

BLOODY SUNDAY 2008 - TRUTH AND LIES

Thirty six years ago we were caught up in the confusion of the bloodiest year of the violent political conflict we are only now emerging out of. In the immediate aftermath of Bloody Sunday where an official public inquiry found the innocent guilty and pronounced the guilty innocent many of us, knowing the truth, went to war with the British State with a clear conscience. Others believing the official lie that tried to cover up the events took the State's side. Some saw through the lies, holding the state guilty but chose a different path from armed struggle, while the rest of us were caught in the smoke and mirrors of the violent forces unleashed.

To say that truth is the first casualty of war ignores the lies the powerful tell to start them. And for many while internment may have been the final injustice that declared the government's war, Widgery was its official stamp of approval.

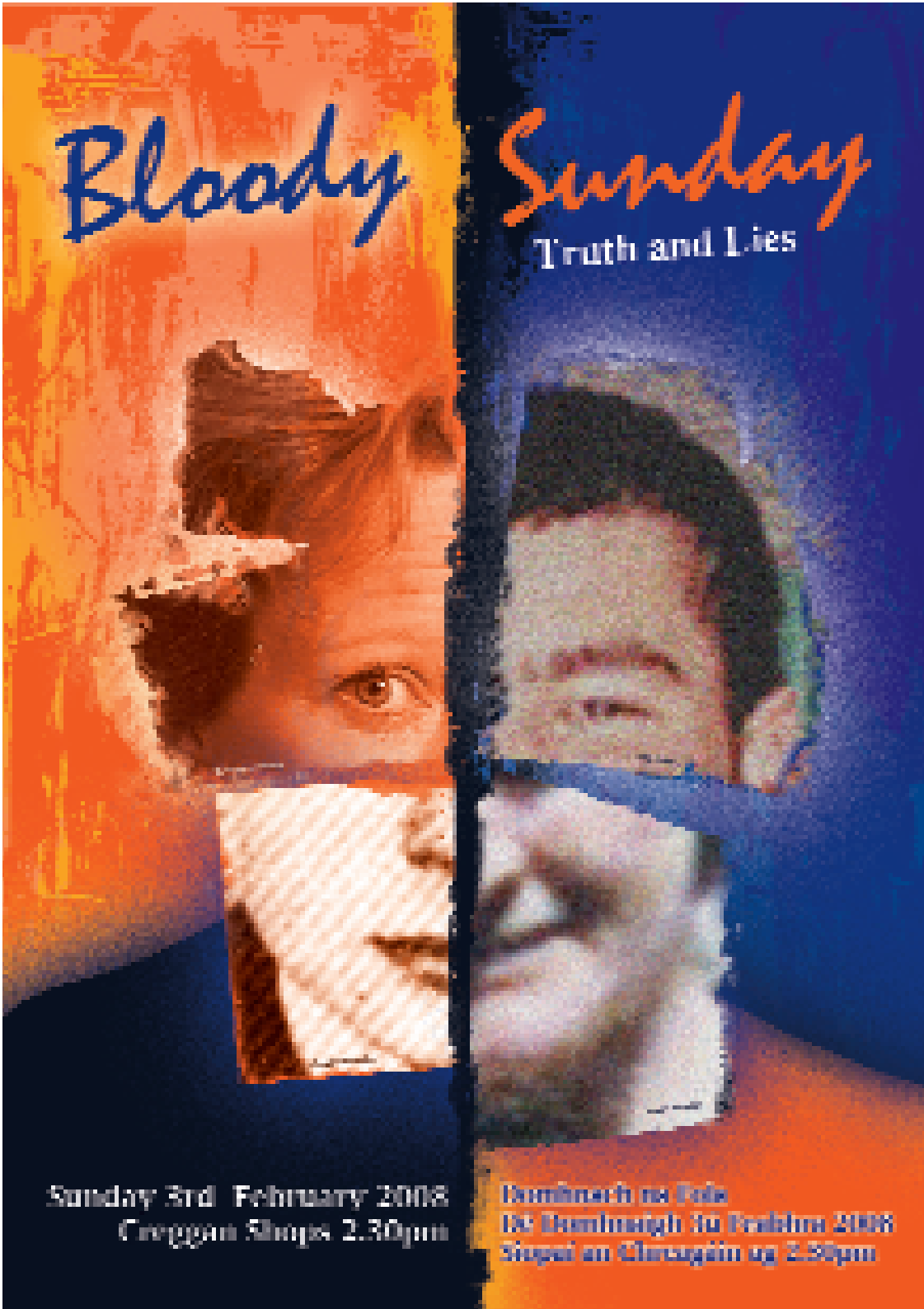
Now, as we await the imminent verdict of the second British Inquiry and speculate whether it can deliver the truth, the prevailing climate doesn't bode well. While Bloody Sunday should have always been tried in front of an international court with Britain in the dock, recent legislative changes to the terms of reference of British public inquiries even further diminish their ability to deliver truths the government finds unpalatable. We know that other unresolved miscarriages of justice (Pat Finucane, Billy Wright, Omagh...) are unlikely to face the scrutiny, limited though it was, that the 1921 Inquiries Act empowered Lord Saville to bring to bear on Bloody Sunday.

As we emerge out of our war, into an Orwellian world of permanent war, committed to finding peaceful ways to unravel and resolve our differences, we will explore the importance of **truth for freedom**. What are the implications for the future when the 'democratic' world seems to have perfected the art of controlling its institutions to produce its official lies?

This year's programme hosts a series of events that scrutinise the context of 'democracy' here and explore how we can collectively deal with our past. **'The Memorial Lecture'** will be delivered by former Ombudsman, Nuala O'Loan, her first public lecture since leaving office. **'Ballymurphy August 1971'** poignantly depicts the events of the shooting dead of 11 innocents branded gunmen in the three days after the introduction of internment, a state template for what would happen here five months later. **A Truth Commission for Ireland?** hosted by the PFC will give families of victims of state violence an opportunity to interrogate and explore a proposal calling for an independent truth commission. **Judging Saville** hosted by the Bloody Sunday Trust will present the Trust's view of what answers are required if the Saville Report is to be regarded as fair and final.

In addition there are exhibitions, films and panel discussions. **'Their epitaph is the ongoing struggle for democracy'**, so read the programme, come to events, join in the debate!

This year's poster depicts a face comprised of 4 fragments: Rosemary Nelson, killed in 1999 by loyalists, Gerald Donaghey, killed on Bloody Sunday (1972), Joan Connolly, killed by the British Army, Ballymurphy, Belfast (1971), & Asil Asleh, killed by Israeli Police in 2000.



Sunday 3rd February 2008
Creghan Slings 2.30pm

Dumfries on Tide
1st Dumfries 3rd Frithra 2008
Stapel an Chruaigín ag 2.30pm

Monday 28 January

11.30am. Launch of the Bloody Sunday Black Ribbon

Venue: Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall

7.30pm. Truth Against Lies: Panel discussion on policing and current developments in the north. Event organised by the Republican Network for Unity.

Venue: Gasyard Centre

Tuesday 29 January

Creggan 60. Extensive exhibition, devised by Café Creggan, charting the 60 years of Creggan's history. On display in the Old Library Trust from Tuesday 29 January until Sunday 3 February.

Venue: Old Library Trust, Central Drive, Creggan

8.00pm. Film Screening: Taking Liberties

Venue: Nerve Centre, Admission £2.00

Wednesday 30 January

4.00pm. Minutes Silence to mark the time of the shooting on Bloody Sunday. All welcome.

Venue: Bloody Sunday Monument, Rossville Street

5.00pm. Picture Balata: Young people from the U-Turn Project in the Bogside present this exhibition of photographs taken by their friends from the Balata Refugee Camp, Nablus, Palestine. In Picture Balata the children document their lives, hopes and struggles in the largest and most targeted Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank. This exhibition will be on display until Monday 4th February. **Venue:** Pilot's Row Arts Centre

7.30pm. Bloody Sunday Memorial Mass All welcome. **Venue:** St Mary's, Creggan.

8.00pm. Film Screening, Hidden Agenda by Ken Loach. **Venue:** Nerve Centre, Admission £2.00

9.00pm. Guildhall Press will launch their unique collection 'Harrowing of the Heart: The Poetry of Bloody Sunday' in the Guildhall's Main Hall. Edited by Julieann Campbell and Tom Herron, this collection gathers together poetry, song and drama inspired by the events of 30 January 1972, and includes pieces by Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel, Seamus Deane, Thomas Kinsella, Dave Duggan, Paul Muldoon, Christy Moore and John Lennon and Yoko Ono, among others. The launch in the Guildhall's Main Hall will present performances of selected pieces from the collection. Guest speaker BBC Radio Foyle's Paul McFadden. **Venue:** Main Hall, Guildhall

Thursday 31 January

7.30pm. Ways of Remembering: Around the world quilting has been used in areas of conflict to represent the experiences of ordinary people and especially

women who have been disenfranchised and silenced. Derry will this year host an international exhibition of over 50 quilts from around the world with the same number of quilts made in Ireland. It will be a unique opportunity to bear witness to the expressions of cultural identity and the survival of women from around the world. In anticipation of this event, and as a way of exploring the importance of representation and memory this panel event will hear from representatives from: Relatives for Justice, Cunamh, WAVE and Chilean human rights lecturer Roberta Bacic.

Venue: Pilots Row

9.00pm. Sound Of An Underground: Premiere of the locally produced documentary looking at the history of cutting edge rebel music, followed by performances by some of those featured in the film. Eileen Webster, Joe Mulheron.

Venue: Sandinos, Water Street. Admission £3.00

Friday 1 February

Scéal SaorDhoire agus Domhnach na Fola. Ruairí Ó hEára le Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir. Beidh turas ann le Ruairí Ó hEára agus páistí Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir ar fud Taobh an Bhogaidh agus Iarsmálann SaorDhoire. Beidh stair, cuimhne agus cráic ann. Tá fáilte roimh chách. Saor in aisce.

7.00pm. Launch of photographic exhibition: 'Reflections on Internment' Ballymurphy, Belfast 1971. See below for further details.

Venue: Museum of Free Derry.

7.30pm. Bloody Sunday Lecture. Delivered by former Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan, giving her first public address since retiring as Ombudsman.

Venue: Calgach Centre. Admission By Donation.

Saturday 2 February

The Museum of Free Derry will be open on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd February, admission £3/£2. For details contact 7196 0880.

Free Derry Tours will be running political tours of the Bogside at 10.00am and 2.00pm throughout the week. Proceeds from Saturday's tours will be donated to the Bloody Sunday Weekend Committee. For tour details contact 07793285972.

11.00am – 11.30am. Raytheon: The Truth and The Lies. Exploring the truth and lies about Raytheon's purpose in Derry, at FEIC's Memorial Plaque to victims of conflict and the arms trade. Come, witness, join the resistance! Organised by Foyle Ethical Investment Campaign. **Venue:** Guildhall Square

10.30am – 3.00pm. A Truth Commission for Ireland? The Pat Finucane Centre, Relatives For Justice, Justice for The Forgotten, Ardoyne Commemoration Project, An Fhirinne and Firinne, who

represent victims' families across Ireland, have come together to call for an independent truth commission that deals with the human rights abuses associated with the conflict in each jurisdiction. An outline model for a truth commission will be discussed, followed by an open debate where families can express their ideas, ask questions and raise concerns about a truth commission. All the views expressed will help us to further design and develop a families driven model for seeking the truth. **Venue:** Performance Area, Pilots Row

1.00pm – 3.00pm. Judging Saville: The report of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry is now expected in summer 2008. This session, organised by the Bloody Sunday Trust, will identify the key questions which have arisen from the evidence, and discuss what answers are required if the report is to be regarded as fair and final. **Venue:** Main Hall, Pilots Row

3.30pm – 5.00pm. Ballymurphy August 1971 – How Bloody Sunday could have been avoided. On 9th August 1971 internment without trial was introduced. Over the following three days 11 innocent civilians, including a Catholic priest and a mother of 8, were murdered by the Parachute Regiment in the Ballymurphy area of West Belfast. In a pattern to be faithfully repeated the following January in Derry, those killed were immediately branded gun men and gun women by the British army – a story published faithfully by the media of the day. Unlike in Derry there were no cameras in Ballymurphy over the 9th, 10th and 11th of August; the world's media was focussed on the arrests and political reactions. These killings went without significant note or outrage. The families of those killed were censored and ignored; they were vilified by the authorities of the time, with no investigation or recourse through the courts. 46 children were left without a parent with only lies and silence taking the place of truth and accountability. At this event eyewitnesses will recount these terrible days, and those murdered will be remembered truthfully and accurately by their families. The event will also clearly demonstrate the links between the actions and personnel of the Parachute Regiment in August in Ballymurphy and in Derry on Bloody Sunday the following January. The families will make the case that had the killings of their loved ones been properly addressed in 1971, 14 innocent lives could have been spared the following January. This event is organised by Relatives for Justice in co-operation with the Pat Finucane Centre.

Venue: Main Hall, Pilots Row

3.00am – 5.00pm. Youth For Truth Ogra Shinn Féin discussion on collusion and state violence. Speakers Amanda Fullerton from the Eddie Fullerton Justice Campaign and John Kelly. **Venue:** Performance Area, Pilots Row

1.00pm – 3.00pm. Food Fair An afternoon of learning about new cultures through food. **Venue:** Minor Hall, Pilots Row. Admission £3.00 / £1.50

7.30pm – 9.30pm. Sole Purpose Productions presents Clouds on a Mountain Road by Orna Akad, in a rehearsed reading in English, directed by Dave Duggan and performed by Patricia Byrne and Carmel McCafferty. Two Palestinian women, a famous poet and a younger militant, meet to face the challenge of the Israeli Occupation. Is it to be bombs or poems? The play was first performed in The Al-Midan theatre in Haifa, also at The Acco Festival of Alternative Theatre and the Morocco Festival of Arabic Theatre. **Venue:** Performance Area, Pilots Row. Admission by Donation

7.00pm. Screening of Bloody Sunday documentary, followed by Q&A session with family members. **Venue:** AOH Hall, Foyle Street.

9.30pm. Beats At The Truth. Fundraiser featuring the successful return of Joe Driscoll, the human beatbox and one-man band, supported by DJ Stuary and Declan McLaughlin. **Venue:** Masons, Admission £5.00

Sunday 03 February

11.00am. Wreath Laying Ceremony and Prayer Service. Everyone welcome. **Venue:** Bloody Sunday Monument, Rossville Street

2.30pm. Annual Bloody Sunday Commemorative March and Rally
Speakers to include family representatives from Bloody Sunday and Ballymurphy, and from Sinn Féin and the SDLP. This year will see the Bloody Sunday march animated by visual displays and public performances that explore the weekend's theme of Truth and Lies. **Assemble 2.30pm, Creggan Shops. Café Creggan will be open before the march, 11.00am – 3.00pm.**

After the march, soup and sandwiches in Sandino's, Water Street, and AOH Hall, Foyle Street.

After the march, Voices for Truth. Featuring Cor Cochion Caerdydd (Cardiff Reds Choir) and The Bluebells Choir. **Venue:** Sandino's, Water Street.

7.00pm. Bishop Edward Daly, Fr Aidan Troy and Fr Gerry Reynolds speaking of their experiences during the conflict. **Venue:** AOH Hall, Foyle Street.

Collections will be taken at events to cover the costs of staging the 2008 Bloody Sunday Commemoration. Please give generously.