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Local & National

The lies of a killer who lured my son to his grisly death

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

By Lisa Smyth

Loyalist killer William 'Mo' Courtney was last night branded a liar by the devastated mother of his victim Alan McCullough.

As Courtney was last night beginning an eight-year jail sentence for the manslaughter of the 21-year-old UDA man, Barbara McCullough hit out at the man she holds responsible for luring her son to his grisly death.

McCullough was shot up to four times and buried in a shallow grave near north Belfast in May 2003 at the height of a vicious feud within the UDA.

He was driven to his death by Courtney after being given assurances that it was safe for him to return to Northern Ireland.

He had earlier fled to England with other members of Adair's notorious 'C' Company.

Mrs McCullough spoke of her disgust at the sentence handed down to Courtney.

She said: "I though he should have got longer. He has done nothing but lie from day one.

"He told Alan it was safe to come home. He would never have come home otherwise.

"I never trusted him though. They were all the same kind of people who killed my husband."

Mrs McCullough added: "I sat here and watched Alan get into Courtney's car that night and when he went missing we had phone calls from people speaking for Courtney telling us to withdraw our statements and they would tell us where Alan was."

Describing how her life has been shattered, Mrs McCullough said her family was subjected to a campaign of terror at the hands of the UDA following her son's killing.

"We have had windows smashed, cars burned and numerous death threats. We've been put through hell," she said.

"The dogs on the street know who killed Alan and they won't get away with it."

Mr McCullough's older brother, Kenny, said the family has made an appointment to see the Police Ombudsman.

He said police did everything they could in their investigation but there are still questions that need answered.

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