EXCLUSIVE RUTHLESS DUBLIN-BASED GANG IN CONTROL

CARTEL KILLERS

Kinahan mob helped murder IRA leader Davison and now runs 90 per cent of the drugs trade in Northern Ireland

EXCLUSIVE FRAMPTON RELEASES X-RAY PICS OF INJURED HAND PAGE 9 & SPORT
By Ciaran Barnes

KINAHAN crime cartel bosses are now running 90% of the drugs trade in Northern Ireland and are openly sanctioning the murders of anyone who gets in their way.

Today we can exclusively reveal that the gun used to murder IRA leader Jock Davison was supplied by the Dublin-based gang.

The same gangsters also believed to have contracted the weapon to IRA boss Jock Davison; and police believe Kinahan associates paid the INLA to murder Jim Donegan after a row over cash.

Detective Chief Inspector Brian Foster said: “The Kinahans would be a major player in Northern Ireland. The Kinahan organised crime group has many tentacles. It is supplying others who are then supplying to the Northern Ireland market.”

The senior PSNI officer’s comments came on the back of an investigation by this newspaper that found:

● Ninety per cent of cocaine sold in Northern Ireland is supplied by the Kinahans;

● It has armed local drug dealers with guns — the type of firearm used to kill IRA boss Jock Davison; and

● Police believe Kinahan associates paid the INLA to murder Jim Donegan after a row over cash.

DCI Foster (below), who leads a cross-border anti-organised crime unit, explained how the cocaine trail takes the drug from production in South America across these islands. People living in England and Northern Ireland.

It is these Kinahan “established members” who provided the gun used in the 2015 murder of IRA leader Jock Davison (47) in the Markets area of south Belfast.

The republican was shot five times in an outbuilding at the Co Antrim home of loyalist sex offender Mark Harbison, who was cleared last year of possession when a judge accepted others could have had access to the property.

According to police insiders, almost every Makarov pistol currently on the island of Ireland was imported by members of the Kinahan gang.

One high-level security source said: “Drugs and guns go hand-in-hand, particularly the Kinahans and Makarovs.”

The cartel’s affiliates in Belfast are also believed to have contracted the INLA to carry out the murder of cocaine baron Jim ‘JD’ Donegan before Christmas.

The 43-year-old had clashed with Kinahan-connected criminals who were his regular drug suppliers until a short time before his death. These rows over money led to them sanctioning Donegan’s killing at the gates of his son’s west Belfast school.

Detectives have refused to comment on the make of the gun other than to say it was a semi-automatic pistol.

Pointing to the Kinahans’ links to loyalist and republican paramilitaries, DCI Foster said: “There are organised crime groups in Northern Ireland, including paramilitaries, being supplied by organised crime groups in the Republic of Ireland.

“The Kinahans would be a major international organised crime group importing drugs into the island of Ireland.”

Accusing the UDA, UVF and dissident republicans of doing deals with each other over Kinahan cocaine and guns, DCI Foster added: “Paramilitaries are also sourcing drugs from each other. There is no such thing as ‘green stays green’ and ‘orange stays orange’. There is a big overlap.”

The ruthless Kinahan drugs group is led by Dublin-born father-and-son Christy and Daniel Kinahan, who are based in Dubai.

Law enforcement agencies believe they have the contract with Colombian cartels to import cocaine into Britain and Ireland — a deal that is worth billions and greater than the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of many small countries.

When the drug lands on these shores it is broken up by a major distribution network which supplies it to hundreds of smaller affiliated gangs including republican and loyalist paramilitaries.

Crossing the Kinahans, as JD Donegan found to his cost, usually brings a death sentence. This is something to which the family of Mickey Barr, a New IRA member from Strabane, can also attest.

He was shot dead in Dublin in April 2016 by members of the
The feud has so far claimed more than 20 lives, with the Kinahan gang responsible for the vast majority of deaths.

The violence has also seeped into Northern Ireland with a joint PSNI and Garda operation recently foiling the murder of Hutch associate James ‘Maggo’ Gately in Belfast. The Kinahans paid for Estonian hitman Imre Arakas (58) to travel to the city to kill their rival, who was hiding out in an apartment at the Titanic Quarter.

Texts recovered by police from the gunman’s phone included instructions to “kill Maggo Gately” and to use “one shot to the head”. The messages also detailed the layout outside his target’s home.

Cops intercepted the texts, moved Gately to safety and arrested Arakas, who was jailed for six years last December for conspiracy to murder.

In the past year alone the PSNI and Garda working together have made 66 arrests in connection with cross-border crime, charged 31 individuals, carried out 79 searches, found 11 firearms, recovered £5.2m of drugs and seized £3.2m of suspected criminal assets.

This Cross-Border Joint Task Force reports six times a year to the Department of Justice in the north and south, and to the Home Office.

It has six priority areas, one of which is cross-border drugs and criminality with a particular emphasis on the Kinahan gang.

By Ciaran Barnes

THE KINAHAN cartel, led by father and son Christy and Daniel Kinahan, is among the most powerful organised crime gangs in Europe. It has hundreds of members and affiliates throughout the British Isles, controlling the supply of cocaine via a billion-dollar contract with Colombian drug producers.

Christy runs his crime empire in exile from a lavish home in Dubai, fearing arrest or assassination from rival gangsters should he return to these shores.

The 61-year-old started drug dealing on the streets of Dublin in the 1980s, serving a six-year prison sentence for possessing £100,000 of heroin. While behind bars he studied for two university degrees, learning to speak Spanish and Russian.

Kinahan moved to Spain around 2001, forging links with South American drug barons who shipped cocaine to the country. He carried these connections into Ireland, soon becoming the biggest supplier of the drug on the island.

Despite being on the radar of international law enforcement agencies for two decades, Christy Kinahan has led a charmed life. In 2010 Kinahan was arrested as part of a Europe-wide investigation codenamed ‘Operation Shovel’ into drug trafficking, gangland murder and money laundering. Properties connected to him and his lieutenants across the world were valued at £150m. However, the probe failed to yield any charges and Kinahan was freed.

In 2015 the only man arrested in Dublin by ‘Operation Shovel’ detectives was shot dead in Marbella by members of the Kinahan gang. His name was Gary Hutch, a nephew of armed robber Gerry ‘The Monk’ Hutch. His death led to a revenge attack by the Hutch gang who tried to murder Christy Kinahan’s son Daniel at a boxing weigh-in in Dublin in 2016. Kinahan-branded David Byrne was shot dead, leading to a feud.

More than 20 have lost their lives as a result of the dispute, with the vast majority of killings being carried out by the Kinahan gang.