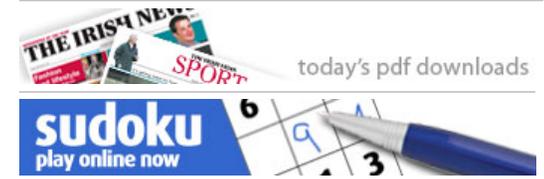


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Victims' families meet ombudsman

By Barry McCaffrey

26/01/08

The families of six men murdered in a UVF gun attack on the Heights Bar in Loughinisland in 1994 met yesterday for the first time with new Police Ombudsman Al Hutchinson.

Six men, including the oldest victim of the Troubles, 87-year-old Barney Greene, were shot dead by UVF gunmen at the Height's Bar in Loughinisland on June 18 1994.

In 2006 the victims' families asked then Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan to investigate concerns that the police had failed to carry out a proper murder investigation because security force agents had been involved in the atrocity.

Speaking after a meet-ing the families' solicitor, Niall Murphy, said: "It was a very emotional discussion.

"The ombudsman was unable to provide the families with answers to specific concerns on the grounds that it may prejudice the integrity of

a forthcoming report into the massacre."

"Mr Hutchinson asked the families to trust his office but he accepted that trust could only be fully tested once his report is finally published and people see if he has got to the truth surrounding the Loughinisland massacre."