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## Ex-soldier jailed after arms find



Rosemary Nelson was murdered by a loyalist car bomb

A former Royal Irish Regiment soldier who had links with the right-wing extremist group Combat 18, has been jailed for nine years for storing loyalist arms.

► **BBC NI's Gerry Bradley reports**  
"Thompson was arrested when detectives raided his home last March"  
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Former Lance Corporal William Ian Thompson, 29, pleaded guilty to having guns and components for a pipe bomb with intent to endanger life.

Thompson was arrested last March when detectives investigating the death of Catholic solicitor Rosemary Nelson raided his home at Breezemount Manor, Hamiltonsbawn, five miles from Armagh city.

Mrs Nelson, a mother-of-three, died in a booby-trap car bomb near her home in Lurgan, County Armagh on 15 March 1999.

An Uzi sub-machinegun, sawn-off shotgun, 25 cartridges and pipe bomb components were found hidden in a lawnmower in the garage of Thompson's home.

### 'Fascist organisation'

Detectives also uncovered materials on the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force, Ulster Freedom Fighters and Loyalist Volunteer Force.

There was also material on murdered LVF leader Billy Wright and Combat 18 propaganda, which Mr Justice McLaughlin described as a "fascist organisation which glories in its associations with the thinking and philosophy of Hitler".

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