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News

'Cold case' cops in dark over murders

PSNI keep terror files from colleagues

Sunday, February 11, 2007

By Alan Murray

Seven murder cases relating to the Troubles have not been passed to the Historical Enquiries Team, Sunday Life has learned.

In a statement last week the PSNI confirmed that seven terrorist incidents that resulted in fatalities have been retained by the force's C2 investigation team and withheld from the cold cases unit.

It is understood two of the deaths include the killing of republican Eoin Morley in Newry in 1990 and the killing in an IRA 'human bomb' attack of Royal Irish Ranger Cyril Smith six months later.

The former Army spy, who uses the pseudonym Kevin Fulton, was arrested by C2 detectives in London last November and questioned about both murders after descriptions of the killings appeared in *Unsung Hero*, a book detailing his role as an agent.

In an open letter to Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde after Fulton's arrest, Mark Thompson, the Director of Relatives for Justice, said he was puzzled as to why the Chief Constable had directed his detectives to arrest and question Fulton.

He asked Sir Hugh if the intelligence services requested Fulton's arrest "in a bid to prevent him from further disclosing information about his activities as a state agent", and suggested that the move seriously compromised the integrity of the Historical Enquiries Team.

Sir Hugh declined to respond to Mr Thompson's claim, but last week the PSNI did confirm that seven cases have been withheld from Dave Cox's HET unit.

The statement said that the PSNI "are maintaining contact with families and HET will look at all cases eventually".

The PSNI said that the HET unit was aware that a small number of murder cases had not been passed to it and added that it had "developed bespoke analytical tools to record and investigate links between cases".

But Mark Thompson said he is concerned that the PSNI is not passing all pre-1998 murder cases to the HET.

"Seven cases is seven cases too many to be withheld from the HET. It is unacceptable and it raises questions why these particular cases are only being handled by PSNI detectives."

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