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News

DNA to unmask evil UDA murderers

Sunday, January 07, 2007

By Ciaran McGuigan

New DNA evidence is set to expose the cowardly UDA hoods who murdered a young mum almost 20 years ago.

Lorraine McCausland (23) was savagely beaten and her half-naked body dumped in a stream near a loyalist drinking club in north Belfast in March 1987.

The gang who carried out the 'romper room'-style killing were never caught but the victim's family believe that new DNA evidence - uncovered after their fight for justice was taken up by human rights campaigners - may finally lead police to the murderers.

It is understood that the family has now asked for the grisly murder to be probed by the police's Historical Enquiries Team.

The family - along with representatives from the campaigning British Irish Rights Watch - are to meet with detectives from the HET later this month.

The victim's sister, Cathy McIlvenna, told Sunday Life: "After all these years there appears to have finally been some movement in Lorraine's case.

"It was only British Irish Rights Watch got involved and helped uncover this new evidence that we have had any development.

"This evidence was missed by the original investigation, but now, after more than 19 years, we can see some light at the end of the tunnel in this murder."

The original investigation into the murder is also being probed by the Police Ombudsman's office

A spokesman for the ombudsman said: "We are investigating a complaint from the family that the police failed to conduct a thorough investigation of (Lorraine McCausland's) murder."

The mum-of-two was discovered face down in a stream at Howard's Glen in the Ballysillian area.

A trail of blood led from the spot where she was found back to Tyndale Community Centre, where she had been earlier in the evening and where she is believed to have been attacked.

cmcguigan@belfasttelegraph.co.uk

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