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Calls for new inquiry after UVF man's claim

(Claire Simpson, [Irish News](#))

The families of six men shot dead in controversial circumstances have called on the British government to launch a new investigation into their deaths after reports a former UVF member admitted he helped plan the attack with British intelligence.

Speaking in the week following the 34th anniversary of the killings a man, using the pseudonym John Black, told a Sunday newspaper he was involved in the shootings.

North Belfast men Jim Sloan, Jim McCann, Tony Campbell, Brendan Maguire, John Lough-ran and Ambrose Hardy – 'The Six' – were shot dead during a 90-minute period in the New Lodge area on the night of February 3 and the early hours of February 4 1973.

While the British army admitted shooting four of the men dead, no-one has ever admitted responsibility for the killing of Mr Sloan and Mr McCann.

The IRA later admitted that Sloan, Campbell and McCann had been members but insist-ed they had "not been on active service" when killed.

Speaking on behalf of the families, Willy Loughran, pictured, whose brother John was killed, said they were prepared to talk with the former UVF man to find out the circumstances of the deaths.

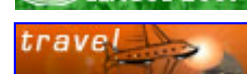
"This revelation confirms long-held community beliefs that the New Lodge massacre was a well planned operation that was conceived of, directed and planned by British intelligence," he said.

"It is essential for families that every new evidential lead must be vigorously and robustly pursued.

"The RUC, the British army nor the Ministry of Defence participated in the community Inquiry in November 2002.

"We were acutely aware then, as we are now, that they have a vested interest in shielding the truth about the killing of our loved ones.

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"As a consequence we would have little confidence in the PSNI Historical Enquiries Team investigating any new evidence that may potentially emerge.

"Families are now seeking urgent meetings with the British and Irish governments to raise serious concerns about the far reaching implications of this revelation of high level collusion."

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