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### News

## UDA fury as leader lets hated killer come home

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Evil bandhall killer Stephen Rules had a UDA death threat lifted because of his girlfriend's links to the top man in the loyalist organisation.

But the move - which has allowed the man jailed for the sickening murder of Margaret Wright to return to Ulster - has left many of the UDA's members furious.

They believe that the UDA's south Belfast brigadier Jackie McDonald gave the green light for Rules to return to Ulster simply because the killer's partner is close to a female friend of his.

One well-placed loyalist source told Sunday Life: "People believe that the lifting of the death threat against Stephen Rules is down to the friendship between these two young women.

"But what this man (Rules) did left a lot of people very angry and they are still very angry and don't want him anywhere near their community, no matter who he might be close to."

Rules fled from Belfast in 2002 after escaping a UDA murder bid at his Suffolk home.

He moved to England, but has returned to Northern Ireland within the past six weeks.

Rules was jailed in 1995 for the murder a year earlier of Margaret Wright.

Protestant Ms Wright was savagely beaten after being mistaken for a Catholic during a drink and drugs party at the notorious Bad Bet bandhall, off the Donegall Road.

She was subjected to a prolonged attack before being shot in the head and her naked body dumped in a wheelie bin.

Another man, Christopher Sheals was also convicted of murder, but he had that conviction quashed later and instead served a 15-year-sentence for GBH with intent in relation to the attack.

Two other men who played leading roles in the sickening murder, Red Hand Commando leader Billy Elliot and UVF man Ian Hamilton were shot dead by their respective gangs.

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