

STOP PRESS – DE SILVA REVIEW PUBLISHED – STOP PRESS

The de Silva Review into the murder of Pat Finucane is available on the PFC website at www.patfinucanecentre.org. According to de Silva there was no evidence of an

'overarching state conspiracy'. The UDA murdered Pat Finucane and hundreds of others yet between 1972 and 1992 the organisation was allowed to remain legal.

What further evidence is needed of an an 'overarching state conspiracy' than this evidence of British Government toleration and support for loyalist violence?

SACKVILLE PLACE BOMBINGS REMEMBERED

Forty years have passed since the dark winter evening of 1 December 1972, when the first ever car bomb exploded in the Republic of Ireland, beside a famous Dublin landmark, Liberty Hall, the ITWGU headquarters.

No-one died although many were injured. Just minutes later, a second explosion, at Sackville Place off O'Connell Street, killed bus driver George Bradshaw, aged 29 and bus conductor Tommy Duffy, aged 23, both married men.

The Dáil was in session. A bill to amend the Offences against the State Act, allowing the courts to jail anyone on the uncorroborated word of a Garda officer, was being debated.

Defeat seemed inevitable as opposition parties, as well as some government TDs, opposed it on civil liberties grounds.

The bomb explosions changed the course of Irish history. When the vote was taken, the opposition backed down and abstained. The amendment was passed. Not for the first time, expediency trumped principle in Dublin...

A fortnight after the bombings, two significant, but ostensibly unconnected, arrests were made in Dublin hotels. British agent John Wyman and Detective Sergeant Patrick Crinnion, Crime and Security Branch, Garda Síochána were both arrested.



L-R: Lord Mayor, Pat Fay (JFF), Margaret Urwin (JFF), Anna Bradshaw-Cooke; Rose Bradshaw Brett; Norman Bradshaw, Pat Bradshaw, Nellie Duffy, Jack O'Connor (SIPTU)

Crinnion was found to be in possession of secret, sensitive documents which he was about to pass to Wyman.

Both Crinnion and Wyman were convicted under the Official Secrets Act and sentenced to three months imprisonment in February 1973. As they had already served two months, they were immediately released and flown to England.

Shortly before his arrest, Crinnion confided to a fellow Garda that 'the Brits' had been involved in causing the explosions.

He had received this information from his brother-in-law in the British Army, James Lattimore of the Royal Irish Rangers, based in Belfast in 1972.

Over the following months a number of stories appeared in the media concerning possible British involvement in the bombings and the former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, admitted that he suspected British involvement, an assertion denied by the London Government.

A copycat car bomb was planted in Sackville Place on 20 January 1973,

CONTINUED PAGE 3 >>>

*The Pat Finucane Centre wishes
all families a very happy christmas
and a prosperous new year.*

Our thoughts are with you at this time of year when we remember our loved-ones with a special fondness. We also rededicate ourselves to working with you in 2013.

Paul, Alan, Sara, Geraldine, Margaret and Anne.

HET FINDINGS ON TOLAND AND LOUGHREY CASES

The families of two County Derry men, murdered in separate 1976 loyalist attacks, both believe one of the gang who killed their fathers was working within the UDA as a British double-agent.

At the request of the families of victims John Toland and Jim Loughrey, the PFC organised a joint press conference in September to highlight further questions based on HET findings.

Speaking about the death of his father, John, Danny Toland said: "My father was killed by a loyalist gang which included members of the Derry UDA, UDR men and a former member of the RUC.

"According to the HET report: '...it is likely that there was collusion between individual members of the security forces and those responsible for John's murder'.

"A former RUC member, convicted in relation to another murder, has admitted that he knew about the planning for the murder of our father. He was not charged.

"A serving member of the UDR, David Hamilton, was charged and convicted for supplying the weapon used in the murder. According to the judge this man was 'not on the fringes'.

"The judge went on to say that the man was lucky 'you are not facing very long sentences'. He was very 'lucky'. Two murder charges were dropped and he received the minimum sentence of five years, serving less than half.

"The HET found evidence that the murder of our father was planned and ordered by the then UDA Brigadier in Derry, who intended the UDA would take over the 'Happy Landing Bar' following John's murder.

"This man, a former B-Special according to the HET, also ordered the murder of John Loughrey. Information available in the public domain suggests this man was also a former Royal Marine Commando.

"The report also states that intelligence records show that, during the period covering the murders of John Toland, James Loughrey and others, there were reported associations between the



Danny Toland (left) whose father John was murdered in 1976 at Eglinton speaking at press conference-listening is his mother Marie (wife of murdered John) Paul O'Connor (centre) of the Pat Finucane Centre. Right are brother and sister John Loughrey and Pauline McLaughlin, who are children of murdered Jim Toland, shot dead in 1976. (Photo Trevor McBride.)

UDA Commander in Derry, members of the UDR and a former member of the RUC", he concluded.

Speaking at the same press conference, Jim Loughrey's son John said: "According to the HET, the unnamed UDA leader, who we know to be Andy Robinson, 'has never been arrested or questioned by police about any of the murders he was implicated in by Campbell' (Note: Campbell was a loyalist who turned 'Queen's evidence').

"A former RUC member, convicted in relation to another murder, has admitted that he knew about the planning for the murder of our father. He was not charged."



The funeral of Jim Loughrey in 1976.

"It is extraordinary that Campbell's evidence led to the arrest of 30 loyalists in the Derry area but not to the arrest of the former UDA leader who was directly implicated.

"His details were placed on the Police National Computer as wanted in connection with direct involvement in another murder outside Derry city, yet he was never questioned over the years.

"The HET has confirmed that he travelled back and forth to the North and 'extensively throughout the world' where he '...lived in a number of countries'.

"A number of publications reported that he was running a B&B in Portpatrick, Scotland as late as 2006, yet he was never questioned. That is twenty years after he was circulated as wanted for questioning!

"So who was Andy Robinson? He was senior enough within the UDA to be included in the delegation from that organisation that visited Libya in 1974.

"According to the HET, he was linked to a number of UDR members and a former RUC man/convicted murderer in Derry, while he was a UDA commander.

"Who was Andy Robinson really working for? What were the circumstances surrounding his disappearance? Why was he never arrested over the years? Could murders, including those of my father and John Toland, have been prevented?"

PFC Note: Anyone with information regarding Andy Robinson should contact the centre.

SACKVILLE PLACE BOMBINGS REMEMBERED CONTINUED

killing another young bus conductor, 21-year-old Tommy Douglas, a native of Stirling, Scotland. The investigation into this bombing was minimal and very little information is known about it.

Nobody has ever been arrested, let alone convicted, for these atrocities.

The claims of British collusion in these and later bombings persist. Justice for the Forgotten is still pressing the British authorities to make documents available on all the cross-Border bombings of the 1970s, which they failed to disclose to Judge Henry Barron, to assist in his Independent Commission of Inquiry.



Aftermath of the Sackville Place bomb.

CONVERSATIONS

Following the summer series of lunchtime 'In Conversation...' events at the PFC in Derry, we are happy to announce details of three more in the early part of 2013.

25 JANUARY 1.00PM-2.15PM



Daniel Holder from the Committee on the Administration of Justice will join us to talk about the increasing use of 'secret evidence' in the courts and elsewhere. Such 'evidence' is usually supplied by the security service MI5, and has been used to revoke prison licences (eg Marion Price and Martin Corey). It has also been used in fair employment claims, inquests, miscarriages of justice cases,

claims for damages for internment and rendition. Where next is government planning to use secret 'evidence' to cover its tracks?

22 FEBRUARY 1.00PM-2.15PM



Executive of VOICE UK, a national learning disability charity, promoting justice and well being for vulnerable victims as well as supporting their parents and carers.

How is she, a single Commissioner, going to meet the challenge of the new Victims and Survivors Service, which will be bringing together some £11m of annual

We will be joined by Kathryn Stone, the new Commissioner for Victims and Survivors in the North. Kathryn is a former Chief

funding, into a single, unified service?

29 MARCH 1.00PM-2.15PM



For the third in the series, we will be joined by SDLP MLA Conall McDevitt who will share the SDLP vision for dealing with

the legacy of the conflict. This follows on from the summer sessions which saw former PUP leader Dawn Purvis and Sinn Féin MLA Mitchel Mc Laughlin 'in conversation' on the same topic.

Former broadcaster Paul Mc Fadden will chair the three lunchtime events which will take place in the Family Conference room at the PFC in Derry. There is no charge and the public is not only welcome but essential!

EX-RUC INVOLVED IN HET CASES

Families may have been concerned to read in recent news reports that a HET review (of a British Army killing in Belfast) directly involved a former RUC member.

The PFC (and other NGOs) in response, immediately contacted the Director of the HET seeking assurances that no cases, in which we are involved, will include former RUC officers.

This principle was a pre-condition to our decision to provide advocacy services to families engaging with the HET.

We have confirmed that none of our cases were assigned to teams including former RUC officers.

PFC case workers are always aware of the identity and background of HET staff involved in meeting families and preparing reports.

"Historic cases within the Office of the Police Ombudsman for NI remain frozen, at least until January, following the debacle of the Hutchinson era."

Whatever agreement the PFC has with the HET, however, there is no doubt that the process remains flawed and problematic.

Historic cases within the Office of the Police Ombudsman for NI remain frozen, at least until January, following the debacle of the Hutchinson era.

Our work on behalf of families seeking the truth in the south, and therefore

working with An Garda Síochána, is a object lesson on how delay, denial and prevarication further frustrate the search for truth.

HET reports often avoid any meaningful criticism of the actions/inactions of the RUC or British Army but the alternative – an international truth commission – is about as likely at this stage as Ireland winning the World Cup.

In the absence of any real alternative we will continue to do our job on behalf of families with the existing agencies. This is often frustrating – sometimes revealing and, occasionally, profoundly worthwhile.

For anyone considering engaging with a statutory body, our advice remains the same: contact an NGO and/solicitor.

THE RECOVERY OF LIVING MEMORY ARCHIVE

A new cross-border service, offered by the PFC to families North and South, "The Recovery of Living Memory Archive", was launched last month in Derry, Monaghan and Dublin.

All three launch events were well-attended and families mixed and mingled, discussing their experiences and stories over tea and sandwiches, after the formal presentation of the Archive project.

News reports of the Archive's launch were carried on Northern Sound, BBC Radio Foyle, in the Derry Journal and the Belfast Telegraph. All emphasised the unique nature of the accounts which will be lodged for posterity by families bereaved in the conflict.

The Archive will consist of a series of accurate and agreed accounts of all we know about each bereaved family's lost relative, their life, death and the longer-term impact of the family's loss.

Once completed, the Archive will be kept safely – as permanent written record – and will include whatever has been learned or concluded from reports written by both the Police Ombudsman (NI), the Historical Enquiries Team and the Barron Reports (Dublin).

The Archive will be deeply personal, carrying families' own accounts of the relative they lost and a statement on the emotional and financial impact the death/injury had on themselves and the wider community.

But it will also include the families'

view on the background political context to their loss and, in some cases, who they believe was responsible, even if they were never brought to trial, and who they blame institutionally.

Through story-telling and interviews, each participating bereaved family will detail the emotional, psychological, financial, long-term impact on each family – but the Archive will also take a cold, hard look at the political context and, if appropriate, at collusion with state forces.

Amongst those attending the launches were representatives of the funders, Paddy McGinn (Peace III Programme Manager, Monaghan) and Pauline Perry (Regional Case Worker, Peace III, Derry).

Also attending was Roddy Hegarty, Librarian of the Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich Library and Archive in Armagh – one of three libraries chosen for the Archive's permanent home along with the National Library, Dublin, and the Linenhall Library, Belfast.

In Dublin, the launch was combined with a family meeting where plans were made to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the loyalist Belturbet bombings of 28 December 1972 in which Geraldine O'Reilly (15) and Paddy Stanley (16) lost their lives.

Plans are also being laid to commemorate the loyalist bombing of Dublin on 20 January 1973 when bus-conductor Tommy Douglas (21),



Monaghan launch.

PFC CONDEMNS PSNI RE-HIRING RUC

The PFC has slammed the "revolving door" that allows former police officers (already in receipt of very generous redundancy payments) to start work again as civilians within the PSNI.

The Patten Report intended these civilian jobs for people outside the PSNI – not former RUC officers already sitting on huge redundancy payments.

The PFC demanded that politicians hold Chief Constable, Matt Baggott, accountable and said many of the families we represent are disgusted and disappointed that one in five redundant officers are now re-hired via the back door.

"The Patten Report intended these civilian jobs for people outside the PSNI – not former RUC officers already sitting on huge redundancy payments."

In particular, we said, those families who were bereaved, either through the direct collusive action of RUC officers, or their failure to act, will be particularly angry – and justifiably so.

We added that, if the PSNI, as a corporate entity, is shown to be willing to

cynically manipulate the rules for their own monetary gain, they will never win public confidence.

The Northern Ireland Audit Office report showed that one recruitment agency had been selected without proper competition. It also showed that 63 officers working for the Historical Enquiries Team are contracted as private companies, limiting their tax obligations.

Over a thousand PSNI officers have been re-hired for an average 779 days (nearly two years) – almost twice as long as other civilian agency workers.

PFC STAFF CONTRIBUTE TO COUNTER-TERRORISM PUBLICATION

Paul and Alan recently contributed a chapter to: "Counter-Terrorism and State Political Violence: the 'war on terror' as terror" – a book focussing on how states use terror-type tactics – attempting to justify themselves by saying they are fighting terrorism.

The book is essentially academic, but the chapter is hopefully written in readable, plain English!

The chapter ("British counter-insurgency practice in Northern Ireland in the 1970s – a legitimate response or state terror?") analyses British government tactics in the 1970s with a particular focus on the UDR.

Using declassified British government documents, uncovered by the PFC and Justice for the Forgotten, the chapter ar-



gues that those at the highest levels of government knew of loyalist paramilitary infiltration of local "security forces".

The documents, it is argued, "show that successive governments tolerated an illegal and deadly relationship between paramilitaries and security forces as part of a counter-insurgency policy.

The result was state terror".

Amongst the notable others who have contributed chapters to the book are journalist John Pilger and the eminent US political philosopher and writer, Noam Chomsky.

Alan says he and Paul believe "This is another way that we can help tell the story of the conflict and rebut the British government's claim to be a neutral arbiter in the conflict".

NEW BOOK COVERS THE MCGURK'S BAR BOMBING

"Very unglamorous and hard work but ultimately rewarding" is how Ciaran MacAirt describes his experience of writing about the McGurk's Bar bombing in which his grandmother, Kathleen Irvine (aged 53) perished along with thirteen others on 4 December 1971.

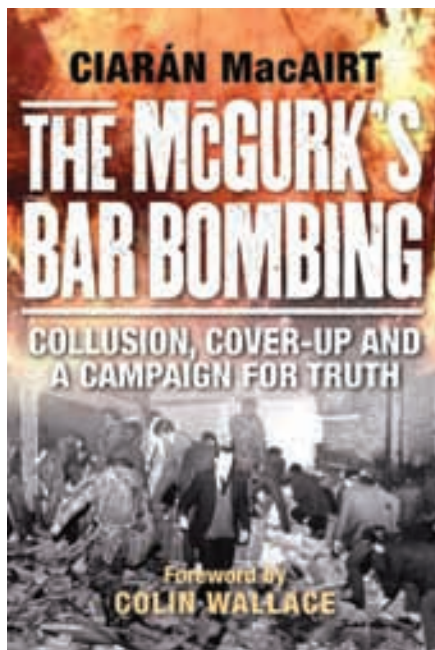
The 250-page book was the fourth best-seller in the main Eason's store in Belfast at the beginning of November and still climbing up the chart ...

It tells the story of how the British Army, aided and abetted by leading unionist politicians, spread the lie that the IRA had been responsible for an "own goal" – ie that one or more of the victims might have been responsible.

"It's something I've always wanted to do since I was a teenager" says Ciaran, who managed to write the book over seven years while still holding down a full-time job as an IT developer in Belfast.

"The most rewarding part was the archive research and I'd like to thank the PFC and British Irish Rights Watch for all their help and co-operation", he said.

The 90,000-word book has so far been launched in Glasgow and is due for a



second launch, in Belfast, this month and at Stormont on the anniversary of the bombing, 4 December, before a further launch at Portcullis House, Westminster, the following day.

Asked which single piece of evidence was the most damning, Ciaran says documents showing the authorities tried to use the bombing to justify internment, by blaming the IRA rather than those truly responsible, ie loyalists.

The McGurk's Bar Bombing is available from www.amazon.co.uk.

JUSTICE FOR THE FORGOTTEN HOLDS TALKS WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Justice for the Forgotten believes it won the moral argument when members met with the British ambassador to Ireland over London's continuing refusal to allow access to documents on the cross-Border bombings of the 1970s.

At the September 17 meeting in Dublin, the joint JFF/PFC delegation pointed out London's belated, but ultimately positive, response to demands from the families of the Hillsborough football disaster - compared to its continuing stand against similar requests in Ireland.

The delegation reminded Ambassador Dominick Chilcott of the two unanimous Dáil motions calling on London to make the undisclosed documents available to an independent, international judicial figure.

At the meeting, facilitated by Senator Jim Walsh, held at the British Embassy, Chilcott was reminded there is no level playing field for southern victims as the Historical Enquiries Team is prohibited from investigating deaths that occurred outside the boundaries of Northern Ireland.

Proposals were put to the Ambassador that would avoid any issues of national security, which the British have continually cited as a stumbling-block to the disclosure of relevant files.

The meeting ended with Chilcott promising to bring our proposals to the relevant ministers and officials and to advise us of the outcome. The delegation left the meeting feeling it had been a positive engagement.

Chilcott was left in no doubt that we hope for a positive outcome, following no progress with his predecessor.

HAVE WE CODED YOU RIGHT?

Could you check the post-code on the envelope you received this in and let us know if it is incorrect or missing? If so, please contact: Geraldine, Derry Office, 44 (28) 7126 8846

BRITISH ARMY GAVE UDA INDEMNITY

The British Army's commander in the North told the UDA in July 1972 that its "vigilante" activities - which included kidnap, torture and murder - were quite acceptable, according to an official document recently discovered by Relatives for Justice.

The July 1972 declassified document also shows that British soldiers were effectively indemnified against any threat of prosecution, even if they killed civilians.

The Stormont record notes that the officer commanding British troops in the North, General Ford would, that very afternoon, visit UDA leaders to reassure them that their activities, in their own areas, "were acceptable".

By this time (mid-July 1972) the UDA had already been involved in the kidnapping, torture and murder of Catholic civilians.

Just hours after Ford was due to give the UDA the green light, several of its members had gone into a house in the Oldpark area of north Belfast and sexually assaulted a Catholic mother of three,

before murdering her 14-year-old son, David Mc Clenaghan (a special needs child, see "Lost Lives" entry 451).

It was also noted that: "*the Army should not be inhibited in its campaign by the threat of court proceedings and should therefore be suitably indemnified.*"

In the 24 hours preceding this meeting, five people - including a Catholic priest - had been murdered by soldiers in the Springhill Massacre, Ballymurphy.

The document is a record of a strategic meeting at Stormont Castle involving the Secretary for State (William Whitelaw), the British Army's General Officer Commanding (General Ford), the Deputy Chief Constable of the RUC (WHO?), the British government's representative in the House of Lords (Lord Windlesham) and senior civil servants including Sir Ken Bloomfield.

Also present was Frank Steele, a senior officer in MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service. His name also emerges in the "COUNTER-GANGS" pamphlet featured elsewhere in this PFC Newsletter.

See www.relativesforjustice.com

ROBERT BALLAGH PRINTS EXHIBITION



The PFC will be the beneficiary of a major travelling exhibition of the art-works of Robert Ballagh.

Robert has donated prints of some of his most iconic work for the fund-raising exhibitions which will be held in:

1. The Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Belfast, between 8 and 18 March and
2. The Glasnevin Trust Museum, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, between 26 April and 8 May.

There will be more about this in upcoming Newsletters but keep your diary free for the opening nights.

The Centre is grateful for Robert's generous donation and to those who are organising the events.



FRESH START IN THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE

The PFC is supporting over twenty families in their engagement with the Police Ombudsman's office, now Dr. Michael Maguire has taken over the helm. Meetings are being held either in our Armagh and Derry offices or in private family homes.

Our approach is broadly positive to the new beginning and we are hopeful that a "new broom" will lead to more families feeling that their concerns on policing are being addressed in a professional, impartial, human-rights-based and rigorous way.

The Centre has produced a (short-and-simple) "Guide for Families" to the process so, if you want to read this and consider whether you wish to make a formal complaint, please either email or phone the office.

Taking a complaint against the RUC or

PSNI is likely to be a long process and, once your case has been accepted, it will be prioritised in strict order, according to the Ombudsman's own "matrix".

Unfortunately, no-one can predict the outcome of each stage or how long it will take overall between lodging a complaint and receiving a final report. The Police Ombudsman's office has set six years to process all historical cases.

Importantly, in the case of a complaint dating back longer than 12 months, the Ombudsman's office is limited by law to dealing with "grave or exceptional" claims (amounting to alleged criminality/misconduct by police officers).

Incompetence or inefficiency (eg a claim of failure to investigate) alone are insufficient. There has to be an element of deliberation amounting to misconduct. This is a grey area, yet to be tested.



PFC INTERNAL

Earlier this year, the PFC was lucky enough to have had several foreign students working in the Derry office: Claudia Cataldi from Italy; Nicolae Bogdah Murgila from Romania and Levi Simpson from the USA.

Amie Gallagher and Bobby Tinney are now working with us, along with Hannah Nelson a student from Minnesota. We thank them for input and contribution!

Many families will already know about some staff changes. Maggie has returned to County Mayo and will be missed by all those with whom she worked as well as other staff and the PFC's board of management.

We wish her well and understand that travelling from Mayo each week and living in digs in Derry was far from easy. Another significant impact on her decision to leave us was the gap in funding from July to December 2011 when all staff were forced to work reduced hours.

We also say "au revoir" to our good friend and colleague, Jane Winter of British Irish Rights Watch who has been a stalwart, trusted, principled and sensitive friend to so many in the human rights world for many years, as well as individual families. Happy retirement Jane and stay in touch.

On a brighter note, we welcome on board our new member of staff, Sara Duddy, who was the successful

candidate from our recruitment in June.

We would also like to thank the Community Relations Council for their contribution to our overhead costs from November 2011 to March 2012.

While we were successful in our Peace III funding application, we did incur considerable (and not through any fault of our own) delays in receiving the money into our bank account.

Following our successful application, the RoLMA (Recovery of Living Memory) project is up and running until June 2014 – a 30-month funded project.

In September, we were able to officially launch RoLMA in Monaghan, where we had a very good attendance. In October, we launched in Derry and are very grateful to Kay McGerty for sharing her personal experiences for the document we produced as part of the Phase 11 of RoLMA - the family impact document.

We also launched in October at a well-attended meeting in central Dublin where Margaret Urwin of Justice for the Forgotten hosted a meeting for families from across the south.

In order to pay salaries from January to May, we had to borrow money and arrange a bank overdraft. The staff and board would like to thank those in Belfast and Derry who helped keep us afloat during this crisis. They know who they are!

COUNTER-GANGS

"Counter-Gangs: A history of undercover military units in Northern Ireland 1971-1976" is the title of a fascinating and disturbing new joint publication from Spinwatch, Justice for the Forgotten and the Pat Finucane Centre.

In the 38-page pamphlet, Margaret Urwin of Justice for the Forgotten presents the results of her research into a key actor in the early Troubles: undercover British Army units, such as the Military Reaction Force and its successor, the Special Reconnaissance Unit.

Her findings have implications for many families bereaved in the Troubles during the 1970's, including the most lethal: the Dublin-Monaghan bombings.

They also have a contemporary significance beyond the North, given the re-

newed influence of counter-insurgency theory in the era of the "War on Terror".

This pamphlet inaugurates a wider "State Violence and Collusion Project", being pursued as a collaboration between Spinwatch and the Pat Finucane Centre, and made possible by an initial grant from the Scurrah Wainwright Charity.

The project aims to use the internet to collate and disseminate research on the role of state violence and collusion in the Troubles.

See dedicated portal at Spinwatch's PowerBase wiki (at http://powerbase.info/index.php/State_Violence_and_Collusion_Project).

See link at www.patfinucanecentre.org for link or contact PFC/JFF for copies.



Margaret Urwin

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR JUNE

"Poisonous Legacies: Dealing With The Past" is a major PFC-organised international conference planned for Derry on June 15 2013 - the anniversary of the 2010 apology by British Prime Minister Cameron for Bloody Sunday.

The Centre is joined by the Bloody Sunday Trust and International Sites of Conscience in the two-day event which will ask whether acknowledgment and apology conflict with accountability and prosecution?



"I am deeply sorry." –

British Prime Minister

David Cameron

How do we remember historical events and reclaim a "peoples' history" as opposed to an official history? Does exploring the poisonous legacy of colonialism contradict a fundamental theory in community relations – "Don't rock the boat"?

We have already begun inviting groups involved working in similar areas in Israel, the Occupied Territories, Sri Lanka, Bosnia, Colombia and Argentina, Britain and the US.

We also hope to host lawyers representing the Kikuyu "Mau Mau" cases in Kenya and civilians in Iraq. Our aim is to see what we can learn from other countries. Of course, there is an open invitation to all families involved with the PFC.

LOUIS LEONARD – QUESTIONS STILL TO ANSWER

In December the PFC organised a press conference in Enniskillen with the family of Louis Leonard who was shot dead in his butchers shop in Derrylyn in 1972. With the support of the PFC the family has been engaged with the HET over several years and the main findings of the report were released at the press conference. The family made clear that there are still questions surrounding his death that have not been answered but that HET report does provide new and significant information.

The HET concluded that Louis was almost certainly shot dead in his shop by two loyalists from the Rathcoole area of Belfast, referred to as suspects A and B throughout the report. Both men were living and working in Fermanagh. One was a customs officer.

The 'investigation' was marked by a shocking pattern of failures to follow up even the most basic investigative practices by the RUC.

Two days after Louis' murder suspect A returned a hire car to Avis car hire at Aldergrove airport. When suspect A returned the car on December 18 four bullets were found in the car. This was reported to the RUC. Two other items of intelligence refer to suspect A at this time-late 1972. One said that this Rathcoole UDA man was "acting lieutenant colonel for Fermanagh and Tyrone" and the second intelligence report claimed that he was organising a UDA team to carry out attacks. This was far from the only intelligence about this man.

In April 1973, four months after the murder, RUC HQ sent a report to a senior RUC officer in Fermanagh naming two men as suspects for Louis' murder – Suspects A and B referred to above. The intelligence provided also suggested

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Louis Leonard's widow, Betty, and her grandson, also Louis, with a picture of her husband at the press conference.

that both men had travelled from Belfast to Derrylyn to carry out the murder on behalf of Fermanagh UVF. (p.24).

In response to this report from Headquarters this officer said,

Neither suspect was interviewed

In May 1973 a Detective Inspector in Newtownabbey alerted the RUC in Fermanagh to suspect A and offered any assistance regarding the 'butcher murder'. (page 35)

In December 1973 intelligence was received that Suspect A was involved in Louis' murder.

In September 1974 intelligence was received that Suspects A and B were involved in Louis' murder.

In 1981 intelligence was received that Suspects A, B and a further suspect C, were involved in Louis' murder. (p.24).

Neither suspect A or B were ever arrested and questioned about the murder of Louis Leonard. The HET has described

both men as "high priority suspects for Louis' murder" (page 30) and goes on to confirm that "...there were reasonable grounds to arrest and interview suspects A and B but this was never done". (page 36) Further intelligence reports claim that the two went on to murder Jim Murphy near Derrylyn in April 1974. It is reasonable to speculate that the murder of Jim Murphy, himself a friend of Louis' would have been prevented if even the most basic of investigations had taken place into Louis' murder.

The complete failure to investigate the loyalist murder of Louis Leonard is a shocking indictment of the attitude of senior RUC officers and betrays a deep seated and systemic sectarianism within the force. It is the view of the family and it is a view one which the PFC shares, that the pattern of failures in this investigation amounts to collusive behaviour by the RUC as an organisation.

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