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Latest news

Arrest author of McGurk's book call

North Belfast News

By Aine McEntee

The daughter of a UVF victim has urged the Police Ombudsman to arrest and question the author of a new book who claims to have significant knowledge about the loyalist bombing of McGurk's Bar in 1971.

The book – Killing For Britain – went on sale this week and claims to chronicle the life of a former North Belfast UVF man who was recruited to a notorious undercover British army intelligence unit, the Military Reconnaisance Force.

The book has been written under the pseudonym John Black. At this stage the author is refusing to reveal his true identity for fear, his publisher claims, of being assassinated like UDA-man-turned informer William Stobie.

Pat Irvine, whose mother Kitty was one of 15 innocent people killed in the atrocity, said the Police Ombudsman, who has been investigating the bombing for at least three years now, should arrest John Black.

"I've read the chapter on McGurk's and it was deeply upsetting.

"This guy needs to be arrested and questioned. We need to find out if this guy is telling the truth because if he is, it goes right to the heart of government. I am calling on people and all our political parties to stand with me and ask the Ministry of Defence for the truth. We deserve it."

UVF man Robert James Campbell later received 16 life sentences for the atrocity.

Top secret MoD documents reveal that republicans were put in the frame as the killers in the 72 hours after the bombing and word of an 'own goal' was spread.

The British government recently apologised to the families of the victims for the way they were treated.

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The Police Ombudsman's office told this paper they were unable to say when their report would be published.

A meeting is to be held tomorrow (Friday) to discuss the case a spokesman said.

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