

Murdered man's mother calls for probe of 'Stakeknife' role in killing

Sunday, January 28, 2007 - By Colm Heatley

The police ombudsman in the North has been asked to investigate IRA informer Freddie Scappaticci's possible role in the murder of three IRA men in Co Armagh in 1992.

The three men, Aidan Starrs, Johnny Dignam and Gregory Burns, were killed as informers by the IRA's internal security unit, of which Scappaticci was a senior member.

Johnny Dignam's mother, Irene, made the complaint to the Ombudsman last Thursday, and has asked her to investigate what role Scappaticci may have played in the murder and the conduct of the subsequent RUC investigation.

A number of years ago a tape recording of Johnny Dignam's interrogation and confession to his IRA captors was made public, prompting speculation that Scappaticci had given the tape to his military handlers.

Freddie Scappaticci was outed by a man known as Martin Ingram who has said in the past that Scappaticci, codenamed 'Stakeknife', would have kept his handlers informed of the three victims' situation.

Ingram worked for the Forces Research Unit, a covert military intelligence unit in the North.

Irene Dignam said that nearly 15 years after the murder not a single person has been arrested.

"I want the Ombudsman to investigate this because I want to know if this man Scappaticci had a role in my son's murder," she said. "I have been very suspicious about the circumstances surrounding it for some time, and I feel that questions need to be answered.

"The whole police investigation into the murder has been non-existent, not a single person has been arrested for it, I find that hard to believe. For those reasons I want Nuala O'Loan to investigate."

The Police Ombudsman could not be contacted for comment.

Scappaticci's role as an informer is also expected to be examined by the Smithwick Tribunal, which is investigating whether gardai colluded with the IRA in the 1989 ambush of RUC men Bob Buchanan and Harry Breen in south Armagh.

It has been alleged that Scappaticci was the IRA handler of a Garda some suspect may have tipped the IRA off that Buchanan and Breen would be travelling through south Armagh after a cross-border meeting in Dundalk Garda Station.

Archives Search

Simple

Advanced

Date Search

Help

ThePost.ie

News

Features

TCH Archives

Keyword Search

Date Search

Contact



[Business Post Archives Home](#) | [Business Post Website](#)

[Simple Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Date Search](#)

© The Sunday Business Post, 2005, Thomas Crosbie Media TCH