

Bulger's mother backs killer's anonymity

By Martin Evans

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE mother of murdered toddler James Bulger has opposed a move to strip one of his killers of his cloak of anonymity, warning that the move could lead to vigilante attacks.

Ralph Bulger, James's father, and Jimmy Bulger, his uncle, have launched a High Court challenge aimed at overturning Jon Venables' right to live

under a false identity. Venables, 35, and Robert Thompson were given new identities after they were released from custody in 2001 following the brutal murder of James on Merseyside more than 25 years ago.

Denise Fergus said while she understood why her ex-husband had brought the court case, she feared if successful, it might lead to innocent people being hurt. Preliminary details of the legal application by Mr Bulger and his

brother were set out in the High Court yesterday, six months after Venables was jailed for three years and four months after police found more than 1,000 indecent images on his computer. Lawyers for Mr Bulger will argue that the original injunction was put in place on the basis that Venables and Thompson were rehabilitated and would not offend again.

The hearing was adjourned until next month.

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