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Police face civil action over UVF murders

Henry McDonald, Ireland editor
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[The Observer](#)

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The father of a loyalist murder victim is to take civil action against the RUC Special Branch officers who ran his son's killers as police agents.

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Raymond McCord says he will go to court in an attempt to prosecute the officers, who will remain anonymous in a report being published tomorrow by Nuala O'Loan, the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman, which reveals damning evidence of collusion between detectives and paramilitaries.

Only Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Hain and Chief Constable Hugh Orde will see the confidential part of O'Loan's report, in which up to six Special Branch and CID officers are named. The Observer has learnt that the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland will not recommend that any of the officers should face trial.

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The officers stand accused of knowing that their informers were committing murder and not doing anything to prevent killings in north Belfast between 1993 and 2000. Their victims included a gay Presbyterian minister falsely accused of importing paedophile pornography into Northern Ireland and a female Catholic taxi driver.

Raymond McCord Jnr, 22, was beaten to death on 9 November 1997 at a quarry on the northern outskirts of Belfast. He had been facing charges of possession of cannabis, which was provided to him by the Ulster Volunteer Force commander in the Mount Vernon area of the city. The local UVF leader, named in the Irish parliament as Mark Haddock, dispatched a terror unit to abduct and kill the ex-RAF cadet.

His father said last night: 'I will take a civil action against the handlers of these informants. Young Raymond would have been alive now if the CID had been allowed to do their job and put those responsible for previous murders dating back to 1993 in jail.'

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