

Most PopularMost Emailed

BreakingSportBusinessWorldGossip



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



Issue Changer:



NEWS >

## Witness to killing 'under death threat'

By Diana Rusk

19/09/08

A KEY witness to the killing of a prisoner in the Maze jail has claimed he has been told his life is under threat by loyalist paramilitaries.

David Patterson threatened he will give names and addresses of key loyalists to dissident republicans if the UVF does not remove the alleged death threat against him, his wife and his young daughter.

The 36-year-old has been in hiding in England since the collapse of a murder trial into the death of drug dealer David Keyes, who was himself on

remand over the killing of two friends at a bar in Poyntzpass, Co Armagh.

Keyes was found hanging in his cell in the LVF wing of the Maze prison just days after being remanded in connection with the sectarian murders of Co Armagh men Damien Trainor (25) and Philip Allen (34). The Protestant and Catholic friends died when gunmen opened fire on customers at the Railway Bar in March 1998.

Keyes (27) had been suspected of cooperating with police and was tortured before being strangled and hanged from a cell window.

Patterson had been in prison at the time with Lurgan loyalist Robin King and Ralph McPhillips from Lisburn in Co Antrim, who were charged with Keyes' murder.

He originally agreed to give evidence but the case dramatically collapsed after he refused to continue with his testimony.

He has also refused to return to give evidence at an inquest into Keyes' death following a request from coroner John Leckey. Patterson told The Irish News that police in

England visited him this week to inform him of the UVF death threat.

He said he did not know why he was being targeted now.

"I got a letter from the police to say I'm under threat from the UVF so they obviously know where I am and where

I work but I don't know why the UVF are after me because it was the LVF that I had

been dealing with," Patterson said.

"That case happened years ago and I don't know why they are threatening me now.

"What I'd like to say to them is that if any of my family is touched, I will name and shame the lot of them.

"I will give names and addresses of the command structure of the UVF to dissident republicans if these threats don't stop.

"If they want to get to me, bring it on but stay away from my family."


Dawn Purvis, leader of the PUP, which is linked to the UVF, said she did not believe the threat is genuine.

"I totally condemn any threats issued against anyone but there is not a threat from the UVF against this man,"

she said.

 Print  back to top

Bookmark:  Delicious  Digg  reddit  Facebook  StumbleUpon

 Email this story