



JFF campaign highlighted at U2 concert in Vancouver, May 2015

## The Stormont House Agreement

The Stormont House Agreement (SHA) is an agreement between the five main political parties and both the British and Irish Governments on issues of Finance and Welfare; Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition; Parades; The Past and finally Institutional Reform. In this article we focus on the section to deal with “The Past”, and specifically the establishment of the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU).

The Stormont House Agreement:

- Represents “Heads of Agreement”, with detail to be agreed afterwards;
- “The Past” section proscribes for the establishment of a number of bodies- discussed below;
- The leaders of the political parties have been meeting most Monday’s since January to flesh out the agreement and to agree the appropriate instructions for legislation;
- Legislation would be passed in Westminster to avoid the possible negative debates and delays which would take place in Stormont; (Westminster legislation has its

own dangers. As we are all very well aware there are those in London who want their secrets to remain secret);

The HIU will be the new investigative body established to examine conflict related deaths. Their remit is to ‘take forward outstanding cases from the HET process, and the legacy work of the Police Ombudsman’, and ‘arrangements will be put in place to ensure operational independence’.

Initially it would appear that any case already reviewed by the HET would not be considered by the HIU unless there ‘is new evidence, which was not previously before the HET, which is relevant to the identification and eventual prosecution of the perpetrator.’ This places a very high threshold in relation to cases already reviewed and to ourselves and many others is unfair and unjust.

The operational independence of the HIU is of the upmost importance. The HET had a level of independence which was gradually eroded across the lifetime of the organisation;

we should learn the lessons and ensure that those who are tasked to undertake investigation on behalf of the HIU are investigators of skill, determination, credibility, integrity and independent of policing and security structures here during the conflict. The current involvement of the PSNI’s Legacy Investigations Branch (LIB) is unacceptable as they lack the requisite independence and confidence of the public to deal with legacy cases.

The Agreement states that the ‘UK Government makes clear that it will make full disclosure to the HIU’ but also requires the UK Government to put in place legislation ‘so as to prevent any damaging onward disclosure of information by the HIU.’ What is damaging onward disclosure? Damaging to whom, the government or the security forces? Surely if an informer is involved in someone’s death the family has a right to know this, would this be classed as ‘damaging forward disclosure’?

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

We believe that there is not only a legal requirement to move the SHA forward there is also a moral duty to the families of the victims and survivors too. The section dealing with “The Past” should not be jeopardised by the inability of the parties to agree on welfare reform.

Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable recently stated in an interview in the Belfast Telegraph that it ‘will take “a lifetime” to resolve Troubles-related killings.’ For most families it has already taken a lifetime.

The PFC has:

- Met with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin;
- Met with Department of Justice officials;
- Raised HIU/ SHA with Secretary of State, Teresa Villiers, at a private meeting with a bereaved family;
- Attended regular briefing with political parties including Sinn Fein, SDLP and Alliance Party;
- Engaged in numerous discussions, roundtables and conferences with other legacy practitioners including academics, legal practitioners, other victims’ groups and civic society groups to discuss SHA;
- Held a series of closed family meetings across Ireland to outline our understanding of the SHA and its implications for families.

**This work is ongoing, and we will continue to brief families in the coming months.**

## Other mechanisms to be established under “The Past” section of SHA

### ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

- A central place for people from all backgrounds (and from throughout the UK and Ireland) to share experiences and narratives related to the Troubles. Operational by 2016;
- Includes work of existing oral history projects;
- Establishment of a “research project”, led by academics to produce a factual historical timeline and statistical analysis of the Troubles, to report within 12 months.

### INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

- Body established by the UK and Irish Governments, to enable victims and survivors from UK and ROI to seek and privately receive information about the conflict-related deaths of their next of kin;
- Modelled on Independent Commission on the Location of Victims’ Remains;
- Once established, will run for 5 years;
- It will be entirely separate from the

justice system. The ICIR will not disclose information provided to it to law enforcement or intelligence agencies and this information will be inadmissible in criminal and civil proceedings;

- The ICIR will not be subject to judicial review, Freedom of Information, Data Protection and National Archives legislation, in either UK or ROI.
- The ICIR will not disclose the identities of people who provide information. No individual who provides information to the body will be immune from prosecution for any crime committed should the required evidential test be satisfied by other means i.e. “limited immunity.”

### IMPLEMENTATION AND RECONCILIATION GROUP

- IRG will oversee themes, archives and information recovery, drawing on evidence provided by the legacy mechanisms. After 5 years a report on themes will be commissioned by the IRG from independent academic experts;
- Focus on “Promoting reconciliation” and a better understanding of the past and

reducing sectarianism;

- In the context of the work of the IRG, the UK and Irish Governments will consider statements of acknowledgement and would expect others to do the same.
- The Body will be eleven strong, appointed by the elected parties & UK and Irish Governments. The chair shall be a person of independent and international standing and will be nominated by OFMDFM.

### OTHER ASPECTS OF SHA

- Provision for cross border co-operation by the Irish and UK Governments to enable effective operation of different bodies;
- Legacies continue outside of SHA, but coronial process will be improved to comply with Art 2 ECHR requirements;
- Establishment of a comprehensive Mental Trauma Service within NHS, working closely with VSS and other groups;
- Victims and survivors will be given access to advocate-counsellor assistance if they wish;
- More work to be done to establish a pension for severely physically injured.

## PFC GIVES EVIDENCE AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, WASHINGTON

The PFC's stinging criticism of the British government's failure to respond to the challenge on its policies in Ireland set out in *Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland* was highlighted in Washington DC this March.

The book, which has sold over 20,000 copies, was raised at a high-profile congressional committee on Capitol Hill and reported in *The Irish Times* (see: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/us-lawmakers-told-of-dishonourable-silence-over-acts-of-collusion-in-troubles-1.2146162>).

The Committee (known as the "Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe") heard from the PFC's Anne Cadwallader as well as Geraldine Finucane, campaigner and widow of Pat Finucane, and Professor Kieran McEvoy of Queen's University. Anne told US senators and congressmen that the British government's failure to respond to the Centre's "heartbreaking" conclusions that members of the RUC and UDR had been involved in "horrific crimes" was thoroughly dishonourable but that the

truth is being dragged out, piece by piece.

Collusion, she said, "fueled the conflict", calling the UDR "a pool of trained killers with access to an unlimited source of modern and deadly weapons" that were used to try and "terrorise the Catholic nationalist community into lowering its political, constitutional and economic aspirations".

A week after Anne spoke in Washington, the Northern Ireland Office wrote a three-page letter to the PFC denying government responsibility for collusion in the "Glenanne" series of murders, while accepting that individual members of the RUC and UDR "acted collusively with loyalist paramilitaries".

The letter said it was unacceptable that some members of the "security forces" had loyalties which lay "elsewhere" but denied there was ever government policy to collude in murder. It pledged to co-operate with the proposed Historical Investigations Unit proposed by the Stormont House Agreement, once established.



## 'Lethal Allies' Book Tour, Australia & New Zealand

The PFC/JFF's best-selling book *Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland* is going global this month with its author, PFC Case Worker in Armagh, Anne Cadwallader, leaving for a speaking tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Joint sponsors of the tour are several Australian trade unions, the Brehon Law Society of Australia and Cairde Sinn Fein in Australia. Anne will be visiting six cities in the last two weeks of June.

Mercier Press, the book's publishers, are organising a special print run of 300 copies to sell during the tour where copies of the PFC/JFF's document on the secret history of the UDR will also be on sale.

Word is spreading fast and already several families who have heard about the upcoming trip, are asking where meetings are to be held. Anne says she expects to meet many people on the tour who are related to "Glenanne"

families and other people with whom the PFC/JFF works.

The exact itinerary has yet to be finalised so anyone wishing to pass news on to families and friends in Australia is advised to watch the PFC Facebook page for more details.

But here are some already to hand. Anne will arrive in Perth on 18 June and attend an event at the Western Australian Parliament before meeting trade unions and community groups the following day to be followed by a main Perth public meeting on 20 June. A fund-raising dinner will be held at Fibber McGee's the following day.

In Adelaide on 22 June, Anne will address a public meeting at University of Adelaide/Irish Club and in Sydney on 23 June she will meet university groups the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Global Irish Studies Centre, and Australian Human Rights Centre.

The main Sydney event is the same

day at the city's Gaelic Club to be followed on 24 June by meetings with trade unions and individual MPs in the parliament of New South Wales with a bipartisan briefing in the NSW Parliament organised by the Brehon Law Society.

In Canberra on 25 June Anne will hold meetings and briefings at the federal parliament throughout the day and speak to a public event in the evening at the Australian National University while in Melbourne on 26 June she will hold meetings with trade unions and academic groups.

Also in Canberra, she will brief Victorian parliamentarians before the main event in the city at the Celtic Club before travelling on to Brisbane on 28 June for meetings with political representatives/unions.

Anne will then leave for New Zealand and a public meeting in Auckland yet to be finalised.



# ***"We're going to need a bigger courtroom!"***



Over sixty relatives bereaved by the gang of loyalists, RUC and UDR men known as the "Glenanne Gang" packed into Belfast High Court on 7 May to hear a judge refer to the sectarian murders as "deeply disturbing".

After a quick move of court to allow for the high attendance of families, the court heard from London-based QC Danny Friedman that the Historical Enquiries Team had failed to keep its promise to provide them with a thematic report into collusion in the murders.

The book written about the gang's activities, *Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland* has now sold over 20,000 copies and has been reprinted ten times. It is based upon over ten years research carried out by The Pat Finucane Centre and Justice for the Forgotten.

Two days of legal arguments ended with an adjournment until 19 June but not before significant new developments had been outlined to the court and the watching families including the existence of a five-page spreadsheet drawn up by the PSNI.

Mr Justice Seamus Treacy is sitting

in judgement on whether to make an order that the HET report, already 80% completed, should be finished. If he does make such an order, the ground will move to which institution and individuals should carry out the task.

The lead case in the court case is being taken by Eddie Barnard, whose 13-year-old brother, Patrick, was murdered by the gang when it bombed the Hillcrest Bar in Dungannon, County Tyrone on 17 March 1976, killing four people.

Lawyers for the Chief Constable of the PSNI claims it is not his responsibility to do so and, in any case, there is nothing to be gained from concluding the work. This is hotly disputed by the families, the PFC and JFF who all say that they want the truth exposed by an official body.

The HET had repeatedly informed families that their individual reports would be supplemented by a thematic report. But despite long years of waiting, this was never provided.

In court to hear the case was Steve Morris, the Senior Investigating Officer, who had completed 80% of the work before he was abruptly stopped from completing the report – without explanation.

Relatives gathered outside the Royal Courts of Justice at the end of the first



day to be brief by Danny Friedman. They burst out into spontaneous applause when Mr. Friedman paid tribute to Mr. Morris's work.

Earlier, the court was told that the head of the HET, Dave Cox, had considered the thematic report as an "absolute necessity" although it was abandoned in 2010. The HET was itself wound up in 2014.

"The report is important because the families know that the state knows these cases were inextricably linked," said Mr. Friedman QC. "There is an enormous difference between the families and their supporters analysing those links and the state taking responsibility for that analysis."

It was about the value of truth and accountability and the interests of wider society, he said.

Families heard that a five-page spreadsheet presented in evidence on behalf of the Chief Constable of the PSNI included a list of members of the security forces who were either convicted of offences carried out by the gang or were suspects.



## **Witness Appeal- Rubber bullet death 1972**

PFC held an appeal for information concerning the death of 18 year old Tobias Molloy from Strabane in July 1972. Tobias had been returning to Strabane from Lifford when he was struck on the chest by a rubber bullet fired by a British soldier at the "Camel's Hump". He was taken to Lifford hospital where he was pronounced dead.

PFC held a two day clinic in Strabane for witnesses to come forward and speak to caseworkers confidentially. The appeal also featured on local radio and in local and regional newspapers. We were pleased that a number of people who were there the night Tobias was killed came forward with information. PFC and the Molloy

family would like to thank all those who contacted us.

Tobias was one of three people killed as a result of rubber bullets during the conflict. In 2013 PFC uncovered British government declassified documents that disclosed that the test carried out on rubber bullets "were carried out in a shorter time than ideal.....and that the Ministry (of Defence) was aware that it could be lethal." The documents have assisted the families of Francis Rowntree (11 years old, died April 1972) and Thomas Friel (21 years old, died May 1973) to secure fresh inquests. The inquest examining the death of Francis Rowntree is due to commence later this year.



*Tobias Molloy 1972*



*Relatives of those killed on the Batang Kali massacre outside the Supreme Court in London, along with legal teams, PFC, RFJ and RWUK.*

## PFC intervene in UK Supreme Court case concerning 1948 Massacre in Mayala

In April PFC caseworkers Sara Duddy and Paul O'Connor travelled to the UK Supreme Court in London. PFC and Rights Watch UK had been granted the right to intervene in the KEYU case that concerned a massacre of 24 civilians by the Scots Guards in Batang Kali, Malaya, in 1948. For over sixty years relatives of the deceased have argued that the civilians were executed without justification, and the authorities conspired to cover up the truth. The Batang Kali families are seeking an inquiry or equivalent investigation to address the events of that day. Central to this case is how the duty to investigate deaths caused by the state under Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights (the procedural obligation) is interpreted. This judgement will impact how conflict-related deaths are dealt with in this

jurisdiction.

The Attorney General for Northern Ireland (AG), John Larkin, also intervened in the case by way of written submissions. He argued that the procedural obligation under Article 2 should have a narrow interpretation that focuses on the identification and punishment of those responsible for the death. He also argued that an Article 2 investigation does not require any form of inquiry whose purpose is simply the recovery of historical truth. PFC rejects this interpretation as it would inhibit a family's legitimate right to the truth about how their loved one died. Ben Emmerson QC, representing PFC and RWUK stated that the Attorney General's argument that Art 2 investigations should only be concerned with the identification and prosecution of perpetrators would

effectively mean that the entire architecture of UK post Human Rights Act jurisprudence is based on a misconception of the state's article 2 obligations to investigate deaths caused by the state. Emmerson outlined that the leading UK and European Court of Human Rights' judgements would be effectively overruled if the court accepted that the AG was right.

Our counsel also outlined a number of scenarios that, if the AG is correct, would result in no investigation. For example if someone killed 20 people today and then killed himself- no chance of a prosecution- no investigation.

PFC and RWUK were represented by KRW Law.

The Supreme Court is expected to deliver judgement in the coming weeks.

## Derry Four denied justice. Again

In 1979 four boys aged 16 and 17 years old were arrested in Derry for the murder of a soldier called Stephen Kirby. They were Gerry McGowan, Gerry Kelly, Stephen Crumlish and Michael Toner, and they became known as the "Derry Four." During the trial, the boys fled to the Republic of Ireland where they lived openly for 20 years. In 1998 all four were acquitted of the murder and other charges. Following a complaint to the Police Ombudsman, a referral was made to the Public Prosecution Service resulting in charges being brought against two former RUC officers for perverting the course of justice in respect of the written statement of Gerry McGowan that "was not his independent account of his involvement in the murder."

However the case collapsed at the start of the year, with the PPS stating that the

prosecution of two former RUC officers would not be proceeded with because of contradictions in statements provided by the OPONI.

PFC and supporters staged a peaceful protest outside the Laganside courts in January this year, when the two former officers were officially acquitted of the charges. The men then delivered an open letter to the Director of the Public Prosecution Service, Barra McGrory, that stated:

"We believe that the DPP in 1979 & the PPS today have failed in their duty of care towards us as victims of a miscarriage of justice. The DPP failed in 1979 by proceeding with a fabricated murder case against us, and again by the collapse of this trial. Justice delayed is justice denied. We have endured 37 years of injustice and our fight continues. Now is the time for answers."

Incredibly the Police Ombudsman then asked the PSNI to examine the conduct

of one of its former investigators. The Ombudsman have also confirmed that they will not publish their findings in respect of the original complaint brought by the four men that triggered the referral to the PPS and they are also unable to communicate with the Derry Four while the matter is under investigation.

**JUSTICE DELAYED, JUSTICE DENIED.**





# John Pat Cunningham murder



In April a former British soldier, Denis Hutchings, was arrested in England and brought back to Ireland for questioning by the Legacy Investigation Branch of the PSNI in connection with the 1974 murder of John Pat Cunningham, a vulnerable 27 year old adult, near Benburb. Loyalists protested outside Antrim Serious Crime Suite while he was being questioned. John Pat, who was unarmed, was shot in the back by soldiers in a field. Following the arrest the PFC issued a statement on behalf of the family which 'cautiously welcomed the arrest' but reiterated earlier statements that the family have no confidence in a PSNI investigation and wish to see all British army killings investigated by an unit independent of the PSNI. On April 25 Hutchings was charged with attempted murder at Omagh Magistrates Court and was released on bail. At a preliminary hearing in Armagh courthouse on 9th June the Judge described this as a "grievous" case and remanded Mr.

Hutchings on the same bail conditions until 7 July. No date has been set for trial, as yet.

A number of extreme right wing groups in Britain have come out online in support of the former soldier.

A briefing on the case is available at [patfinucanecentre.org](http://patfinucanecentre.org)

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## Judicial review for failure to investigate - Nov 2015

The "Hooded Men" will judicially review the failure of the PSNI, MOD and Secretary of State to properly investigate the evidence that they were tortured in the High Court at the end of the year. At the leave hearing on 4th June, Justice Treacy directed a four day hearing to begin on 30th November. The proceedings will also examine evidence that one of the men, Sean McKenna, died prematurely as a result of the torture.

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## PFC find evidence that "Hooded Men" interrogations were taped

In February this year PFC uncovered documents that confirmed that the interrogation sessions of the "Hooded Men" in Ballykelly were "monitored and taped", and that the British Army retained over 400 hours of these taped interrogations in Ashford, Kent, i.e. at the Joint School of Intelligence where officers were trained in interrogation methods. Transcripts of the interrogations were retained by the RUC.

Documents also reveal that Colonel Nicholson, instrumental in facilitating the torture, informed the Compton Committee that there was a "continual recording" of the interrogations, however the enquiry determined that "they would not wish to see or hear the tapes since it was unlikely they would contain any relevant information."

Following the discovery PFC wrote

c. The actual transcripts of evidence (sic) - information - supplied by subjects Nos 3 to 12 are held by the RUC and have remained in their keeping. There are, however, the actual verbatim tapes of each interrogation available at the Intelligence Centre, Ashford. They represent, however, some 400 hours of "listening" much of which is of rather value nor relevance.

to the ROI's Attorney General, Maire Whelan, and provided copies of the documents for her consideration. We stated that

"The 1978 judgement does not refer to the tapes or recordings of the interrogations. We don't know if the ECtHR or the Irish government were made aware that this evidence existed when the original case was brought in 1978, however we believe the tapes, if still in existence, may provide probative evidence of the torture imposed on the 14 men. The tapes and/ or transcripts may also help identify the individual RUC officers involved in carrying out the torture in any future criminal investigation."

We understand that the "Hooded Men" legal teams have since contacted both the MOD and the PSNI seeking confirmation of whether the tapes still

exist and their preservation.

In December 2014 the Irish government confirmed that they would ask the European Court of Human Rights to re-examine their original 1978 decision that held that the treatment of the men constituted inhuman and degrading treatment, but not torture. DFA Minister Charlie Flanagan stated that

"On the basis of the new material uncovered, it will be contended that the ill-treatment suffered by the Hooded Men should be recognised as torture."

This followed a broadcast by RTE called "The Torture Files" that outlined material found in British government archives that was not disclosed to the court at the time. The ECtHR has not as yet ruled on whether they will admit and re-examine the case.

## 41st ANNIVERSARY OF DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN BOMBINGS

The annual commemoration took place on Saturday, 16 May. The main public event was a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial to the victims in Talbot Street. The MC was Aidan Shields whose mother, Maureen, lost her life in Talbot Street.

Wreaths were laid by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Christy Burke; Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin; the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Municipal District, Cllr. Seán Conlon and Patrick Fay on behalf of Justice for the Forgotten.

Survivor Bernie McNally read the names of the victims (remembering all the victims of the bombings in the Republic during the 1970s) and a minute's silence was observed. This was followed by survivor Noel Hegarty reading his own poem, A Nation's Truth.

Anne Cadwallader, author of *Lethal Allies*, delivered a powerful oration, calling on the British Government to open the undisclosed files. She paid tribute to U2 for its decision to highlight the Dublin and Monaghan bombings during its current 70-date tour, which had kicked off in Vancouver, Canada the

previous evening. By including *Raised by Wolves* in their repertoire, and by projecting images of the victims on a huge screen, the story of the victims will reach a world-wide audience.

The prayers were led by Fr. Tom Clowe SDB, following which family members laid their personal floral tributes to their loved ones.

Many of those present were moved to tears by Eugene McEldowney's wonderful rendition of *The Parting Glass*. Eugene left his sick bed to honour the commitment to sing at the event.

The ceremony reached its conclusion with Aidan Shields thanking the contributors and paying tribute to Dublin City Council for its upkeep of the monument and Store Street gardaí for their assistance with traffic control. Piper Eoin Dillon ended the proceedings with a poignant rendition of *An Cúileann*.

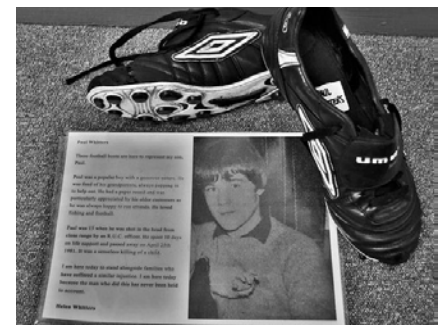
During the commemorative Mass at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, a wreath from U2 and Gavin Friday was laid at the altar. It was taken to the monument afterwards and placed with the other wreaths.



### "In Their Footsteps" campaign to go state-side - call for shoes

PFC has been approached by an individual who supported Anne Cadwallader and Alan Brecknell's 2013 tour of the USA, asking if the "In Their Footsteps" shoe exhibition could be displayed at the Maryland Irish Festival in November 2015. PFC is working with other organisers of the campaign to see if we can make this happen, as it would bring the poignant exhibition to an international audience.

We are inviting families who haven't yet provided a pair of shoes symbolising their loved one, but would like to be part of the campaign, to do so. Please contact PFC for further details.



## U2 WORLD TOUR

**Justice for the Forgotten and The Pat Finucane Centre welcome U2's decision to highlight the plight of the bereaved families and survivors of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings at each venue on their world tour, which began in Vancouver, Canada on Thursday 14 May.**

The band's song "*Raised by Wolves*" which was released last year deals with the direct and personal impact of that day, nearly 41 years ago, when three no-warning car bombs exploded in Dublin and a fourth caused devastation in Monaghan, on 17 May 1974, killing 34 people including a full-term unborn baby – the greatest loss of life on a single day of the Northern Ireland conflict.

During the performance of the song, images of the event and photographs of the victims are shown on stage. By including *Justice for the Forgotten* in the

official tour programme of the band's 'INNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE' world tour and by highlighting that no one has been brought to justice, U2 is joining the thousands of voices, including the entire Irish parliament, who have called for the release of classified documents on the bombing to an agreed judicial third party.

The families of those killed and those who survived the bomb explosions have welcomed U2's principled decision.

Dubliner Pat Fay, whose father, Patrick, a civil servant aged 47, was killed in the Parnell Street explosion, said: -"One of the most popular bands in the world is lending its support to our call for truth. The 'INNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE' world tour will last for up to two years. There will be a focus on the Dublin & Monaghan Bombings at every concert from New York and Turin to Berlin and Barcelona.

This means that the world will finally hear about the huge injustice inflicted upon families who had already suffered devastating loss."

Bernadette Joly, who was aged 23 when she sustained serious injuries to both arms from flying shrapnel in the Talbot Street bomb, said: -"We greatly welcome U2's decision to highlight our loss and our need for justice and truth. At last, we feel the world will listen to our plight and demand that London open up the files and set the truth free."

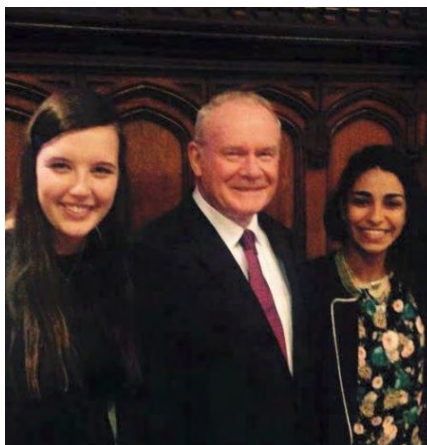


Margaret Urwin from JFF meeting with with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, 21 May 2015.



# PFC Interns

Interns Ghadar Awwad, a native of Palestine who is studying at Earlham College, Indiana, completed a three month internship at the PFC Derry. Mary Haasl from St. Olaf College, Minnesota, also completed a three month internship through the Incore HECUA programme. PFC would like to thank but Mary and Ghadar for their hard work cataloguing declassified government documents to assist with our casework. We wish both interns success in their future endeavours.



*Interns Mary Haasl & Ghadeer Awwad with Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness at the Hope beyond Hurt conference*

## Changes to PFC Board

PFC is pleased to welcome Julieann Campbell and Tony Brown to our Board of Directors. An author, poet and former journalist, Julieann lost an uncle on 30th January 1972 and is currently chair of the Bloody Sunday Trust and a facilitator of oral history in Derry. Tony Brown's nephew Paul Whitter's (15) was hit and killed by a plastic bullet fired by a member of the RUC in Derry in 1981.

PFC would like to thank John Kelly, who has stepped down from our Board, for his commitment and service over the past three years. John continues to work as educational and outreach officer with the Museum of Free Derry.



The Victims and Survivors Service have opened their Individual Needs Programme for this financial year. The package of support provided this year includes:

### SUPPORT SCHEMES

Support for the Bereaved

Support for the Injured

Support for Carers

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Full details of eligibility criteria and how to apply are available from the VSS website. [www.victimsservice.org](http://www.victimsservice.org)

## Apologist for murderers appointed NIO Minister

In May the PFC wrote to the Secretary of State following the appointment of former Scots Guardsman Ben Wallace as junior NIO minister.

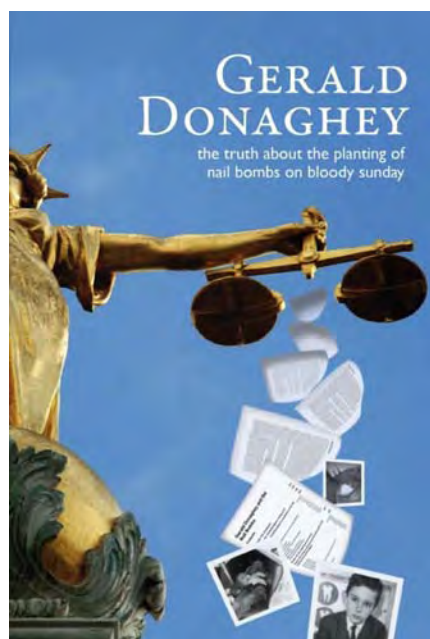
'Speaking in the Commons in 2005 Wallace made the following comment available from Hansard,

Ben Wallace: "Let me give an example. In east (sic) Belfast in 1992 two Guardsmen by the names of Fisher and Wright shot dead a man who they genuinely believed was about to carry out an act of terrorism. They were subsequently tried and found guilty of murder in the courts... They made, in my view, an error, but the courts felt that they had committed murder."

The PFC emailed Mr Wallace following these remarks in 2005 pointing out that his understanding of the prosecution and conviction of Guardsmen Wright and Fisher was inaccurate and deeply hurtful to the Mc Bride family. Mr

Wallace chose not to respond. The court found that Guardsmen Wright and Fisher did not believe that Peter Mc Bride was 'about to carry out an act of terrorism.' Had the court accepted this defence they would not have been found guilty of murder. In our letter to Teresa Villiers we said:

"As Secretary of State you have a duty to ensure that your ministers do not seek to justify the murder of unarmed teenagers. We urge you to clarify the position of Mr Wallace as a matter of urgency. I am anxious to communicate any clarification back to the Mc Bride family. They have suffered more than enough through the appalling decision to allow the murderers of their son to re-join the British Army- a decision which brought shame on your armed forces and government and was condemned unanimously by Dail Eireann."



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## PFC NEWSLETTER ISSUE 13/Summer 2015

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Remember you can follow us on Twitter @Finucanecentre @JFForgotten And LIKE us on Facebook. We have also updated our websites to include up to date information on cases and different campaigns, details of how to donate to PFC & JFF and links to our publications; [www.patfinucanecentre.org](http://www.patfinucanecentre.org) / [www.dublinmonaghanbombings.org](http://www.dublinmonaghanbombings.org)