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INLA: we have no link to killings

By staff Reporter

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The INLA last night insisted that it is not aligned to dissident republicans responsible for the murder of three

members of the security forces earlier this month.

The killing of British army soldiers Mark Quinsey and Patrick Azimkar in Antrim and shooting dead of PSNI officer Stephen Carroll two days later in Craigavon were seen as the latest dissident attempt to destabilise the peace process.

In recent months INLA members have been seen alongside leading dissidents at rallies against the British army's 'homecoming' parade and protests against the PSNI.

However, insisting that it had no plans for a "military alliance" with either the Real IRA or Continuity IRA, an INLA spokesman said:

"Our view for the last 12 years is that armed struggle at this present time is futile. It only ends up with young working-class people going to jail. There is no sharing of materials or armaments."

The INLA spokesman said that informal contacts with the British and Irish governments remained in place through ex-prisoner organisations – but ruled out engagement with General John de Chastelain's decommissioning body.

In recent months the Independent Monitoring Commissioning, Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams have all accused the INLA of being involved in drug dealing, extortion and tiger kidnapping.

The INLA in Derry has also been blamed for the murders of alleged drug dealers Jim McConnell and Bryan McGlynn and pizza delivery man Emmett Shiels.

A number of senior INLA members, including its Dublin leader Declan Duffy, are awaiting trial in the Republic for involvement in gangland feuds and tiger kidnappings.

Rejecting the claims that its organisation was involved in crime, he said that Mr Duffy had been suspended while an investigation was being carried out and the INLA in Dublin has been stood down.

"Involvement in crime will not be tolerated," the spokesman said.

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