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Local & National

Quinn killers' relatives must come forward

Friday, January 25, 2008

By Ed Carty

Relatives of members of a gang who murdered a young truck driver were last night urged to come forward as detectives investigate 1,200 lines of inquiry into the death.

South Armagh man Paul Quinn was lured from his home by suspected republicans to an isolated farm a few miles over the Border last October.

They beat the 21-year-old with iron bars and left him for dead.

Gardai in the Republic revealed they have taken 400 witness statements from people in 70 townlands across the south Armagh and north Monaghan border region.

Garda Superintendent Karl Heller, heading up the murder probe, urged relatives of the gang to come forward.

He said: "These people have families and this was a brutal murder. Clearly this must affect these people in ... a way that you would notice differences, and we would appeal for them to act."

Gardai believe a large number of people were in the outbuildings on the farm at Tullycorra near the village of Oram on the night of the attack.

"We are satisfied that there are people in both the south Armagh and north Monaghan, or indeed the greater area, and they are people with key, vital information and these people are still there," Mr Heller said.

Detectives are also trying to trace a white van, either a Toyota Hiace or Nissan Vanette, they believe was used by the gang.

Mr Heller appealed for anyone working in the car, scrap or dismantler business who may have been approached with the van, up to 10 years old, with black bull bars on the front, to come forward.

Detectives believe IRA members were part of the gang which lured Mr Quinn to his death but the murder has not been linked to the terror group's leadership.

Gardai have spent the last three months carrying out door- to-door inquiries across the border area.

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