

Go to:

**Guardian  
Unlimited**

Advertisement

**GuardianUnlimited Special reports**

Home	UK	Business	Audio	Guardian Weekly	The Wrap	News blog	Talk	Search
The Guardian	World	America	Arts	Special reports	Podcasts	News guide	Help	Quiz

**Special  
report**  
Northern  
Ireland**Sisters plan civil case over Belfast murder**

**Henry McDonald**  
**Thursday January 31, 2008**  
[The Guardian](#)

Search this site

The sisters of murdered Belfast man Robert McCartney said yesterday they are pursuing a civil case against his alleged killers that will name, among others, senior members of the IRA in the city.

Go to...

[Special report: Northern Ireland](#)[Northern Ireland archived articles](#)**In this section**[Sisters plan civil case over Belfast murder](#)[Obituary: Anthony Jennings](#)[Ulster midwives may refuse to carry out emergency abortions](#)

Three years after the 33-year-old father of two was savagely beaten and stabbed to death outside a Belfast bar, the McCartneys said they were taking the case because there was still "a wall of silence" that was protecting at least 10 key suspects. The family allege that these suspects are members of the Provisional IRA and that organisation has intimidated witnesses into not coming forward.

Only one man, Terence Davidson, 51, has been charged with the murder. Two other men James McCormick, 38, and Joseph Fitzpatrick, 46, have been charged with affray. The McCartneys want to pursue a civil case following the murder trial, which is expected to start in April.

"We hope that the murder trial will open doors to allow us to take a civil action against the people we believe were behind Robert's murder," said Paula McCartney.

She added that she did not accept assurances from the Sinn Féin leadership that it supported her family's

[IRA threat to Quinn murder witness](#)

[Real IRA suspect arrested in Lithuanian arms sting](#)

[Real IRA man's brother arrested in Lithuania weapons sting](#)

[Northern Ireland schools to be 'more accountable'](#)

[Henry McDonald: What happened to ... Comfort Adefowoju](#)

[Why Europe victory was Best's downfall](#)

[Law and order Belfast-style as two men are forced on a 'walk of shame'](#)

[Omagh widower calls Flanagan in civil action](#)

[Catholic church under pressure to stop sale of paedophile's book](#)

[Troubles enough](#)

[Irish police press for Taser guns](#)

[Police board calls in independent experts to re-examine Omagh bombing evidence](#)

campaign for justice. Sinn Féin insisted yesterday that it still supported them "unequivocally".

The McCartneys' planned civil action will be similar to the one being pursued by some of the families of victims of the 1998 Omagh bomb atrocity.

### **Special report**

[More on the Northern Ireland assembly](#)  
[Life in Northern Ireland](#)

### **Political Alerts**

[Get the day's top headlines straight to your mobile](#)

### **Sign up for the Backbencher**

[Our free weekly insider's guide to Westminster](#)

### **What do you think?**

[Email comments for publication to politics.editor@guardianunlimited.co.uk](#)

### **Useful link**

[Northern Ireland assembly](#)

---

[Printable version](#) | [Send it to a friend](#) | [Clip](#)

[Privacy policy](#) | [Terms & conditions](#) | [Advertising guide](#) | [A-Z index](#) | [About this site](#)  
[Join our dating site today](#)

[Read today's paper](#) · [Jobs](#)

Search:

Guardian Unlimited  
Web