**Instructions:** Produce an info piece on Raymond McCord for [Truth-Justice.org](http://truth-justice.org)

* 4-5 paragraphs
* FACT CHECK
* Save sources on your end

**Raymond McCord**

Raymond McCord Sr. is a prominent human rights advocate hailing from Northern Ireland, known for his steadfast commitment to victims' rights advocacy. McCord Sr. began advocating for justice on his son's behalf, after the murder of his son, Raymond McCord Jr., in 1997 by loyalist paramilitaries. McCord Sr. has been a vocal critic of the lack of accountability and investigations into his son's murder and the broader issues of collusion between paramilitaries and state forces during the Troubles. His activism has contributed to legal challenges and calls for truth and justice in Northern Ireland.

Investigations have revealed that Raymond McCord Jr. was brutally murdered by Ulster loyalist paramilitary leader Mark Haddock on November 9, 1997. McCord Jr. was associated with the Mount Vernon unit of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) where he was under the command of Haddock, the man who issued the kill order. McCord Jr. was beaten to death with concrete blocks, and his body was dumped in the Ballydruff quarry on the outskirts of North Belfast. While McCord Sr. initially believed his son was killed by the UDA, it was later confirmed that the UVF was involved. McCord Sr. was enraged to discover that the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) waited 14 weeks before questioning Haddock, despite receiving information about his involvement in McCord Jr.'s murder.

McCord Sr.'s refusal to accept the lack of progress in his son's case has fueled his relentless pursuit to expose wrongdoing and collusion within loyalist paramilitary circles. He has utilized organizations such as the European Convention on Human Rights to hold the authorities accountable for their failure to bring those responsible for his son's murder to justice. In 2007, McCord Sr.'s perseverance paid off when an investigation by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland confirmed collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and state security forces in numerous murders, including that of Raymond McCord Jr. This acknowledgment validated McCord Sr.'s claims and bolstered his calls for justice and reforms.

Raymond McCord Sr.'s case has become a symbol of the challenges faced by victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland and the ongoing struggle for justice and accountability. Today, he continues to exert pressure on the British Government, not only seeking justice for his own son but also advocating on behalf of many voiceless victims. McCord Sr.'s campaign for justice has expanded beyond his personal tragedy. He aims to shed light on broader issues such as state collusion, paramilitary violence, terrorism, and the shortcomings of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. His efforts have played a crucial role in drawing attention to the need for truth, accountability, and support for all victims of the Troubles.

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