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# British spy 'gagged' over Omagh

Henry McDonald, Ireland editor  
Sunday November 12, 2006

[The Observer](#)

A British army secret agent who infiltrated the IRA has been advised not to give evidence to the Omagh bombing trial about other informers working inside dissident republican terror groups.

The agent, known as 'Kevin Fulton', was to reveal information about informants working for the Irish and British security forces inside the Real IRA at the time of the Omagh bombing atrocity in 1998.

But the families of the Omagh victims and a British army intelligence officer turned whistleblower have confirmed this weekend that, following Fulton's arrest this month in London, the agent has been advised by his lawyers not to reveal details of the secret war against republicans at the non-jury trial of Sean Hoey in Belfast or at a planned public inquiry into collusion in the republic.

Hoey is the only person charged with involvement in the 1998 Omagh bomb attack which killed 29 people - the single biggest massacre in the Troubles.

Fulton, who was being summoned as a defence witness, was prepared to expose the identity of Real IRA activists directly involved in the plot. He was also going to tell the trial that they were informers for the British state.

The former soldier who infiltrated the IRA was working for the British army's Force Research Unit has passed on two names to Nuala O'Loan, Northern Ireland's Police Ombudsman. O'Loan has recommended that both men be questioned.

Last night Fulton refused to comment on his arrest and its

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implications for both the Omagh trial and the public inquiry in Dublin. He said his lawyers had warned him not to discuss any details about his role as a state agent - otherwise he would face further charges.

But a former unit handler of informants and friend of Fulton's, the former soldier known as Martin Ingram, said that the arrest had, in effect, gagged the agent. 'By arresting him during the trial, Fulton has had any chance of immunity from prosecution taken away. Not only is he in grave danger of implicating himself if he was to give evidence of the "dirty war" to the Omagh trial, he is now unable to speak about it to the inquiry in Dublin,' Ingram said.

Fulton was arrested on 1 November at his home in England, flown to Northern Ireland and held at Antrim police station's serious crime suite.

He was questioned about his alleged role in a series of IRA attacks including a so-called 'human bomb' sortie on a British army checkpoint in South Armagh in 1990 that killed a Royal Irish Regiment soldier; and the murder of a rival republican in nearby Newry a year later.

Fulton was held for five days and released without charge. The Observer has learnt that, instead of being questioned by the Historical Inquiries Team, the specialist police unit that was granted £30m to investigate all unsolved crimes during the Troubles, Fulton was arrested and interrogated by officers from C2, the elite murder squad of the Police Service of Northern Ireland .

On its website the Historical Inquiries team says that its 'sole purpose' is to investigate unsolved crimes between 1969 and 1998. C2 does not have this role.

Fulton has claimed the security forces had prior knowledge that an attack on a town north of the border was imminent on the weekend of the Omagh bomb.

The chairman of the Omagh victims group, Michael Gallagher, whose son Aidan was killed in the bombing, said: 'It's in the interest of truth and justice that agents such as Kevin Fulton are allowed to tell their story - either in a court of law or any inquiry.

'Now we learn that he could implicate himself and face further charges if he does so. Our suspicion is that he

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has been gagged.'

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