

BRING THEM HOME

■ In February this year, Columbia's Attorney General office announced its decision to press charges against the three Irishmen who were arrested in the Latin American country in August 2001. Jim Monaghan, Martin McCauley and Niall Connolly will face charges of training left wing FARC rebels in Columbia and of using false documents, the attorney general's office said.

embassy (positive).

The Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign encourages all to support the demand to return the Columbia three to Ireland.

Messages of support to: c/o Niall Connolly's mother—Madelaine Connolly, 4 the Glen, Lower Glenageary road, Dunlaoghaire, Co Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

Benefit For Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign

JEREMY HARDY

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE

If they are found guilty, the three could be sentenced up to eight years imprisonment. However, Agustin Jimenez, president of the committee for the Solidarity of the Political Prisoners and a lawyer representing the men, said, 'they are innocent. They did nothing of what prosecutors are saying.'

So far, the attorney general's office has ignored evidence put forward by the Columbia Three's defence team challenging the credibility of the two main prosecution witnesses— a civil servant and a 'super grass.' the prosecution has also ignored expert forensic opinion that the men had no contact with explosives. Following the men's arrests, contradictory results were claimed from explosives and drugs tests carried out by the Columbian authorities (negative) and the US

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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

NOTTINGHAM Robert Hamill CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER



■ Two people were found guilty of perverting the course of justice in the case surrounding Robert Hamill's murder in May this year. James McKee received a six month jail term, while his estranged wife Andrea had her six month sentence suspended for two years.

are welcome, it is clear that the authorities are currently skirting around the edges of the case and that the prosecutions of those guilty of Robert's murder have yet to be addressed, even when details of individuals connected to the mob were acknowledged by the court who sentenced McKee.

The charges against them arose from a telephone call they made just two hours after Robert was attacked by a Loyalist mob. The details of the phone call were that the McKees provided a false alibi and disposed of clothes which had forensic evidence which implicated a murder suspect.

MI5 knew of collusion in Finucane killing

At the House of Commons meeting to commemorate Robert's death, Jeremy Hardy told over 70 politicians, journalists and campaign group members that the independent police ombudsman for Northern Ireland, Nuala O'Loan, will submit a report on the behaviour of the RUC over Robert's death to Peter Corrie. Corrie is the Canadian judge appointed to look at six cases of murder in Northern Ireland, including Robert's former solicitor, Rosemary Nelson, who was killed by a Loyalist car bomb.

■ MI5 knew virtually everything about police and army collusion with the loyalist terrorists who murdered Pat Finucane and other Catholics in Northern Ireland, a television documentary has claimed.

Fiona Murphy, a solicitor for British Irish Rights Watch, explained to the packed meeting that Corrie would recommend whether an independent public enquiry into Robert's death would go ahead.

The BBC Panorama programme also named a senior Ulster Defence Association paramilitary, Jim Spence, as the man who ordered the death of the Belfast solicitor in February 1989, with the encouragement of an RUC special branch officer who also helped the murder gang to escape. There are claims that the special branch officer, whose identity Panorama knows but did not reveal, tipped the murder gang off that their route to and from Mr Finucane's house was clear of security force roadblocks.

■ While the revelations and prosecutions

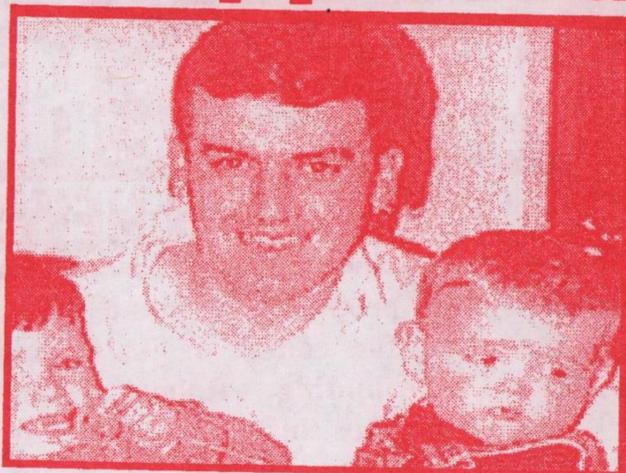
**The next meetings of the Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign (@ International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd) are:
2nd Sept, 7th Oct, 4th Nov, 2nd Dec (All start at 7pm)**

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 or take



statements from people present at the scene

- ◆ They detained one person but released him after only a few minutes
- ◆ No arrests were made for two weeks

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

MP attacks politicians failure to act on Hamill murder case

Politicians must be called to account for their "collective failure to ensure that the killers of Robert Hamill were taken off the streets and brought to justice."

So said Labour MP Kevin McNamara at a packed House of Commons meeting called to mark the fifth anniversary of Robert's death. The meeting also highlighted other human rights issues in the North of Ireland.

International pressure for a public inquiry into the case has built up and has become a feature recently of the negotiations to save the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr McNamara told the commons meeting: "Justice for Robert Hamill has become one of the critical tests for the new dispensation in Northern Ireland. How can the new police service demonstrate its preparedness to serve all section of the community equally, to promote parity of esteem, without meeting this challenge."

UNISON

The following UNISON branches are supporting the Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign: Notts County UNISON, Nottingham City UNISON & Notts Healthcare UNISON



Welcome to the second 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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

■ To celebrate International Women's day on March 8, Nottingham and District Trades Council hosted a meeting that was attended by over 30 trade unionists and was addressed by Liz Murphy, a parent of an eight-year-old pupil at Holy Cross school, Belfast.

Since June 2001 parents and pupils have been intimidated and threatened by loyalist mobs. The harrowing images that were broadcast by the media earlier this year brought widespread condemnation from human rights organisations worldwide. In a worsening development of anti Catholic sectarianism, loyalist gangs considered young children legitimate targets. Despite the school being in existence for 32 years, the recent violence has been caused by Loyalist paramilitaries, some of who moved into the Ardoyne area following internal feuding.

Liz Murphy spoke of her first hand experience as a victim of these attacks, and the traumatic effects they had on her daughter. Racist abuse has been hurled at parents and pupils on a daily basis, whist gangs armed with bottles, bricks and iron bars frequently attack Holy Cross children. On the 5th September 2001, parents and children had a bomb thrown at them in view of the RUC, yet no prosecutions resulted. Further intimidation has included death threats and throwing fireworks, boiling water and balloons filled with urine and excrement at parents and their children walking to and from school.

In response to this sectarianism, Liz explained how parents, teachers and Sinn Fein activists launched the right to education group. Speaking tours across Ireland and the US raised public awareness of their fight for education free from intimidation. Prolific lobbying of politicians, human rights groups and MEPs has publicised their case and attracted widespread support. Some

longstanding Protestant residents in the area have privately expressed their distress at the situation, but are fearful of reprisals if they speak publicly.

The role of the RUC/PSNI (the Police Service of Northern Ireland) has been partisan and included an incident where parents were told that firecrackers being fired were live sniper fire. Liz urged Nottingham trade unionists to enquire within their own unions, where they organise in Northern Ireland, as to what solidarity action is being taken to oppose the violent sectarianism at Holy Cross.

Anti Catholic sectarianism is behind both the killing of Robert Hamill and the intimidation of schoolchildren at Holy Cross school. A donation has been given to the campaign by the Nottingham Robert Hamill campaign.

The RUC is the most heavily armed force in Europe, if not the world. Within 15 yards, 4 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.