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Murder victim's son: We count for nothing

By Liz Trainor

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THE son of an IRA murder victim spoke of his anger yesterday after learning from media reports that his father's killer – who was freed under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement – had been jailed for life for attempting to murder another man.

Robert Duffy (35), from Belfast, was jailed on Monday after pleading guilty at the Central Criminal Court in Dublin to shooting a man last March at a bar in Dundalk, Co Louth, following a row.

Secretary of State Shaun Woodward is to examine whether Duffy breached the terms of his early release.

Peter Gibson, whose father John was shot dead by Duffy in 1993, said: "We are angry that no-one told us about Duffy being charged and convicted – but then again we

are only victims and we count for nothing."

His father, who worked for a construction firm hired by the RUC, was shot dead on October 21 1993.

In 2003 Mr Gibson's widow Ginnie told The Irish News that she was willing to meet her husband's killer in the hope of getting closure.

But Duffy, who was freed in 2000 after serving less than five years, did not acknowledge the request.

"All this makes me wonder, just what did victims get out of this process? What benefit has it brought us?" Mr Gibson, himself a father-of-two, asked.

"We are just told to back down and not do anything that will rock the Sinn Fein boat.


"It's all about political expediency and victims are conveniently never mentioned. My father will never get to see his young grandchildren.

"But we're told that it's the price we have to pay. It seems the pain is never-ending.

"The one benefit might be that from this sentence life will mean life and that Robert Duffy will spend some considerable time behind bars."

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