

Challenge to PPS decision making on Kenova

We act on behalf of the family of Anthony Braniff who was murdered by PIRA as an alleged informant in September 1981.

The case was part of the group of cases investigated by Operation Kenova, the independent police investigation set up 7 years ago following a referral by the Director of the PPS.

Earlier this year Kenova referred a file to the PPS containing evidence to connect both PIRA and members of the security forces. Despite that a decision was taken not to prosecute anyone in connection with the murder. On Thursday last week we lodged judicial Review proceedings in the High court against the PPS.

Solicitor Kevin Winters of KRW LAW Conflict Litigation Dept stated today, "It's conceded the evidential threshold to get any prosecution over the line is quite high. However we say the bar is reached here. At the very least there ought to have been an assessment of breaches of Health and Safety provisions. Never mind specific individuals, no consideration at all was given to State criminal corporate liability. If this was in London the Crown Prosecution Service would have had no difficulty in prosecuting. But this is Belfast so there won't be any prosecutions on anything that touches upon State collusion. 'Thus it has always been and thus it shall ever be' when it comes to interfacing between the criminal justice system and State intelligence oversight. It will be a travesty if after 7 years and £40m worth of investigative work there isn't a single prosecution arising out of Kenova. This challenge is an attempt to make sure that doesn't happen." ENDS

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