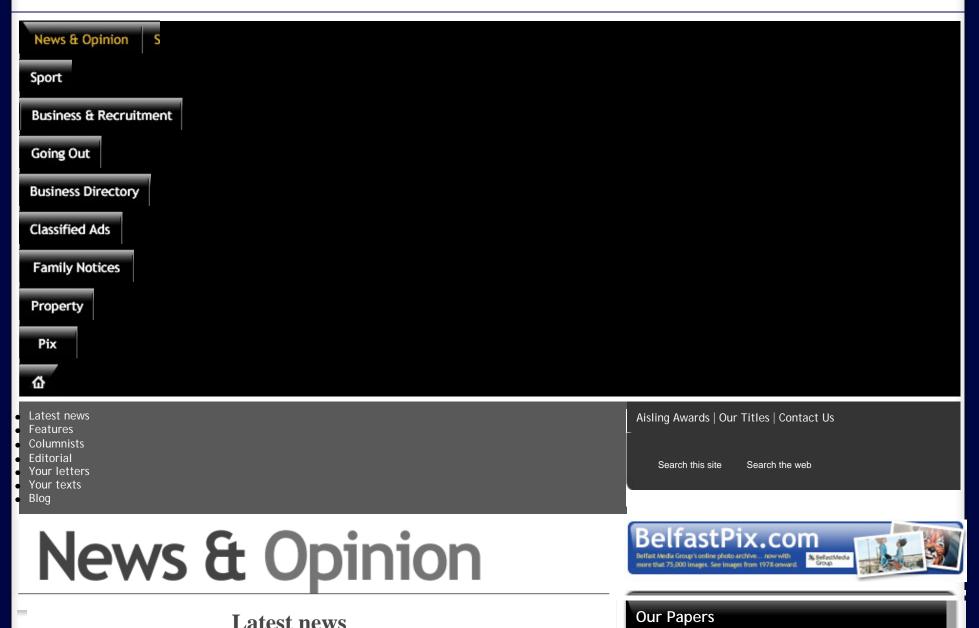




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Cowen to hear of 'Murph killings

Andersonstown News Monday

By Ciarán Barnes

Sinn Féin's leader in the Dáil has thrown his weight behind the Ballymurphy Massacre families' justice campaign.

On Tuesday, relatives of the 11 civilians, shot dead by British soldiers in August 1971 in the Upper Springfield area, travelled to Dublin seeking support for an independent inquiry into the slaughter.

They also called on the British government to publicly apologise for its troops killing their relatives.

Many of the troops involved took part in the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry six months later.

Sinn Féin's Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin was among the TDs who met with the West Belfast families. Speaking afterwards he backed their campaign for justice.

"Sinn Féin fully supports this campaign and I will be raising it with the incoming Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, in the Dáil next week," said Mr Ó Caoláin.

"I will be urging him to support this campaign also and to raise it with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in his first official meeting with him as Taoiseach.

"The issues of accountability and truth and justice are paramount for all those who were victims and survivors of the conflict.

"The British state must also recognise its role in that conflict and acknowledge the part it played."

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