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My arrest t-out of order

By Alan Murray

12 November 2006

The arrest of an ex-soldier who infiltrated the IRA may have dealt a body blow to the special unit set up to probe all unsolved Troubles-related murders.

The Historical Enquiries Team promised to try to bring closure to relatives of victims and to achieve resolution in difficult cases.

But the arrest of Army spy 'Kevin Fulton' and his interrogation by the PSNI's criminal investigations department about two IRA murders has placed a major legal obstacle in the team's path.

Sources close to Fulton, who underwent 30 interviews before being released without charge last Sunday, say he now won't be offering any assistance to either the cold cases team or the Dublin tribunal set up to investigate the double-killing on the border of RUC officers Chief Superintendent Harry Breen and Superintendent Bob Buchanan.

"That's him finished because whatever he says to either the Historical Enquiries Team or the tribunal in Dublin will be obtained or recorded by detectives in C2 to nail him," said a friend.

"He's a whistleblower who has embarrassed the authorities over the Omagh bombing and they're after him. So, from now on, he'll stay quiet, and that means the HET detectives and the tribunal will lose out."

Fulton was questioned in Belfast about the IRA killings of Eoin Morley in Newry in April 1990 and the death of Ranger Cyril Smith QGM, who was killed in a human bomb attack on the Killeen checkpoint six months later.

The cold case unit had expected Fulton to give them vital details about the murder of Ranger Smith and pinpoint the key Provo operatives who carried out the attack.

But his friends say Fulton's arrest by the PSNI "has knocked that on the head".

It's understood senior figures in the HET are concerned Fulton's arrest has reduced the prospects of bringing closure over a number of IRA murders in the south Down area.

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Jane Winter, director of British Irish Rights Watch, said the arrest could prove a setback for the cold cases squad.

"I genuinely fear this will deter Fulton and some others from co-operating with the team. I fear this has damaged the Historical Enquiries Team's prospects of bringing closure for some relatives," she said.

But one security source said cops were duty-bound to interview Fulton, adding: "In his book *Unsung Hero* there is detail about these two murders. Relatives are demanding that Fulton be interviewed about these matters, and that has to be done.

"The reality is that he could be interviewed again if any other information comes to light. The material is in the book and it can't be ignored."

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