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LVF thugs who witnessed Wright execution still not interviewed

Sunday, June 17, 2007

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Former LVF prisoners at the Maze have yet to be approached to give evidence at the £7.2 million public inquiry into the killing of Billy Wright.

The prisoners were housed in H Block 6 when LVF chief Wright (right) was shot dead by three INLA inmates on December 27, 1997 - and some witnessed the killing from their cell windows.

Another prisoner was sitting alongside the mass murderer in a prison van when the INLA struck.

He claims a prison officer fled the scene, leaving him alone inside the prison van with the dying loyalist.

Prisoners claim they have crucial information which the inquiry must hear before reaching a conclusion on whether or not the state colluded in the murder of the notorious terror boss.

A former close associate of Wright confirmed he'd approached the inquiry team 18 months ago offering to provide information on the LVF leader's politics at the time of his death.

"I contacted the inquiry team and volunteered to speak to them. The inquiry is now up and running and I've heard nothing. As far as I know none of the ex-LVF prisoners have been contacted by the inquiry."

The Wright Inquiry confirmed it had not approached any former LVF prisoners at the Maze.

The inquiry said the delay had been due to its ongoing work in respect of the recovery of documents and information. But a spokesperson added it would be contacting the prisoners shortly to obtain witness depositions from them.

The inquiry, currently sitting in Banbridge, has so far cost the taxpayer £ 7,217,000, according to figures released by Secretary of State Peter Hain in the Commons last week.

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