

# NOTTINGHAM Robert Hamill CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER



The Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign (NRHC) was launched in early 2000. The chief aims of the campaign are to:

- Draw attention to the circumstances related to the death of Robert Hamill and highlighting the failure of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) to prevent the attack that led to Robert's death and then to carry out a proper investigation.
- Support the call of Robert's family for an independent public inquiry. Also, to support the family if it decides to launch any private prosecution.
- Highlight how the death of Robert Hamill has striking similarities with the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence.

The circumstances surrounding Robert's death are clearly connected to specific factors related to Northern Ireland. But the case is also a human rights case with far wider implications. Issues related to justice, civil liberties and policing are, for example, as important in Nottingham as they are in Northern Ireland!

If you would like to get involved in the Campaign please come along to the next meeting. You may have ideas, skills or contacts that we would particularly welcome as we set about building the Campaign.

We are happy to provide speakers for local trade unions, political parties, church and community groups. If you would like to invite a speaker from our Campaign to a meeting, or want a copy of our 'model

**The Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign meets at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, every month. See inside for further details.**

**Attention all trade union members and community group members, See our model motion enclosed with this mailing**

"The RUC is the most heavily armed force in Europe, if not the world. Within 15 yards, four armed RUC officers sat in their Landrover and watched my brother killed.

As you know, police officers get first aid training. When Robert was on the ground, they did not feel he was worthy of having any first aid and they did not touch him as he lay on the ground.

They did not make any arrests on the night. They did not clear the crowds at the scene. The crowd were still standing around Robert as the ambulance arrived and they had difficulty getting to Robert."

*Diane Hamill, Robert's sister, at the National Civil Rights Movement launch, March 1999.*

## JOIN US

I WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JOINING THE NOTTINGHAM ROBERT HAMILL CAMPAIGN

NAME .....

ADDRESS.....

..... TEL NO.....

E-MAIL.....

Please Return to: Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign  
C/O The International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd, Nottingham  
NG1 3FN, or e-mail:robhamillnott@yahoo.co.uk

# What really happened

■ Robert Hamill was kicked to death by a mob of thirty loyalists in Portadown, Northern Ireland. The incident happened in the early hours of 27 April 1997 in full view of an RUC Land Rover, only 200 yards from an RUC station.



4 RUC officers, wearing body armour and armed with machine guns, stayed in the Land Rover until after the attack.

- ◆ They ignored warnings of a potential incident
- ◆ They ignored pleas for them to intervene during the attack
- ◆ They did not fire warning shots to disperse the crowd
- ◆ They did not administer first aid to Robert as he lay dying
- ◆ They did not declare the area as a scene of crime, collect any forensic evidence

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Robert's family want to know why. They are asking the government to set up an independent inquiry into the incident.

# Dates of next meetings

<b>4th March</b>	<b>5th Aug</b>
<b>* 8th April</b>	<b>2nd Sept</b>
<b>13th May</b>	<b>7th Oct</b>
<b>10th June</b>	<b>4th Nov</b>
<b>1st July</b>	<b>2nd Dec</b>

We frequently have guest speakers from other campaign groups such as the Notts Refugee Forum, a speaker on the Turkish hunger strikers and \* the National Civil Rights Movement (8th April).

at International Community Centre  
Mansfield Rd, Nottingham



Welcome to the first edition of the Nottingham Robert Hamill campaign newsletter. The newsletter will be produced quarterly. Articles and letters are welcome. All articles should be sent to: The Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN or via e-mail to [robhamillnott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robhamillnott@yahoo.co.uk)

# Interview with Jeremy Hardy

■ Jeremy Hardy, who has campaigned for a number of years on Irish and other human rights issues, explained why he, an Englishman, became involved with the Robert Hamill campaign.

He said: "I think all British people have a responsibility to take stock of what is happening in the North of Ireland because it remains within our jurisdiction, and because great harm has been done by the British in Ireland. There have been very many incidents like this, but this one struck me as particularly terrible. It's an issue, I think, which Irish people should focus on, because it's so much about what's wrong in the North, but anybody who is concerned about racism should be involved as well."

Once he had become aware of the circumstances surrounding Robert Hamill's murder, he began to write on the issue, but it was Rosemary Nelson, the Hamill family solicitor and human rights campaigner who, before her own assassination by loyalists, inspired him to become more directly involved, becoming "a great friend" in the process.

This campaign is also part of a wider



One against racism in which Jeremy is involved and, as he is keen to point out, "there are striking similarities between the racist murders which have taken place in Britain in recent years and the failings of the police" and Robert Hamill's murder, most notably the case of Stephen Lawrence. "But in Robert's case the police are actually more culpable because they were present, and not only did they not make any arrests, they wilfully failed to protect Robert's right to life."