

HUNDREDS AT BELFAST ANTI RACIST RALLY

Several hundred people attended the city centre rally. An anti-racism rally has been held in Belfast to protest against the recent spate of racist attacks in the city.

Several hundred people took part in the demonstration at Belfast City Hall at lunchtime in February.

The rally, which was organised by the Anti-Racism Network in conjunction with the trade union movement, coincides with the UK Holocaust Memorial Day.

A statement read out at the start of the rally, which was endorsed by the main political parties in the province, condemned racism and urged all sections of society to deal with the problem.

Anna Lo of the Chinese Welfare Association said she believed that Belfast's growing reputation as a racist city was deserved.

"A lot of racist incidents have not been reported," she said. A lot of Chinese people would have kept away from reporting attacks because they are saying 'what is the point?'

The rally was held hours before the city hosted the fourth UK Holocaust Memorial Day at the Waterfront Hall.

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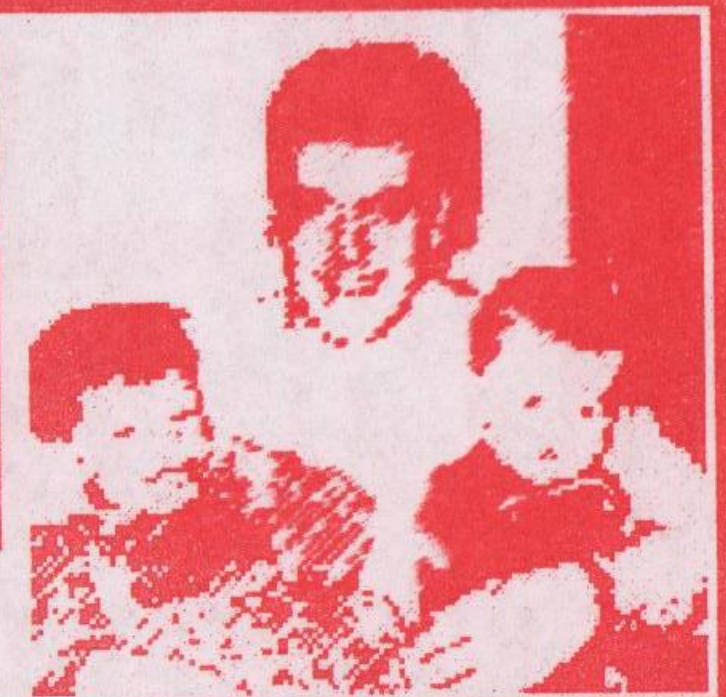
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NOTTINGHAM

Robert Hamill

CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER



PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO KILLINGS

The Cory Report, looking into four killings in Northern Ireland, will result in four new public inquiries. The in-quires will look into the deaths of Robert Hamill, who was beaten to death in the street by a Loyalist mob, LVF leader Billy Wright, who was beaten to death while in prison, human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson who died in a car bomb, and the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane.

Three of the inquiries will be set for this year, but the government have delayed a decision into holding a public inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, until the trial of a Belfast man charged with his murder. The Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern condemned the delay, saying a public inquiry was more important than prosecutions and he added "He (Pat Finucane) was a young family man cynically gunned down for no other reason than representing his clients and advancing the cause of human rights through the courts. The very troubling revelations in the Cory Report make rapid progress on the establishment of a public inquiry for confidence in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland."

The announcement of the other three inquiries was welcomed by the families of those who died in controversial circumstances in Northern Ireland.

See inside for more about the Cory Report.

Next meeting: @International Community Centre, Mansfield Road 7pm Mon 6th September

Paul Garrett, our longstanding Chairperson and one of the founders of the Campaign is to leave Nottingham.
At the September meeting one of the tasks, therefore, will be to elect a new Chairperson.

PUBLICATION OF CORY REPORT BY GOVERNMENT

ON ROBERT HAMILL'S DEATH:

"police officers must not act collusively by ignoring or turning a blind eye to the wrongful acts of their officers."

"the police cannot act collusively by supplying information to assist those committing wrongful acts or by encouraging them to commit wrongful acts."

"First and foremost the actions of Reserve constable b, if established, are capable of being found to constitute the most flagrant type of collusion. His actions did not constitute the simple turning of a blind eye. Rather they could be found to be carefully planned and premeditated actions taken to frustrate a murder investigation and to protect or to exonerate an individual who might have been guilty of murder."

ON ROSEMARY NELSON'S DEATH

"I am satisfied that there is evidence of collusion by Government Agencies in the murder of Rosemary Nelson that warrants holding a public inquiry."

"RUC officers are alleged to have made highly demeaning and threatening

remarks about Rosemary Nelson while questioning her clients. Among other things, they have said to have questioned her morality, made insulting sexual innuendoes, described her facial scarring in cruel and debasing terms, belittled her ability as a lawyer and perhaps most disturbingly, to have threatened her life. If it is found that they were, this could constitute strong evidence of collusion."

"the failure to take any action to protect Rosemary Nelson could be found to be troubling when it is considered against the background of the earlier murder of Pat Finucane."

SEARCHLIGHT

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SECTARIAN MOB ATTACKS HOMES IN BELFAST

A loyalist mob attack nationalist homes in north Belfast in December last year before attacking police who attempted to intervene. Scores attacked homes and property in the Cavehill area. Windows at two houses were broken, a car was damaged and a number of bins along the road were overturned and rubbish strewn across the road, she said. One bin was also set alight.

Police officers called to deal with the incident were assaulted, with eight reported to have received minor injuries. Three people were arrested for public order offences.

The Police Ombudsman's office is investigating the clash, which was condemned by nationalist representatives. Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly said yesterday's attacks on nationalist homes were symptomatic of a growing trend. Mr Kelly pointed out that at least 12 homes had in recent weeks been targeted by loyalist gangs firing ball bearings from gas-powered pistols.

"One of the people whose home has had these ball bearings fired at it belongs to an elderly woman who is now afraid to go back into her house," the North Belfast assembly member said. *"The PSNI is playing down these ball bearing attacks but we are very concerned about it,"* he said.

Mr Kelly showed some of the ball bearings fired and an air pistol of the type used to shoot them. Mr Kelly said:

"They are very dangerous. I have kids in the house and if any of these hit a child it could seriously injure them," *"These weapons use a gas cylinder to fire the ball bearings. It's not illegal to have them, even if anyone is caught, and they are easily got across the counter."*

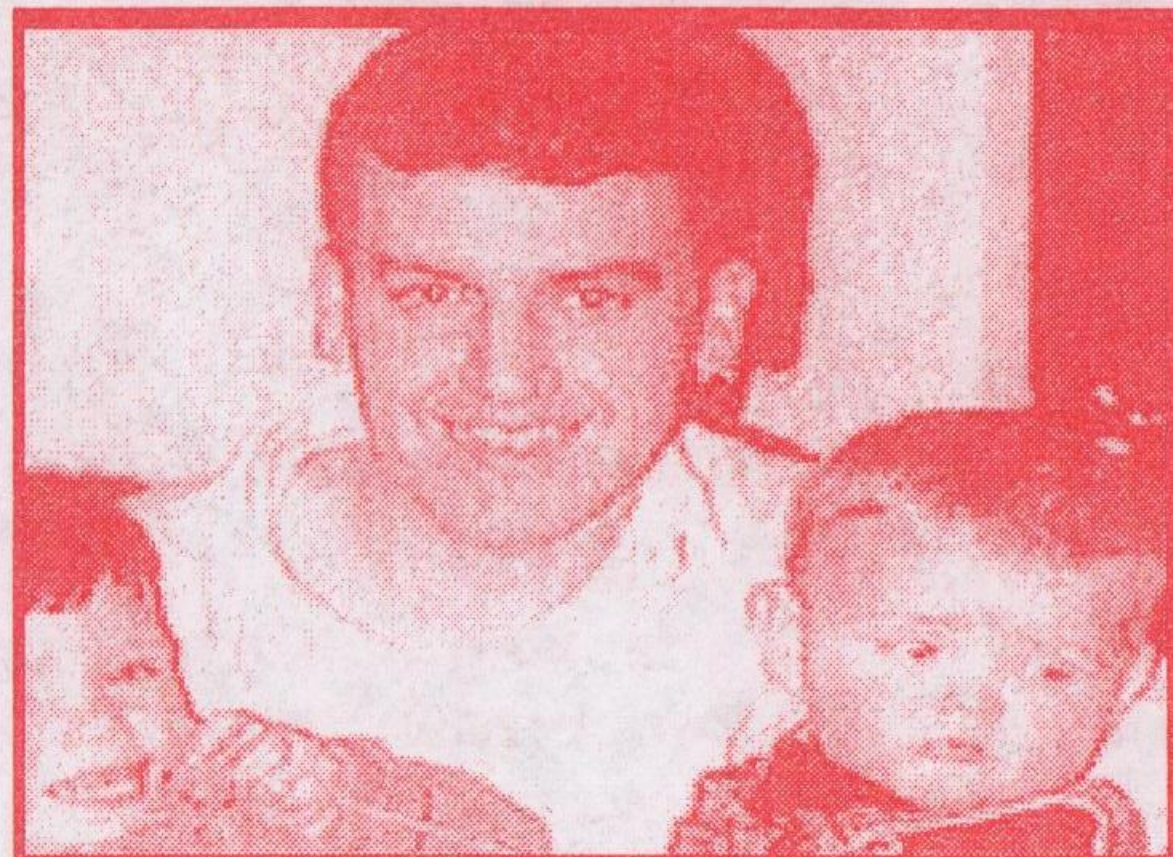
"The houses which had had ball bearings shot at them were not being attacked at random. The information (of who lives where) has to come from somewhere in the crown forces," *"Here we have another example of collusion being used to attack nationalist homes."*

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.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT

**CAMPAIGNING FOR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL
IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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E-mail:tom@sparkle123.freemove.co.uk

www.troopsoutmovement.com



The Nottingham Robert Hamill Group has the support of a number of AMICUS, UNISON, and NAPO trade union branches as well as Nottingham and District Trades Council.



Welcome to the fifth edition of the Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign newsletter. The newsletter is 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

DUBLIN MONAGHAN BOMBINGS

GOVERNMENT PAPERS COULD HIDE THE TRUTH

The Dublin and Monaghan bombings claimed the lives of 33 people in 1974. The Barron Inquiry is probing claims of collusion between the security forces and the Loyalist paramilitaries who carried out the atrocity.

The Barron Inquiry's official report has revealed government officials furnished only a ten page document out of the millions of relevant documents it held. The 380 page report on the four year investigation into the bombings condemned the British government for its lack of cooperation and said it may have denied evidence that could shed light on the build up to the attacks.

The report, relying on thousands of documents and dozens of witnesses, identified the perpetrators as two groups of Loyalist paramilitaries from Belfast and Portadown/Lurgan with Ulster volunteer Force connections.

The British government's stance on refusing to release all of its evidence prompted fury from relatives of the victims. Campaign group Justice for the Forgotten immediately demanded a full scale international inquiry. It's solicitor Greg O'Neill said: "the British government must choose whether or not it wants to be eternally suspected of being involved in terrorism."

Judge Barron said: "As a result of the British government's stance the scope of this report is limited." Critics said the lack of information from the British government was one of the key reasons Judge Barron made no findings on whether or not there was evidence of collusion between the Loyalist gangs and the British state. He concluded there were grounds for suspecting the bombers may have been assisted by members of the security forces, but said unless further information came to light it would remain a suspicion."

BRING THEM HOME FREE THE COLUMBIA THREE

Three Irishmen were arrested in Columbia in August 2001. Jim Monaghan, Martin McCauley and Niall Connolly faced charges of training left wing FARC rebels in Columbia and of using false documents. The three men were arrested by the notorious 13th Brigade, which has been cited by human rights agencies for involvement in torture, kidnapping and unlawful killings over recent years.

On 26th April the men were found innocent of the charge of training the FARC. The men are still in jail because there is no safe place for them in Columbia and the government have refused to provide a security plan. The Bring Them Home Campaign and the Defence team have said that it is not safe for them to be in jail. The defence submitted a legal request to the judge on April 28th, requesting that the three Irishmen be allowed to leave the country. The defence are still awaiting that decision.

We need to bombard the Colombian establishment with protests

Write a personalised letter directly to the Colombian president Alvaro Uribe at rdh@presidencia.gov.uk

In England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales contact:

Ambassador Alfonso Lopez Caballero

Columbian Embassy, 3 Hans Crescent, London SW1X 0LN

Tel (0207) 589 9177/589 5037 (Human Rights Officer's extension is 112 Fax 0207 581 1829/ 589 4718

www.columbianembassy.co.uk
[email:mail@columbianembassy.co.uk](mailto:mail@columbianembassy.co.uk)

REPORT ON DEATH OF PAT FINUCANE

Judge Cory's report into the death of individuals. He said it concentrated Irish civil rights lawyer Pat Finucane almost entirely on those targeted by the IRA and paid little attention to Loyalist targets. He said "the documents indicate that in some instances Special Branch failed to take any steps to prevent actual or planned attacks on persons targeted by Loyalist groups. UDA threats appear to have been ignored. This discrepancy in the treatment of IRA and UDA targets may be indicative of a selective bias on the part of the Special Branch. It may well be that only a portion of the population was receiving effective protection against the threat of terrorist violence."

A meeting between MI5 and the special Branch concluded that the threat was real and imminent but decided that no action would be taken because intervention would compromise the security of the agent. Four years later, no action was taken when a similar report was received. Two months before the Finucane assassination in 1989, an MI5 agent reported that UDA leaders had discussed killing three solicitors, one of whom was easily identified as Mr Finucane. Jude Cory noted:

"Once again, no action was taken to warn Patrick Finucane or to intervene in any way."

Judge Cory was also critical of the RUC Special Branch, which he said had failed in its duty to protect all

