

Extract from 'The Immaculate Deception' -

Profile Nine (on Father Desmond Wilson) in Rosita Sweetman's book 'On Our Knees' (Pan Special, early 1972).

Father Wilson's Views Prior to Direct Rule

'The effects of violence on this community though have been disastrous. Apathy is the end result. It's terribly difficult to get people going. But the level of viciousness and brutality that the British Army has introduced into this area has brought in standards of violence of which the people had no experience.

'The British Army is operating completely unsupervised in this area. They're the authority. You have them roaring up and down in their Saracens day and night. They sit on the roadside waiting for people to come along and then simply snatch them off the streets. They bring them in and ask the RUC then have they got anything on them. These are perfectly innocent people being taken away for two days' questioning, usually a thumping, and nobody in the world knows where they are for those two days.

'You might have thought in a situation like this you'd have the Church listening to the complaints people make about the Army, yet the Church has never said anything, not one single thing. You might wonder why they didn't put observers in every single area where there have been complaints about British Army brutality, but would you believe that they didn't even think of this? They just couldn't care less, and yet the people here are living with the fear that if they go outside their front door they are liable to be picked up by the British Army - just on the off chance that they'd turn out to be a "suspect".