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News

Double-agent linked to UVF killer's death

Sunday, March 11, 2007

By Alan Murray

One of the republicans at the centre of the Police Ombudaman's probe into murders committed by RUC double-agents is believed to have killed notorious loyalist Lenny Murphy.

The crazed UVF killer (pictured) was gunned down in Belfast's Glencairn Estate in November 1982.

The leader of the hated 'Shankill Butchers' gang was shot 22 times outside his girlfriend's home by an IRA unit concealed in a parked van.

Republican sources told Sunday Life that Murphy's killer later threatened to kill Gerry Adams before joining the breakaway Irish People's Liberation Organisation where he continued to operate as a Special Branch agent.

It's believed the Springfield Road man was handled by the retired Special Branch officer who was arrested at his North Down home last week in connection with an inquiry into the murder of Mary Travers in April 1984.






Sources say Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan is probing whether the retired officer learned any details about the planning of the killing of the resident magistrate's daughter or the destruction of evidence after the murder from his informant.

Murphy's killer isn't believed to have been a gunman in the Travers murder, but Ms Travers' killer is now suspected by republicans in Belfast to have been an RUC agent considered much more vital to protect.

Mrs O'Loan is investigating the roles of two police agents in the Travers murder and whether RUC officers had any prior knowledge of the attack.

Ms Travers received fatal gunshot wounds when her father, Tom, was attacked after the family left Mass at St Brigid's Church in south Belfast.

It's understood Mr Travers has been given the name of the IRA man who murdered his daughter and wounded him.

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