

# Father appeals for help to find missing son

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Raymond Kelly wants to end heartache after Martin vanished eight years ago



Martin Kelly was 21 when he went missing on New Year's Day in 2006

Thinking about what happened to his son Martin wasn't how Raymond Kelly anticipated he'd be marking his 30th birthday today.

But there'll be no family celebrations as the devastated dad goes to the bench in Belfast's Docks which marks the spot where his precious son was last seen alive more than eight years ago.

Since Martin disappeared without a trace on New Year's Day in 2006, his determined father has continued to search for him.

Despite a recent claim Martin may have been abducted, shot and secretly buried, Raymond is no closer to finding out what happened to his son the night he left Pat's Bar.

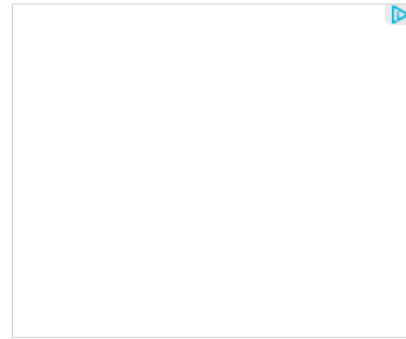
He said: "It seems that was said by someone in drink and police have investigated and eliminated that."

It's been a bitter blow for the father desperately hoping to solve the mystery. And on the day he should be celebrating Martin's milestone birthday, he is instead appealing for information to end his family's heartache.

Mr Kelly is appealing for help from anyone who might have seen Martin, especially two women who said they were praying for him at a chapel in Holywood.

"In January 2006, two girls were saying prayers at St Colmcille Church in Holywood and they were having a chat with a gentleman.

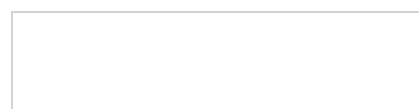
"He hadn't seen them there before. He got chatting to them and they said they were praying for Martin Kelly as they had overheard two men in the Priory Bar saying they were going to get him.



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"I would appeal for them to come forward either to the family, the PSNI or clergy.

"We're no closer to finding him or knowing what happened him.

"I'll be spending Martin's 30th birthday on his reminder bench. The bench is to remind people of Martin and marks where he was last seen on CCTV footage."

Police have renewed their appeal to find out what happened to Martin.

Detective Chief Inspector Colin Gillis, Crime Manager for South and East Belfast, said: "Officers in South and East Belfast would appeal to anyone that may have information in relation to Martin Kelly's whereabouts to contact detectives at Musgrave on 0845 600 8000.

"Police remain committed and determined to discovering what happened to Martin and to bringing closure to his family. Detectives will continue to follow up all new lines of enquiry and any new information."

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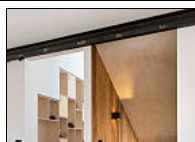
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