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Shooting victim's family stages bookstore protest

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UP TO 200 family and friends of a man left in a coma following a shooting protested yesterday over the sale of a book written by one of the men questioned in relation to the attack.

Former colleagues of postman Robert Delany (27) protested at Eason bookshop on Dublin's O'Connell Street yesterday afternoon.

The father of two has been in

a vegetative stage since he was shot in the head at his apartment in Tallaght in the early hours of October 22, 2008.

Yesterday, Robert's father Terry said many of his son's former colleagues at An Post and friends and relatives had contacted Eason by email and phone asking them not to stock the book.

However, Mr Delany has received a letter from Eason which referred to the "very difficult circumstance" but confirmed that some Eason stores

would continue to sell the book.

"I think it is insensitive to say the least and it shows a callous disregard for the victims of crime," Mr Delany said.

He added that he visits his only son in Tallaght Hospital every day despite the fact the doctors have told the family there is no hope of a recovery.

Robert's first cousin Dean, from Drimnagh, said given the proximity of Eason and the General Post Office it took "audacity" to release the book in the store.

"It is unimaginable the effect it [Robert's shooting] is having on the family.

"Everybody thought of recovery at first. Now we know there is going to be no recovery," he said.

Dean, Robert and another cousin Vincent were inseparable growing up, he said. "We were thick as thieves; we were like brothers, we used to hang around our nanny's a lot," he said, adding that he would boycott the bookstore for the time being.

Robert, a father of two young girls aged eight and three, was shot in the head when he looked out of the front door of his home in Tallaght. The attack was linked to a row in a pub a few weeks earlier.

Although nine people have been arrested and questioned about the shooting, nobody has been charged.

Three men were arrested after raids in south-west Dublin last month, but later released.

In a statement, Eason said the company had a responsi-

bility to stock a varied range of books to meet public demand and confirmed it would be stocking a small quantity of the book in question.

"The company will not however be undertaking any activity to promote the book, such as hosting a launch event, signings or in-store promotions.

"Eason respects the fact that people have the right to express their views and opinions but we would hope that any protest would not disrupt customers' right to access our bookstore."