

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2020

The Right Honorable Boris Johnson
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

We write to urge you to establish an independent public inquiry into state collusion in the murder of human rights attorney Patrick Finucane at his home in Belfast in front of his wife and children on February 12, 1989.

Recent news reports state that, to comply with court orders, a decision will be made by November 30th. Establishing the independent judicial inquiry is in keeping with your government's commitments throughout the peace process and the public interest.

Since the late 1990s, the U.S. Congress has been consistent and clear in support of a full, independent and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane. U.S. legislation urging your government to recognize the overwhelming public interest in a "true", independent, judicial inquiry has been enacted and/or passed the House of Representatives on four separate occasions.

Two of these legislative vehicles ([House Resolution 128](#); the [2003 Foreign Relations Act, Public Law 107-228, Section 701](#)) addressed the need for an independent, judicial inquiry even before the historic Weston Park Agreement and appointment of retired Canadian Supreme Court Justice Peter Cory to investigate the allegations of state-sponsored collusion in the murder.

As you know, the U.S. has played an indispensable role in the establishment and success of the Good Friday Agreement. Under the Chairmanship of Rep. Chris Smith, congressional panels held 17 hearings regarding the Agreement, policing reform, human rights, and possible state collusion in the murder of defense attorneys, namely Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson.

The Finucane family testified at ten of Chairman Smith's hearings, with Patrick Finucane's wife Geraldine, who was injured in the ambush, providing expert, personal testimony at six of those hearings.

Similarly, Congressman Richard E. Neal, as Chairman of the Friends of Ireland Caucus in the United States Congress, made this issue one of the top priorities for the Caucus, for two decades, meeting regularly with the Finucane family in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the Finucanes' presentations, compelling testimony was also offered by Judge Cory after he released his findings to the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

In personal testimony at one of Smith's hearings on Capitol Hill, and again in written submitted testimony, Judge Cory advised Members of Congress that sufficient evidence of collusion existed to warrant a full, independent and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane. He recommended that a public "true" inquiry take place without further delay.

U.S. lawmakers firmly believed that under the terms of Weston Park and the findings of Judge Cory, a true, independent, public inquiry was to take place with the full support of the British government.

Subsequently, the House and Senate adopted additional legislation, ([H. Res 740](#); [H.Con.Res. 120](#)) citing the importance of the Weston Park agreement and urging the Government of the United Kingdom to stop the delay and immediately establish a public judicial inquiry which would enjoy the full cooperation and support of the Finucane family, the people of Northern Ireland and the international community as recommended by Judge Cory.

Now, nearly fifteen years later, and several years after former Prime Minister David Cameron acknowledged "shocking levels of collusion"—and issued an apology to the Finucane family—we remain astounded that the British government has refused to live up to its responsibility, and is violating its commitments to establish the inquiry.

As recently as last year, your Supreme Court found that none of the many investigations into the murder of Patrick Finucane has been capable of getting at the truth.

We can think of no greater public interest on this issue than living up to the provisions of Weston Park and getting at the truth of this heinous murder. An inquiry, as envisioned by Judge Cory in 2004 and one that meets your commitments, is the only way to get to the truth and best serve public and international interests.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress