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LOCAL NEWS



Robert McCartney

Wednesday 28 May 2008 17:08

Friend gives evidence at murder trial

Robert McCartney`s best friend has been giving evidence in the trial of a man accused of his murder.

51-year-old Terence Davison denies killing the father of two who was beaten and stabbed to death outside Magennis` bar in Belfast in January 2005.

Speaking from behind a screen, Edward Gowdy detailed for the prosecution how he had been drinking in the bar with Robert McCartney and his friend Brendan Devine when a fight broke out which spilled out into the street.

He said the three of them walked up Market Street and were followed by a gang of between 10 to 12 men some armed with sticks and bottles. One of whom was Terence Davison.

He said he returned to the bar and received a text message later saying Robert McCartney was in a bad way in hospital.

The Defence QC asked him why he did not mention Terence Davison once when he was at the hospital with the grieving family, whom he would have wanted to help as much as he could.

Edward Gowdy replied: "I named the people in confrontation with me, I didn't name every person in the street."

During cross examination, Mr Gowdy also admitted lying to police because of perceived paramilitary involvement in the murder.

He said that because of the area where he lived, he "didn't know the situation at the time, what I could say or what I couldn't say".

The trial continues.



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