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'Disappeared' sister says thanks

Andersonstown News

19/02/2007

A West Belfast woman who's searching for the body of her brother who was killed by the INLA has thanked the outgoing US Envoy Mitchell Reiss for his help in trying to resolve the case.

Newry man Séamus Ruddy was 32 when he disappeared in Paris in 1985. Although his death was admitted by the republican group, his body has never been discovered and Anne Morgan has quietly worked to find out where the body is buried.

The family say that at the time of his death Séamus Ruddy had cut all ties with the IRSP and was teaching in Paris.

Since 2005 the US Envoy has worked with Anne Morgan and the families of West Belfast men Séamus Wright, Kevin McKee, John McIlroy, Séamus Wright, Brendan McGraw and Danny McIlhone to resolve the issue of where their bodies are buried. Ann says this support has been invaluable. "Mitchell Reiss took the disappeared issue on board and he put us in contact with influential people in both the British and Irish governments.

"Through a series of meetings we brought the disappeared question to the forefront and both governments backed a new initiative to re-locate the bodies."

Anne attended a dinner at the residence of the US Consul Dean Pittman to thank Mr Reiss for the amount of time and effort he has put into the campaign.

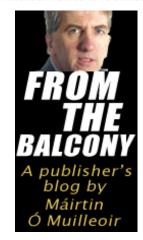
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