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Rights group consults UN over Duffy 'irregularities'

By Brendan Anderson

A LEADING human rights group had consulted the United Nations about "irregularities" in the case of Lurgan man Colin Duffy, charged with murdering two RUC officers.

Jane Winter, director of British Irish Rights Watch, said the group had made a submission to the United Nations concerning irregularities in the manner in which Mr Duffy's request for access to a solicitor was handled and the fact there appeared to be no reliable evidence to connect him with the crime.

Colin Duffy, (29), from Drumnamoe Gardens, Lurgan, is charged with murdering Constable Roland John Graham and Reserve Constable David Johnson at Church Walk in the town on June 16.

Ms Winter said she was

also concerned to hear last night that a successful request by his solicitor, Rosemary Nelson, to have remand hearings held every two weeks had been overturned. Remand hearings will now be held monthly instead.

Mrs Nelson said she was "most disappointed" at the recent turn of events given the "enormity of the alibi evidence already in the possession of the police".

"This seems to be a retrograde step. It is clear that this is a one-witness case and police are in possession of a volume of evidence which points to Mr Duffy's innocence and they appear to be reluctant to deal with the evidence accordingly."

She said further proceedings were being considered and she was in the process of consulting senior counsel.

SDLP man slams petrol bombers

A FERMANAGH SDLP councillor yesterday hit out at those who petrol bombed the offices of a residents' association calling the attack "absolutely ridiculous".

Three petrol bombs were thrown at a caravan which functioned as an office for the Derrykerrib Residents' Association at 10.30pm on Tuesday.

One exploded on impact breaking a window and causing scorch damage, another fell short of the caravan while a third failed to explode.

The RUC would not comment on whether they suspected a sectarian motive.

Councillor Fergus McQuillan denounced the attack. No-one from the Derrykerrib Residents' Association was available for comment yesterday.

Man in court charged with death threat

A DUNGANNON man has been in court charged with threatening to kill a 45-year-old man in the town on Tuesday.

Michael Gerard Cauley (25) unemployed of Fairmount Park, was remanded in custody until September 10 when he appeared at Cookstown magistrates court yesterday.

Defence solicitor Paddy Mallon said Cauley, who is denying the charge, will be applying to the high court for bail.

In brief

RUC officer in strip inquiry

An RUC officer is understood to be facing disciplinary action after a strip show during a birthday party at a police training college. It is believed the investigation relates to an incident in the social club of the Lancashire police training school in Hutton. The RUC officer is one of more than 20 policemen under investigation over the incident.

Pub arson suspected

Police have issued an appeal for information on a fire at a Belfast pub in the early hours of yesterday.

An upstairs room at the Black Swan on the King's Way in Dunmurry was considerably damaged in what police believe was an arson attack.

Probe against ex-MI5 agent

Scotland Yard is to investigate a former MI5 agent to see if he breached the Official Secrets Act when he revealed details of bugging operations against prominent individuals.

David Shayler's revelations, including an allegation that the Security Service missed the chance to "finish off" the IRA, sparked a storm of controversy over the organisation's aims and methods.