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## UFF killer 'lied' about murder

By Diana Rusk

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CONVICTED UFF killer Michael Stone lied in his autobiography when he denied killing a Catholic delivery man, the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) has said.

Stone was convicted of the murder of Dermott Hackett (37) when he was shot up to 16 times as he drove his van in Co Tyrone in May 1987.

Despite confessing to the murder at the time, Stone later claimed in his book *None Shall Divide Us* that he did not kill Mr Hackett.

The HET reviewed the original police investigations following the claims in Stone's book and have now found there was "no evidential foundation" in the false confession claims.

It added that there was "significant circumstantial evidence that would support Stone's own admissions as to the involvement in the murder."

Last night Mr Hackett's widow, Sylvia, welcomed the findings.

"I am relieved that the HET report into Dermott's murder has found no evidence to undermine Michael Stone's convictions," she said.

"I also welcome the HET's confirmation that Dermott had no involvement with any paramilitary group.


"This report has confirmed Dermott's innocence and has provided a degree of closure for the family."

The family's solicitor, Brendan Murphy, said the HET had to overcome the "failure of the original RUC investigation to retain portions of the forensic records".

"Nonetheless the HET have concluded that Michael Stone's assertions in his book, that he made a false confession admitting to the murder of Mr Hackett, have no evidential foundation," he said.

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