continually lying under oath and said the authorities were complicit with him in manipulating the truth.

Mr Rupert played a key role in securing McKeivitt's conviction for directing terrorism after he gave evidence at the 2003 trial in Dublin.

However, McKeivitt's legal team has launched a sustained attack on Rupert's credibility as part of their defence at the multi-million-pound compensation case.

McKeivitt is being sued along with Liam Campbell, Seamus McKenna, Colm Murphy and Seamus Daly by the families of some of those killed in the August 1998 Real IRA atrocity. All five men deny responsibility for the Omagh bombing.

In a section dealing with the security services management of Rupert, an assessment from a source identified as Witness C was read out. It stated how the agent first asked for \$2m for his testimony.

He wanted the fee paid monthly over a 15-year period, with \$40,000 up-front to fund the set-up of a trucking business, the court heard.

After being told this was not possible, a reduced figure of \$250,000 was allegedly discussed, with property to be leased on the understanding he could later purchase it for a nominal sum of £1.

According to the documents Rupert referred to himself as a whore and said he had no ideological feelings for the Republican Sinn Fein grouping he made contact with.

The dossier also included Rupert's alleged knowledge of smuggling operations in North America.

During one meeting Witness C asked him to described the trucking business in the US and Canada.

Mr Rupert was asked about his knowledge of smuggling and stories he could weave into possible operational deployment.

The handler's report stated: "I was considering to allow Rupert to introduce an amusing smuggling story to McKeivitt."

He claimed the agent told him about illegal activity involving alcohol and tobacco at North American Indian reservations.

"I formed the impression the stories were based on what he was aware of rather than what he was engaged in,"

Witness C stated.

"David Rupert also told me that he had been investigated for fraud in New York but never charged with any offence."

Michael O'Higgins SC, for McKeivitt, said the court was being asked to believe that Mr Rupert was interviewed without being asked about any criminal activities he was involved in himself.

"In my submission no senior member of the security services would conduct an interview with a field agent who was going into these very difficult circumstances without asking him what his criminal background was," he said.


Mr O'Higgins claimed a ham-fisted attempt had been made to "fix up" the material.

"It just shows that when you are working covertly – when the truth becomes something to be manipulated at an official level – when working constantly within that milieu you lose contact with the truth, you lose contact with reality and you spin and twist and turn to produce a document like that," he said.

The barrister told Mr Justice Morgan: "If you feel my submission is well made out it is an example of the authorities being complicit with Rupert. That is a matter of the utmost gravity."

 Print  back to top

Bookmark:  Delicious  Digg  reddit  Facebook  StumbleUpon

 Email this story