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Ciaran's killers must be caught

(Editorial, [Irish News](#))

One of the most depressing aspects of the brutal murder of Catholic teenager Ciaran Cummings is that six years on the police appear to be no closer to bringing his killers to justice.

An inquest yesterday (Thursday) heard distressing details of the last few minutes of this young man's life.

It is clear from the evidence that he had no chance of escaping the determined gunman who wounded the 19-year-old, pursued him as he tried to flee, then pinned him to the ground and delivered the fatal shot at close range.

This was a cruel end to the life of a teenager who, like so many before him, died purely as a result of bigotry and religious hatred.

According to evidence given to the coroner's court, police believe the Red Hand Defenders, which is a cover name for the UFF, carried out the murder on the Greystone Road, Antrim, with support from the UVF.

It was also revealed that the killers, who used a motorcycle in this attack, carried out a trial run the day before shooting Ciaran Cummings, who followed the same route each morning and was the easiest of targets.

This was a brazen crime, carried out in broad daylight in front of any number of potential witnesses, which showed the killers had little fear of being apprehended.

It is disturbing that those responsible for selecting this young man for death and carrying out this outrage continue to walk free.

It must be remembered that this sectarian murder was carried out less than six years ago and it is not too late for witnesses to come forward.

The police are reexamining this case and it is essential every effort is made to ensure those who took this teenager's life do not get away with murder.

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