

“We Will Fight On For Bob’s Sake, For As Long As It Takes”

Family Of Gun Victim Still Seeking Justice

THE devastated family of a young Tallaght father who was shot in the face three years ago, have said they will not give up their fight until they get justice for him. On October 22nd 2008, Robert Delany, was shot by a vicious gunman who used pellets in his weapon in order to cause maximum damage when the dad of three looked out the upstairs window of his Russell Rise home.

Today Robert remains in a vegetative state in Peamount Hospital where he was moved three months ago. Remembering the day it happened Robert’s sister Sinead told InTallaght: “We were told he wouldn’t survive the night and that they wouldn’t be sending him to Beaumont. The next night though, he was still here and my dad was talking to him while holding his hand when he mentioned something about Wayne Rooney and suddenly Bob squeezed it. That was the first sign that he was aware and then they decided to send him to Beaumont.” Robert spent the following few weeks in Beaumont where he underwent tests. He was set up in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and during his time there he had a shunt inserted into his head and bones taken out which allowed his brain to swell.

From Beaumont, Bob was eventually moved back to Tallaght but it was when he was transferred to Dun Laoighre that things began to change. “Staff from Dun Laoighre came out to assess him to see how aware he was and they helped hugely. They got him a wheelchair and he started coming home for the day, several days a week, last July.”

In August Robert celebrated his 30th birthday with all his family around and despite the fact that he is not able to talk the family believe that he knows what’s going on around him. Sinead said: “Bob is in a persistent vegetative

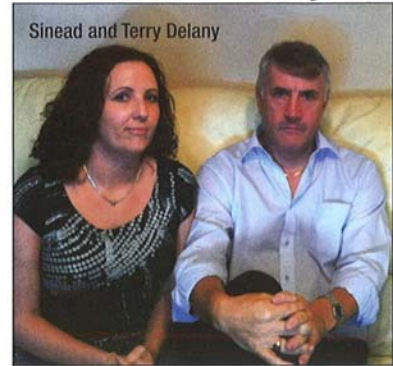
state, they call it the living dead. They think that he’s blind in both eyes and they don’t know if he can hear us but we go on the basis that he can. We speak to him as though he can hear and understand everything that we are saying.” The effect on Robert’s family has been huge, according to his sister. From his parents to his children Megan, who is now 9 and Katie who is 4.

Sinead said: “We have mixed feelings about it. There are days you want him here and days you think it’s not fair. It is scary that he is locked in there. There are certain times too that it really gets to you, like Christmas morning. I know the people who did this are waking up with their kids; that they are allowed that freedom is really awful - it’s unbearable really.”

Peamount Hospital is where Robert will now remain for the rest of his life. His family are allowed to visit whenever they want and he returns home regularly. Sinead said: “That was tough - The last move and that will be his home now for however long.” There has been much speculation around Robert’s attack but it is believed that he was targeted after intervening in a fight days beforehand.

His father Terry said: “Bob would hate to see anyone in trouble. Basically he helped a guy he knew because he was in trouble but he got the backlash.” Just a couple of months after Robert’s attack the family set up ‘The Justice for Robert Delany’ campaign and a 20 thousand euro reward remains on offer to anyone with information leading to the arrest of his assailants.

Terry said “We had a meeting with the Minister for Justice recently and he expressed his full support for our campaign. He also gave us his assurance that the investigation is ongoing. “It’s public knowledge who organized it and public knowledge who carried it out



but we need people to come forward with the missing pieces of what is, effectively, a jigsaw puzzle to enable the Gardai to put them behind bars. It’s the only way we will get justice.”

Sinead added: “The fact is; if this is what happened to us – who knows who is next? We never had any trouble as a family, Bob was completely innocent yet this came to his door.”

As part of the campaign the family recently met with the Tanaiste, Eamonn Gilmore, who said he was “in awe of the campaign,” and TDs Gerry Adams, Pat Rabbitte, Brian Hayes and Sean Crowe have also expressed their support. Terry added: “There has been support, in fairness right across the political divide and we are hopeful that with these men in government our campaign will be strengthened and we will finally get justice for Bob.”

For more information on the campaign log onto www.innocentvictimsofviolence.ie or anyone with information is asked to call 087 2254435 confidentially.

