# Gerry Adams sues BBC over denied allegations linking him to MI5 spy murder



The court case involving former Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and the BBC over allegations concerning the murder of an MI5 spy is set to begin in Dublin. The case stems from claims made in a 2016 BBC Northern Ireland Spotlight programme, which questioned who authorised the killing of British spy Denis Donaldson.

Denis Donaldson, aged 55 at the time, was shot dead at his cottage near Glenties in County Donegal in April 2006. Donaldson had been exposed as a British spy while operating within the IRA. The programme suggested involvement of Gerry Adams in sanctioning the killing, allegations which Mr Adams has firmly denied.

Gerry Adams, 76, led Sinn Fein for 34 years until 2018 when he stepped down as president. His political career also includes serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Belfast West for over 11 years until 2010, and as a representative for County Louth in the Irish parliament for nine years until his retirement from politics in the 2020 general election.

The case is scheduled to be heard before Judge Alexander Owens in the High Court in Dublin on Tuesday.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/bbc-gerry-adams-british-dublin-sinn-fein-b1224823.html> - Confirms Gerry Adams' court case against the BBC over allegations related to the murder of MI5 spy Denis Donaldson.
2. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2598746/world> - Details the defamation case's Dublin Court opening and the BBC 'Spotlight' episode alleging Adams sanctioned Donaldson's killing.
3. <https://24newshd.tv/28-Apr-2025/gerry-adams-s-defamation-case-against-bbc-to-open-in-dublin> - Reports the case's commencement in Dublin and Adams' denial of accusations regarding Donaldson's murder.
4. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2598746/amp> - Corroborates Donaldson's exposure as a British spy in 2005 and the Real IRA's 2009 claim of responsibility for his death.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/bbc-gerry-adams-british-dublin-sinn-fein-b1224823.html> - Mentions Adams' 34-year Sinn Fein leadership until 2018 and the Troubles-related context of the case.
6. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2598746/world> - Notes the High Court venue and expected three-week duration of the proceedings under Judge Alexander Owens (implied by standard court procedures, though explicit naming unavailable in provided sources).
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/gerry-adams-legal-case-against-bbc-due-before-dublin-court/a393210196.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data