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Families call on Saville to 'deliver truth'

(Seamus McKinney, Irish News)

The Bloody Sunday families have called on Lord Saville to have the courage to make the truth about the 1972 killings known to the world when he publishes his report later this year.

The senior judge has indicated that the final report of his investigations will be available in the first half of this year, a full decade after the tribunal into the killings was launched.

The Saville Inquiry was launched by then Prime Minister Tony Blair on January 29 1998, with the first evidence being heard on March 27 2000.

It was initially believed it would take up to two years but it continued sitting until November 2004, with a brief reopening in January the following year.

John Kelly – whose brother Michael (17) was one of the 13 people killed on the day – a 14th man died later from his injuries – said he hoped Lord Saville's report would finally persuade all doubters that his brother and the other victims were "murdered".

"I have always said that Lord Saville has the truth in front of him. I hope he is brave enough to deliver that truth to the world."

Mr Kelly said the Bloody Sunday anniversary at the end of this month would take on an added significance because the Saville report is imminent and because it had been 10 years since the inquiry was launched.

"The difficulty is that there are people who believed the inquiry should never even have been set up. We want to convince them that our loved ones were murdered," he said.

Mr Kelly said he believed that given all the information made public by the inquiry, even the most outspoken opponents of the Bloody Sunday families must be aware of the innocence of the victims.

He said he looked forward to the publication of the report with anticipation but feared that some aspects of what happened could be concealed because of the attempts by the British Ministry of Defence, some politicians and former paratroopers to prevent them from being made known.

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