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Military figure backs McBrides

BY Staff Reporter

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The family of a teen-ager whose soldier killers were reinstated into the British army must see justice, the former assessor of military complaints said yesterday.

Jim McDonald said he was saddened by the rehabilitation of two Scots Guardsmen found guilty of murdering 18-year-old Belfast man Peter McBride in 1992.

Mark Wright and James Fisher were found guilty of shooting dead Mr McBride as he ran away from a checkpoint in the New Lodge district of north Belfast.

"I remain saddened by the reinstatement of Fisher and Wright to military service," Mr McDonald said.

"I think that the injustice done to the McBride family remains in need of redress."

He said he had no objection to the murderers being released from prison but said it was not good enough for them to be taken back into the army.

"They went so far as dismissing a young man for smoking dope. Fisher and Wright should not have been reinstated in military," Mr

McDonald said.

The soldiers' claim that they fired because they thought Mr McBride was carrying a coffee-jar bomb was rejected and they were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder.

They were released after six years and allowed to return to the British army.

Mr McDonald stood down as assessor in October 2007 after the end of the army's Operation Banner in the north.

He looked at complaints over controversial shootings, monitored training and helicopter over-flights.

Mr McBride's mother, Jean McBride, welcomed Mr McDonald's support.

"I thought the law was on my side until the British army stepped in and undid the law and put them back into the army," she said.

"I will never stop fighting for justice because I never got it."

Meanwhile, Mr McDonald also said he would have taken legal action had the resources been available after he was refused access to military

papers about the July 12 2004 violence in north Belfast's Ardoyne area.

He wanted to know about planning and what orders were given to troops caught up in rioting after an Orange Order parade passed the flashpoint route. Dozens of police and soldiers were injured during the violence.



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