



WEDNESDAY  
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### IRA men's families in Lords challenge bid

Lawyers representing the families of two IRA men shot dead by the security forces in controversial circumstances have gone to the House of Lords to challenge the manner in which the inquests into their deaths will proceed.

By: Press Association

Pearse Jordan was shot dead by an RUC officer after the stolen car he was driving was involved in a collision with a police vehicle on Belfast's Falls Road in 1992.

Martin McCaughey was shot dead near Loughgall, Co Armagh by an undercover SAS unit two years earlier.

Jordan's father Hugh, who successfully took the government to the European Court of Human Rights in 2001 for a breach of the government's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, is seeking to secure changes to the inquests system to permit a jury in Northern Ireland to return a verdict of unlawful killing.

McCaughey's father Owen is seeking to compel the Chief Constable to produce key documents including intelligence reports relevant to the death of his son and the report of the RUC's investigating officer.

In January 2002 Northern Ireland High Court Judge, Mr Justice Weatherup ordered the disclosure of the documents, however the Chief Constable successfully appealed the ruling in January 2005.

Peter Madden of Madden and Finucane, who is solicitor for both families, said: "The decision of the House of Lords will have profound implications for the manner in which inquests shall be conducted by coroners in Northern Ireland."

He said previous judicial challenges his firm had taken had secured amendments to the Coroner's Rules which now compel those members of the security forces responsible for the use of lethal force to appear at

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- 11:27 Man injured on Dublin building site
- 10:39 Bad weather hampers trawler search
- 10:37 Cork body find not suspicious
- 10:05 Pair held after Dublin drugs seizure
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inquests and be subject to cross examination by lawyers for the family.

"We hope that the outcome of these further challenges will enable the families to have access to all relevant documents and permit the jury to return a verdict of excessive force and unlawful killing, in protection of the families` legitimate interests, the public interest and in a manner which is compatible with Article 2 of the European Convention - the right to life," said Mr Madden.

The Jordan killing sparked controversy after witnesses claimed he was shot several times in the back by an unnamed RUC Sergeant while trying to run away after his stolen car was rammed by a police vehicle.

McCaughey was allegedly unarmed when he and fellow IRA man Dessie Grew were shot by the SAS as they walked towards a barn where weapons were stored.

The killing raised fresh allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy being operated as McCaughey was said to be a "marked man" after being wounded in a shoot out with soldiers earlier in the same year and escaping across the border where he was still undergoing treatment at the time of his death.

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