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## TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRUTH RECOVERY



## WHAT WE DID IN 2016!

As 2016 draws to a close, The Pat Finucane Centre and Justice for the Forgotten thought we would sum up our activities during the year while looking forward to 2017 with determination and optimism – tinged with realism.

We know it can sometimes appear that we are going round in circles without getting very far and that, despite the best efforts we make, jointly with the families we support, we don't get very far.

But when you look at some of the events in which we were involved over the past 12 months, we hope you

will see what progress is being made, however slowly, towards our shared goal of peace and acknowledgement. 2016 was a year when many families were commemorating significant anniversaries of a loved-one's death. When families ask us, the PFC/JFF do all we can to assist in public or private events. We are only mentioning here those events that relatives wished us to make publicly. Throughout 2016, we were involved in innumerable meetings to try and push forward the proposals for truth recovery set out in the Stormont House Agreement and "Fresh Start"

documents. These efforts have yet to reach resolution which is a source of continuing great disappointment and frustration.

The following is a short list of the events and actions. Clearly, we are involved in confidential casework on a daily basis and details of this are not included. Nor have we listed the numerous brief preliminary hearings we have attended in various courts throughout the year.

We wish every one of you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

# WHAT WE DID IN 2016!

## ● JANUARY

- 15 JFF attended reception at Ulster Museum for Colin Davidson's art exhibition of 18 victims of the conflict: Silent Testimony. One of his subjects is Thomas O'Brien who lost his brother, sister-in-law and two baby nieces in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings at Parnell Street
- 19 The PFC and others met the European Human Rights Commissioner, Nils Muiznieks, in Belfast. The Council of Europe Commissioner has been sharply critical of the British Government's failure to uphold their obligations under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights to resource and assist effective, independent investigations
- 20 The Office of the Police Ombudsman met PFC staff in Armagh to notify us that they are beginning their investigation into the "Glenanne Series" of murders (the largest ever inquiry conducted by the office)
- 21 A preliminary hearing took place in Belfast of the renewed inquest into two deaths caused by the explosion at The Step Inn in Keady, on 16 August 1976, in which Elizabeth McDonald and Gerard McGleenan lost their lives
- 25 The Ombudsman criticised how the PSNI handled the suspicious disappearance of Derry man Gerard Hampson on 7 December 2007 and how they responded when his body was recovered a month later
- 26 Armagh Courthouse was the venue for a hearing into charges against a British soldier, Dennis Hutchings, for the attempted murder of John Pat Cunningham in 1974. Throughout the year, the PFC attended court hearings into this case
- 27 PFC/JFF met the Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan TD in Dublin
- 29 An inquest began in Belfast into the death of Tommy Trainor, who was killed by loyalists as he walked home from signing on in Portadown on 8 March 1978 (the PFC has justifiable concerns about a police cover up in this case)

## ● FEBRUARY

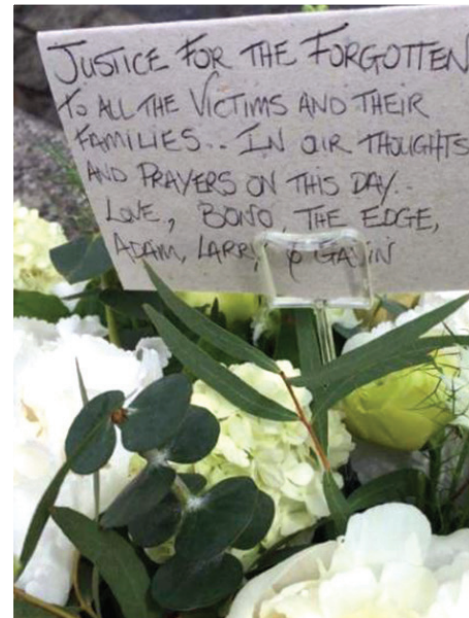
- The Lord Chief Justice Sir Dermot Morgan proposes a multi-million pound plan to resource outstanding inquests ordered by the Attorney General John Larkin – otherwise they could take decades to process
- 18 Families in the North West attended meeting at PFC office to discuss the Stormont House Agreement. On the same day, the PFC had a meeting with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs
- 22 The PFC met the new US consul to Belfast to outline our concerns on legacy
- 22 The PFC responded to the Public Records Office consultation on access to inquest and court papers – our point being that maximum disclosure to families is essential
- 23 The PFC's Anne Cadwallader took part in a Belfast conference on UN Resolution 1325 ("Women, Peace and Security")

## ● MARCH

- 1 Derry families met the new Victims Commissioner, Judith Thompson
- 6 40th anniversary of the UVF Castleblayney bombing in which Patrick Mone lost his life with Margaret Urwin of JFF giving the oration
- 11 Attended the launch of People like us in Belfast Castle – a book about some of the victims of the conflict. Aidan Shields, whose mother was killed in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings at Talbot Street features in the book.
- 21 The PFC issued a press release questioning why the RUC/PSNI and the Ministry of Defence failed to inform the family of UDA murder victim, Rodney McCormick, that one of the three loyalists convicted of the 1980 murder had been a member of the UDR for three years in the 1970s
- 25 JFF members (including Kevin and Catherine O'Loughlin whose mother was killed in the Dublin bombings) took part in the annual reading of names of all those who died in the conflict at the Unitarian Church, Dublin

Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights to resource and assist effective, independent investigations







## ● APRIL

- 5 Armagh families met the new Victims Commissioner at Benburb Priory
- 10 A PFC delegation visited the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg to lobby for implementation of the institutions proposed in the Stormont House Agreement and argue that London is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights
- 18 A plaque was unveiled to commemorate the anniversary of the British Army killing of Gary English and Jim Brown in Derry in 1981
- 20 The PFC participated in round-table talks at Queen's University, Belfast on London's demand to veto the onward passing of information to families on grounds of "national security"
- 21 The PFC's Alan Brecknell spoke at a conference on public law in London

## ● MAY

- 2 40th anniversary of the murder of Seamus Ludlow outside Dundalk – JFF chaired meeting with family members Jimmy Fox, Jimmy Sharkey and Michael Donegan
- 3 Justice for the Forgotten awarded "Lord Mayor's Award" at the Mansion House in Dublin for over 20 years of campaigning for victims of the conflict south of the border
- 6 Gerry McGowan, of the "Derry Four" (framed as teenagers by RUC detectives for the murder of a soldier in Derry in 1979) gave an extensive and harrowing interview on the BBC's "Nolan Show"
- 15 Charlemont, 40th commemoration of the gun-and-bomb attack on Clancy's and The Eagle bars in which four men died (Fred McLoughlin, Robert McCullough, Sean O'Hagan and Vincent Clancy)
- 16 A number of NGOs and academics, including the PFC, met the UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice Reparations and Non-Recurrence, Pablo De Greiff
- 17 42nd commemoration of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings – attendees included the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charlie Flanagan and U2 members Bono and Adam Clayton while speakers included Alan McBride whose wife and father-in-law were killed in the IRA 1993 Shankill Road bombing
- 18 A number of families supported by the PFC attended the Belfast Castle launch of the WAVE stories project "Stories from the Silence" (accessible on the WAVE website)

- 20 The PFC's Sara Duddy spoke at the "Stories Network" seminar about the PFC's "Recovery of Living Memory" project
- 25 Dáil Éireann unanimously urged London to release papers on cross-border bombings with bereaved families listening in the public gallery (the third such resolution in eight years)

## ● JUNE

- 3 A delegation of Colombian NGOs visited the PFC to discuss peace processes and human rights. The same day, the PFC joined other NGOs to meet local political representatives to discuss the long delays in agreeing truth recovery
- 6 Some 200 bereaved families signed up to a full page advert in The Guardian newspaper in Britain organised by PFC/JFF. The advert accused the British Prime Minister of violating the European Convention on Human Rights because of a failure to establish mechanisms to deal with the past. The text slammed the British government for hiding behind alleged "national security" concerns
- 9 The long-awaited report from the Police Ombudsman into the Loughinisland Massacre of June 1994 was released. The report was scathing of the role of the RUC and linked the loyalist importation of South African weapons in 1988 to the farm of former RUC officer James Mitchell who played a major role in the Glenanne Gang in the 1970s
- 14 Glenanne families met with head of Ombudsman's inquiry into the "Glenanne Series" at Benburb Priory
- 15 The PFC and Bloody Sunday Trust hosted a meeting in Derry with families bereaved in the Omagh bombing, the Loughinisland Massacre, the Hillsborough tragedy and campaigners against police actions at the Orgreave miners' picket in Britain
- 16 JFF families met with head of Ombudsman's inquiry into the "Glenanne Series"
- 28 The PFC accompanied families to a meeting with the independent police team set up to investigate the "Stakeknife" allegations headed by Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police (further meetings followed in 2016)
- 30 "In Their Footsteps" event (with shoes to represent deceased relatives) outside the Royal Courts of Justice/Laganside Courts in central Belfast
- 30 Event at the Rock Bar, Granemore, Co. Armagh, to mark the 40th anniversary of the gun-and-bomb attack on the bar by members of the RUC Special Patrol Group



breaking response to British propagandists and apologists. Opens up chilling vistas of what went on during the Troubles.' – *Justine McCarthy*



## MARGARET URWIN

**SUPPORT THE FAMILIES - MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**  
Contact: @david\_cameron. Email: <https://email.number10.gov.uk/>





## ● JULY

- 1 Paul O'Connor spoke at the Transitional Justice Institute Summer School at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown
- 15 The PFC met with the SDLP to talk over the failure of politicians to implement legacy proposals
- 21 A PFC delegation met with Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, and MLAs to discuss legacy issues along with Relatives for Justice and other NGOs
- 25 The shoes from the "In Their Footsteps" exhibition were displayed in Guildhall Square in Derry, coinciding with a PFC meeting with the new Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, also in Derry. In addition to legacy issues, the PFC also raised the on-going detention of Derry republican Tony Taylor whose bail has been revoked. This case has been discussed at various meetings with the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Office and remains a serious concern.
- 26 Families bereaved in the Miami Showband Massacre met the Ombudsman for an exploratory meeting in Dublin
- 26 Human rights campaigners including academics, and the PFC met to discuss the implications of the "Brexit" referendum vote in Britain

## ● AUGUST

- 5 Margaret Urwin of JFF and the PFC's Anne Cadwallader gave a presentation in Newry on British government declassified documents on internment
- 6 The case of the killing of Henry Cunningham (16), shot dead by the UVF using a gun taken from the British Army featured in the Inish Times ( Inishowen Co. Donegal) on his anniversary
- 10 The PFC/JFF gave a presentation in Belfast on declassified British government internment documents as part of Feile an Phobail (the West Belfast Festival)
- 23 In a statement to the BBC the PSNI sought to defend their handling of the "Derry 4" miscarriage of justice case. (See also May 6 above and link on PFC website)

## ● SEPTEMBER

- 5 Lord Chief Justice accepted that, in their failure to allocate resources to inquests ordered by the Attorney General, politicians in London and Belfast are effectively placing him in a position where he is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights
- 19 PFC delegation met the former Minister for Justice and Alliance Party leader, David Ford to talk about legacy issues
- 27 BBC Spotlight broadcast programme on ongoing delays in releasing funding for legacy inquests. The son of murdered GAA man Sean Brown was one of the family members interviewed. Preliminary hearings in this inquest have dragged on for more than 10 years

## ● OCTOBER

- 7 Alan Brecknell gave a presentation at the University of Ulster on his experience of taking an Article 2 case to the European Court
- 12 Paul O'Connor was invited to Brussels to speak to a network of Colombian NGOs in Europe looking at the Irish peace process
- 15, 20, 21 Belfast, Dublin and Derry launches of A State in Denial (Mercier Press) by JFF's Margaret Urwin with speakers Dr. Brian Feeney, Geraldine Finucane and Robert Ballagh
- 27 Derry and Strabane District Council passed a motion of support for the "Derry Four" and urged the Chief Constable to expedite the long delayed investigation in the case (an investigation that the PFC and the Four believe to be wholly unnecessary but which is being used to hold up delivery of their final PONI Report)

The son of murdered GAA man Sean Brown was one of the family members interviewed. Preliminary hearings in this inquest have dragged on for more than 10 years

## ● NOVEMBER

- 3 Armagh launch of "A State in Denial" at the Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Library with Monsignor. Raymond Murray
- 11 Newry launch of "A State in Denial" with PFC director, Paul O'Connor
- 15-22 Van circulated around central London asking "What Price A Life at the Ministry of Defence?" pointing out tiny amounts of compensation paid to victims of state violence in Northern Ireland and challenging the British Prime Minister's characterisation of legal action here as "vexatious" (the family of Christopher Quinn, who featured in the campaign, travelled to London for the launch which was widely reported in the press)
- 17 A PFC/JFF presentation in Galway on A State in Denial and Lethal Allies
- 19 A PFC presentation to "European Young Socialists" study weekend in Belfast on state collusion with loyalists
- 21 Irish News carried double-page blank ad from PFC/JFF slating the British government for its failure to implement the legacy aspects of the Stormont House Agreement (there was a positive and lively reaction from families and the other media)
- 21 Final day in court of the Judicial Review of the Historical Enquiries Team failure to produce their promised report on collusion in the "Glenanne Series"
- 22 The anniversary of the murder of John Toland in 1976 was marked with articles in the Derry Journal and Belfast Telegraph
- 24 PFC/JFF presentation in Shannon on A State in Denial and Lethal Allies
- 26 PFC presentation to the Dublin-based Forum for Justice and Peace in Palestine on campaign against internment in Ireland and parallels with lobby against "administrative detention" in Palestine

"What Price A Life at the Ministry of Defence?"

"Healing Through Remembering"

## ● DECEMBER

- 1 PFC staff met the Justice Minister Claire Sugden at Stormont to discuss legacy issues and the situation at Maghaberry prison.
- 6 At a lecture to commemorate the anniversary of the Mc Gurks Bar bombing Michael Mansfield QC called on the Chief Constable to reveal the redacted contents of a military document which family member Ciarán MacArt had uncovered. The hitherto secret document showed that the authorities had forensic evidence that the bomb had been planted outside the North Belfast pub and was not an 'own goal' as was claimed by the RUC, HQNI and unionist politicians. Parts of the declassified document remain redacted and campaigners are demanding that the PSNI reveal its contents. 15 people died in the attack
- 7 Paul spoke at a seminar in Belfast as part of the Human Rights Festival on the theme of the Human Rights Act and its effect on the actions of British soldiers in various conflicts
- 14 JFF/PFC attend the final meeting this year of the Cross Party Oireachtas Committee on Victims in Dublin
- 14 The annual DFA Reconciliation Forum is held, this year in east Belfast. Anne represented the PFC
- 16 PFC/JFF give a presentation at an event in Fermanagh on the anniversary of the loyalist murder of Louis Leonard in Derrylyn
- Mid The family of a man shot dead by British soldiers in Belfast in 1972, Ted Brady, have revealed that recent reports into his death (which they had been denied access to until recently) had concluded that he was an unarmed civilian walking along the Oldpark Rd when he was shot. The reports from the HET and PSNI LIB both concurred that the version of events as portrayed by the British army could not have happened given the discrepancies in distances, times and evidence to the contrary from civilian witnesses. PFC continues to support the family

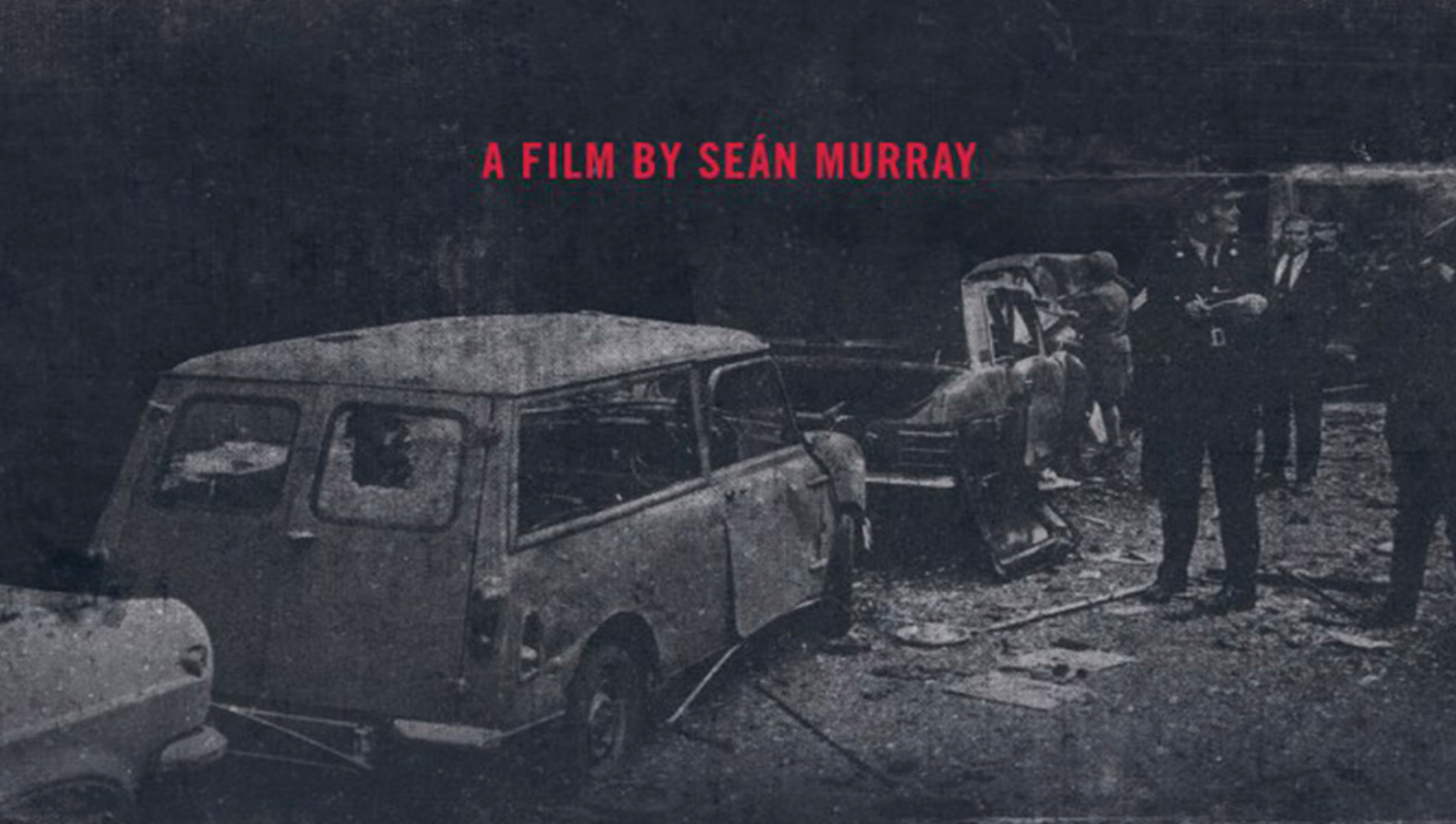
In addition to all of the above, the PFC's Sara Duddy represents the PFC in the "Stories Network" of "Healing Through Remembering" and also the "Legacy Gender Integration Group"

Alan Brecknell attends the "Victims and Survivors Service Practitioners Group" in the Dungannon area while Sara Duddy does the same for the North West group.

Sean Murray, independent film maker, continued work on Unquiet Graves – the feature-length film chronicling the events in Lethal Allies and the impact on families of the murders carried out by the Glenanne Gang" (see: [www.unquietgraves.com](http://www.unquietgraves.com)).



A FILM BY SEÁN MURRAY



# UNQUIET GRAVES

UNCOVERING BRITAIN'S SECRET WAR IN IRELAND

THE STORY OF THE GLENANNE GANG

RELAPSE PICTURES PRESENTS "UNQUIET GRAVES" DIRECTED BY SEÁN MURRAY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CALLUM MACRAE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KEVIN TREACY  
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