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British need to come clean on Hamill murder

Published: 31 July, 2007

Sinn Féin Upper Bann MLA John O'Dowd speaking after the British House of Lords referred the attempt to secure anonymity for RUC officers involved in the murder of Robert Hamill back to the High Court in Belfast has said that the Hamill Tribunal was being deliberately delayed.

Mr O'Dowd said:

"It is a disgrace that attempts by former members of the RUC to continue their culture of concealment and cover up had allowed the Tribunal to be delayed.

"This ruling will lead to further delays.

"The origin of the delay is clearly a result of those former members of the RUC who cannot throw off the culture of concealment and cover-up which became a by-word for the force in which they served. This case is not about anonymity, these individuals have already appeared publicly in a court case associated with the murder of Robert Hamill.

"This case is about obstructing and delaying the work of the Tribunal and delaying further the search for the truth in this sectarian murder.

"It is beyond dispute that Robert Hamill was brutally murdered in a random sectarian attack as members of the RUC sat back and watched. At the time of the murder strenuous efforts were made by the RUC to cover-up the circumstances surrounding the killing. It is for this reason that an independent inquiry was needed.

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