

UTV INSIGHT
“COP OUT?”

01:40 INTRODUCTION: At least 2 people have been kicked to death on our streets this year. [REDACTED] was one a policeman set on by a mob who decided to take their grievances out on him. Another was Robert Hamill a young catholic again set on by thugs with murderous intent. In his case the police were there in a land rover parked a few yards away and as you'll hear in [REDACTED] report one alleged witness claims he warned the RUC something awful was about to happen just 10 minutes before it did. So, what did happen to Robert Hamill? I should stress one man is in custody charged with his murder. 5 others have had the charges withdrawn and the RUC's role is subject to investigation by the Independent Commission for Police Complaints. [REDACTED]'s report also contains some strong language.

3:04 [REDACTED]: Robert Hamill was fatally injured at 01.45 on a Sunday morning as he made his way home from a social club in the centre of Portadown. The assault happened here in Market Street just yards from a RUC land rover which was parked outside the Halifax. We have spoken to a number of people who were there that night among them one man who said he warned police about the potential for an attack minutes before it happened. Tonight 'Insight' asks how could a night out with friends turn to tragedy despite the presence of the RUC and could anything have been done to save Robert Hamill's life? Robert Hamill was twenty five and the father of two small boys to whom he was devoted. His partner was pregnant with their third child. The night he was murdered by a Loyalist mob he'd bumped into his friends **D** and **E** and **E**'s sister **F** at a dance in St Patrick's Hall.

4:16 E: Me and **D** and my sister **F** and another two friends went to St Patrick's Hall, there was a night on, and we were there for about half nine and we didn't meet Robert in the Hall Robert didn't come in 'til about half ten. I seen him standing at the bar and I went over to him and he gave me a big hug he always hugged me when he seen me. I says "Are you coming to join our company" and he says "Yes I'll be over in a minute". So he came over and he was sitting speaking to **D** most of the night but he would have got up and danced with me for an odd dance and laughed and carried on and we'd a great night in the Hall. And we'd a real good night in the Hall you know it was a real good atmosphere and all in St Patrick's Hall that night.

5:07 F: I'd never ever seen Robert up dancing before and of course he got **E** up and them two were messing about and laughing. We had a good night and, I don't drink you see and I was sitting watching these ones do you know what I mean having a good laugh

5:48 D: Well, we'd phoned for a taxi but the taxi said they'd been all booked up and so we took it upon ourselves to go for a walk we'd walk it down home it's only a short distance down two streets. From St Patrick's Hall we're walking up Thomas Street we're talking away the girls were talking and the boys were talking. Me and Robert were slightly in front of the girls. Chattering going on having a laugh

6:28 [REDACTED]: It's a short walk across Market Street into Woodhouse Street which leads to the tunnel and the Catholic district of Portadown. According to witnesses youths were standing in small groups in Market Street but Robert Hamill and his friends thought they were safe because there was an RUC land rover parked at the top of Woodhouse Street.

6:48 D: We're walking down Thomas Street and we'd came to the top of it and seen a couple of people sort of knocking about around the bottom of Thomas Street but we didn't think nothing of it and we walked on