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Gibraltar-IRA

Inquest jury retires to consider legality of shooting of IRA trio

GIBRALTAR, Sept 30 (AFP) - Judge Felix Pizzarello, summing up at the inquest here into the killings of three members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) told the jury to consider whether the killings were lawful or unlawful.

The IRA trio, Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage, were shot dead on the Rock by Britain's elite Special Air Services (SAS) corps in March.

The three had been suspected of planting a car bomb which the SAS wrongly believed was about to explode when they shot the trio.

The judge said: "The rule of law requires that those who took part in the operation also have a responsibility and duty to operate under the law."

He added that the SAS soldiers' state of mind was important. He asked the jury to disregard opinions and to concentrate on facts. If the verdict is to be unlawful killing "you must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that this was so," said the judge.

He asked the jury to consider the sequence of events that lead to the killings, and to ask themselves whether the evidence given by the soldiers at the inquest was truthful and accurate.

The judge addressed the 11-man jury for just over an hour. The jury then retired to consider the evidence.

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