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Last Updated: 07/12/2006 17:05

LVF terrorist Fulton jailed for life

Top LVF terrorist Jim Fulton, who confessed to English undercover police to involvement in the murder of grandmother Elizabeth O'Neill was

today jailed for life.

The 38-year-old Portadown man and brother of deceased gangster Mark 'Swinger' Fulton, could face two further life sentences on charges of conspiring to murder Sinn Féin office workers and a man called Derek Wray.

Instead of reading his 226 page judgement in full, Belfast Crown Court judge Mr Justice Hart went through the indictment telling Fulton he was guilty of 48 charges but acquitted him of 14 others.

In total, Fulton was convicted of aiding and abetting the murder of Mrs O'Neill, two counts of conspiring to murder, seven of attempted murder, nine explosive charges, 12 woundings and attempted woundings, seven firearm offences including possessing the gun used to murder Catholic taxi driver Michael McGoldrick, one attempted robbery, one of perverting the course of justice, two false imprisonments, two hijackings, two drug dealing offences, being a member of the Loyalist Volunteer Force and directing its activities.

Among the judge's acquittals were one charge of attempted murder, two attempted woundings, two explosive charges, one firearm offences, two drug dealing offences, three robberies, two false imprisonments and an attempted robbery.

In relation to his co-accused 56-year-old Muriel Gibson, Mr Justice Hart acquitted her of involvement in the murder of Catholic council worker Adrian lamph but convicted her of impeding the arrest and prosecution of his killers.

Gibson, with an address at Clos Trevithick in Cornwall, was also convicted of withholding information about a shooting, two charges of possessing firearms, two of having explosives and also of being a member of the LVF.

However the judge also acquitted her on two explosive charges and a further count of conspiring to cause an explosion.

The convictions come after both Fulton and Gibson confessed to undercover police about their activities and involmment with the LVF over the course of eight years between December 1991 and September 1999.

Their trial, the longest in Northern Ireland's legal history, had run from September last year until June of this year.

After delivering his verdicts Mr Justice Hart told Fulton that as he had been convicted of murder, "the only sentence I am empowered to impose is life imprisonment - you will be senteced, therefore, to life imprisonment".

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TODAY



3-8 °C

TOMORROW



2-7 °C

SUNDAY



4-11 °C

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