



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Blindness that blights society

I have copied in full **an article from the Belfast Telegraph** (February 11th, 2021) regarding the murder by 'dissident republicans' of a man widely known as a gangster in Belfast.

A case is being taken against the police by his family, alleging that the police are to blame for not warning him of their suspicions that he was in danger from 'dissident IRA gunmen'!

As the headline states, the family are accusing the police of failing to prevent his murder. Upon reading the headline I immediately thought that there was one person more guilty than any of failure in preventing this murder. Jim Donegan himself!!!!

Had he not been involved in the murky world of crime it is more than likely he would not have been a target.

The court case highlights the perverted thinking of society today. No one takes any responsibility for the dire consequences that their own folly brings upon them.

The Bible does not endorse such thinking and the prevalence of such a philosophy indicates the total blindness and ignorance of God's Word which have invaded our Ulster society.

Here is something of what the Bible says.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting," Galatians 6:7-8.

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him (God) a liar, and his word is not in us," 1 John 1:10.

"For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: they would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil," Proverbs 1:29-33.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God," 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

The above verses are sufficient to set forth God's thinking on this court case. His decision on the matter is clear, irrespective of what is the outcome of the case in man's court!

Would that we had magistrates who shared God's view of justice!

PSNI 'could have prevented Jim Donegan murder'

Force failed to warn victim of threat, court told

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Police failed to warn a man murdered outside a west Belfast school about a threat linked to dissident republicans, the High Court was told on Thursday.

Jim Donegan's family believe he would still be alive if the information had been passed on before he was



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gunned down in December 2018.

The Police Ombudsman is investigating how the potential threat against him was handled. The victim's son is taking action against the PSNI over the route taken to notify the watchdog.



Mr Donegan (43) was shot dead in his car at the gates of St Mary's Christian Brothers School on the Glen Road.

His family subsequently discovered the PSNI was aware of a specific threat linked to him, their barrister said.

The information was that "dissident republicans intended to target an individual who regularly collected his child from school on the Glen Road".

Fiona Doherty QC told the court: "The issue at the heart of this case is the fact he (Mr Donegan) was never informed of this."

The alleged failure was said to relate to how information was entered on police systems.

Despite the ongoing Ombudsman probe, Cris Donegan is seeking a judicial review of the internal PSNI process.

Killed: Jim Donegan was shot dead outside a west Belfast school

He contends that there was an obligation for the referral to be made by one of two other legislative routes: where it appears that the conduct of

an officer may have resulted in someone's death, or where an officer's behaviour could justify disciplinary proceedings.

In an affidavit, the victim's son expressed shock at finding out information was not passed on.

"I believe if this information had been provided to my father, then he would still be alive today," he said.

"Any previous threats relayed to my father from the PSNI were of a generic nature. This threat was far more detailed."

The family was also informed by police that the gunman was seen at the scene of the murder the previous Thursday, the court heard. "If the threat had been relayed at the appropriate time, my father could have changed his routine and taken further appropriate actions to minimise the threat," Mr Donegan added.

Claiming an error of law in how the Ombudsman came to be notified, Ms Doherty suggested it could have meant no independent investigation took place.

"Is this court seriously being asked to accept there is absolutely no chance that a member of the police force involved in this debacle may have behaved in a manner which would justify disciplinary proceedings?" she asked. "That's just not a tenable argument."

Tony McGleenan QC, for the PSNI, countered that the challenge was academic.

He stressed how the police investigation into the murder and the watchdog inquiry into the alleged failure to pass on information were both continuing.

"This case is about a simple question of whether the PSNI should have used a different method of alerting the Ombudsman," Mr McGleenan told the court.

Counsel pointed out that within two days of discovering the suspected failure, a senior officer made a notification.



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Disputing the grounds of challenge, Mr McGleenan argued that the circumstances surrounding the murder were clear.

“The death of Mr Donegan was caused by a criminal element who conducted a most brutal assassination,” he said.

“It is acknowledged that there was a failing in police systems in terms of the communication of a threat.

“That was identified and it was alerted to the Ombudsman, but it cannot be said to have resulted in the death.”

Mr Justice Humphreys told the court that he hoped to give his decision in the case later this month.