Shooting victim's family stage book protest

Robert Delany's parents Noleen and Terry join An Post workers outside Eason bookstore on O'Connell Street, Dublin, yesterday. PA

Grainne Cunningham

UP TO 200 family and friends of a man left in a coma following a shooting protested yesterday over the sale of a book written by one of the men questioned in relation to the attack.

Former colleagues of postman Robert Delany (27) protested at Eason bookshop on Dublin's O'Connell Street yesterday afternoon.

The father of two has been in a vegetative stage since he was shot in the head at his apartment in Tallaght in the early hours of October 22, 2008.

Yesterday, Robert's father Terry said many of his son's former colleagues at An Post and friends and relatives had contacted Eason by email and phone asking them not to stock the book.

However, Mr Delany has received a letter from Eason which referred to the "very difficult circumstance" but confirmed that some Eason stores would continue to sell the book.

"I think it is insensitive to say the least and it shows a callous disregard for the victims of crime," Mr Delany said.

He added that he visits his only son in Tallaght Hospital every day despite the fact the doctors have told the family there is no hope of a recovery.

Robert's first cousin Dean, from Drimnagh, said given the proximity of Eason and the General Post Office it took "audacity" to release the book in the store.

"It is unimaginable the effect it (Robert's shooting) is having on the family. Everybody thought of recovery at first. Now we know there is going to be no recovery," he said.

Robert, a father of two young girls aged eight and three, was shot in the head when he looked out of the front door of his home in Tallaght. The attack was linked to a row in a pub a few weeks earlier. Although nine people have been arrested and questioned about the shooting, nobody has been charged.

In a statement, Eason said it had a responsibility to stock a varied range of books to meet public demand.