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Thursday, 11 September 2008

There has been a significant development in the police investigation into the murder of journalist Martin O'Hagan.

He was shot dead by loyalists, in front of his wife, in Lurgan, Co. Armagh seven years ago.

Martin O'Hagan had written a series of articles about loyalist involvement in drug-dealing and the collusion of some with police.

He was threatened by a loyalist on his way home, shortly before his murder.

Despite being shaken, he continued living normally but was gunned down on his way home from the pub on a Friday night.

His last act was to push his wife into a hedge to save her.

Colleagues and the National Union of Journalists have alleged a police

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cover-up because the killers were informers.

On Tuesday, five men were arrested in Down and Armagh and are being questioned by detectives.

At the time the killing was claimed by the Red Hand Defenders, but was believed the men involved had links with the mid-Ulster based Loyalist Volunteer Force.

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