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# Soldier had role in 16 fatal Troubles shootings

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**A**SINGLE British soldier played a key role in eight alleged shoot-to-kill operations during the Troubles.

The officer was involved in a "command position" in a string of shootings resulting in the deaths of 16 people between 1983 and 1991.

Details have been obtained from the MoD by lawyers for the families of two IRA men shot dead in a suspected SAS ambush 30 years ago.

Daniel Doherty (23) and William Fleming (19) were killed as they travelled through the grounds of Derry's Gransha Hospital on a motorbike in December 1984.

It was reported that they were on their way to shoot a UDR man when an undercover unit struck.

The MoD is seeking public interest immunity certificates in relation to the inquest. If they are granted the MoD cannot be forced to reveal which army unit was responsible.

The men's families believe they were victims of a deliberate shoot-to-kill operation and their lawyers have been told 13 soldiers were involved.

It has also emerged that some played a part in other controversial lethal operations in counties Antrim, Armagh and Tyrone.

One trooper, identified only as Soldier H, is confirmed as having had a command position in seven other fatal shootings. His role will be closely examined, solicitor Fearghal Shiels said.

"It has now been disclosed for the first time that the officer who planned the operation has been involved in at least seven incidents in which 16 people died. His planning of all of these operations shall be the focus of intense scrutiny at this inquest," Mr Shiels said.

The documents also reveal that a soldier involved in the Gransha operation had a role in an ambush that saw three IRA men killed in Strabane, Co Tyrone, two months later.

He is believed to be Captain Simon Hayward, a convicted drugs smuggler who was said to have acted as a liaison officer between MI5, the SAS and the RUC's undercover unit known as E4.

Hayward has denied involvement in the operations.

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■ **CLIFFHANGER:** Northern viewers tuning in to RTÉ on Sunday night to watch *The Fall* – starring Gillian Anderson and Jamie Dornan – found their evening's entertainment spoiled by a 'geo-block'

# Serial-killer RTÉ strikes in north as Fall-out leaves fans on knife edge

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**R**TÉ refused to apologise last night after it moved to block the hit television series *The Fall* from all northern viewers.

Viewers in Northern Ireland had been able to watch the previous two episodes on RTÉ through Sky – but fans were left disappointed on Sunday night when the

third episode was blocked.

One Twitter user said it was an "absolute disgrace" that people living in the north were unable to view the drama.

The BBC crime series, starring Co Down actor Jamie Dornan and Hollywood A-lister Gillian Anderson, is produced in association with RTÉ.

*The Fall* is shown on RTÉ on Sunday nights but because transmission is 'geo-blocked' north of the border, BBC Two

audiences have had to wait until Thursdays to see the latest episode.

Last night an RTÉ spokesman said the broadcasting of the first two episodes on Sky had been "unintentional".

He said the block was "in accordance with RTÉ's agreement with the programme rights owner and will also apply to the remaining episodes".

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