



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Fergal Caraher



Age 20
Killed
30/12/90

PUBLIC INQUIRY

22nd -23rd June 1991 in Cullyhanna

P. Doran

Michael Caraher



Age 23
Injured
30/12/90

SPONSORS

Irish National Congress
P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7

Cullyhanna Justice Group
c/o Peter. J. Caraher, 58 Killybane Rd.,
Cullyhanna, Newry, Co. Armagh.

1/3/92



An Taoiseach,
Albert Reynolds,
Leinster House
Dublin 1

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

My name is Margaret Caraher, I am from Crossmaglen and on December 30 1990 my husband was shot dead by the British Army in Cullyhanna. We organised an international inquiry into the shooting and brought over prominent jurists from Europe and the US. As you probably saw recently two soldiers were charged with the murder of my husband and the wounding of my brother in law Miceal.

I would very much like to meet with you and discuss our case. It is very important the government in the Republic of Ireland send a representative to the trial.

I would very much appreciate if you could let me know when would suit you. Fergal's father would also like to meet with you. You can contact me at 57 Rathview Park, Crossmaglen, South Armagh. My telephone number is 08 0693 868246.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Is mise le meas

Margaret Caraher

Margaret Caraher

*Note given by Mr. Caraher
to P. Henery
Dorsey address
M. Johnson
on 11.3.92
11/3
Mr. J. Kelly
for advice, re.*

P. Doran

11/3/92

Mr. Gallagher,

psu
2/15

Inquiry in Cullyhanna into Caraher Shootings

1. Mr. Thomas Cullen, a solicitor from Bray, Co. Wicklow, has written to the Minister about a public inquiry into the Caraher shootings which is being organised by two groups called the Irish National Congress and the Cullyhanna Justice Group. The Inquiry will take place in Cullyhanna on 22-23 June and will involve a panel of jurists headed by Michael Mansfield QC.

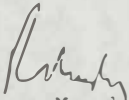
2. Mr. Cullen says that he is writing on behalf of the Caraher family and that he wishes to know "what if any practical help" we can offer the Inquiry. Among the suggestions in the literature enclosed by Mr. Cullen are that an observer be sent, that financial or other assistance be provided, or that we sponsor the proposed Inquiry. The only realistic question for us is the sending of an observer.

3. The proposed Inquiry in Cullyhanna causes us a difficulty in that we have called for an independent element to the inquiry into the Caraher shootings and similar cases where lethal force has been used by the security forces. The organisers would probably argue that their Inquiry fits the bill. However, what we have in mind is that the official investigation should not be left solely to the RUC but that, for example, police from a British police force should be brought in as happened in the Stalker/Sampson and Stevens inquiries. In the event, the RUC officer in charge of the police investigation - who is highly regarded - has made little progress because witnesses have refused to communicate directly with him. Seamus Mallon has heard that the IRA, for their own reasons, do not want anything to come from the RUC investigation.

4. The draft across is based on the assumption that we would not be prepared to send an observer to the Cullyhanna Inquiry. It is clearly unofficial in character and, although some of those involved no doubt have good motives, there has to be a suspicion that the opportunity will be used by Sinn Fein for propaganda purposes. The Chairman of the Cullyhanna Justice Group, Peter Caraher (father of Fergal and Michael) is a prominent member of Sinn Fein. At the same time, the draft seeks to convey our deep concern about this case and records the action we have taken through the Secretariat and at meetings of the Anglo-Irish Conference.

5. I rang Deputy Dermot Aherne whose name is included among the supporters of the Inquiry and asked him if he would be attending. He said that he feels strongly about the case but because the Inquiry falls so near the local elections, he has told the organisers he will not attend.

6. We have letters on hands from Deputy John Ellis and Minister of State Pat the Cope Gallagher asking about the Government's attitude to the Inquiry.



Ronan Murphy
28 May, 1991.