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PA Colin Duffy (PA in log case folder)

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the Irish News Wednesday August 20 1997

Video casts doubt over witness: Duffy

By Brendan Anderson

AN RUC security video film will show that an alleged eyewitness in a double murder case was not where she claimed to be when the crime was committed. It was claimed yesterday.

Lurgan man Colin Duffy, who faces charges of murdering two policemen in the town in June, also told *the Irish News* that nine people had come forward to "verily beyond doubt" that he was at least half-a-mile away from the murder scene.

The 29-year-old, from Drumnamore Gardens, Lurgan, is charged with murdering Constable Roland John Graham and Reserve Constable David Johnson at Church Walk in the town on June 16. He has already spent

three-and-a-half years in prison before being released ten months ago when the appeal court overturned his life sentence for the murder of John Lyness in June 1993.

In a letter to *the Irish News*, Colin Duffy said: "Even as I was being charged, three persons were present in Lurgan RUC station to provide alibi statements regarding my whereabouts at the time of the shooting.

"Following this, a further nine witnesses have come forward and made statements to the RUC which verily beyond doubt that at the time of the shooting, I was at least half-a-mile away and engaged in every day business. These witnesses represent an entire cross section of the Lurgan community including students, old age pensioners, taxi drivers and their

passengers."

Mr Duffy, who has twice been turned down for bail, said video film from a security camera at Lurgan RUC station would confirm that an eyewitness, crucial to the prosecution, was not where she claimed to be when the policemen were murdered.

"Many people have voiced concerns about the matter but it appears that the RUC remain determined to prolong my imprisonment..."

"How can a system of criminal justice which functions in such a manner be trusted? Upon my release from prison in September of last year, I was optimistic that I would finally be permitted to live a normal life with my family.

"My wife is currently expecting our second

child and certainly neither of us expected history to repeat itself. Words cannot convey adequately my frustration and feeling of impotence at being faced with this situation yet again.

"I have spent substantial periods of time in custody since I was a teenager and no charge against me has ever been sustained. Even despite the fact that my innocence has always been ultimately established, there appears to be no redress inbuilt within the system. I feel my case highlights all that is wrong with the current system and gives rise to serious questions regarding the behaviour of the RUC which must be addressed."

Mr Duffy thanked "all those individuals of conscience" who supported him and asked for their continued backing.