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# Lá Nua

Nuachtán Laethúil na Gaeilge

## From the Balcony



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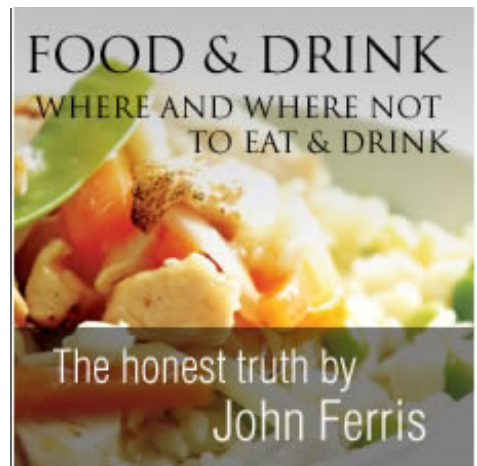
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## Headlines

# Finucane murder is the 'mother of all cover-ups'

By Ciarán Barnes



The family of murdered Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane have described as an "insult" the decision not to charge any member of the security services with his killing.

On Monday the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) said there was not enough evidence to bring 24 members of the RUC and British Army to trial.

Mr Finucane was gunned down at his Belfast home by the UDA in February 1989.

Special Branch agent Ken Barrett pulled the trigger, while UDA quartermaster and Special Branch informant William Stobie supplied the weapons used in the killing.

The murder was planned by RUC tout and West Belfast UDA boss Tommy Lyttle, and information on Mr Finucane's movements was provided to the murder squad by British Army agent Brian Nelson.

In 2003 Britain's top cop, John Stevens, who spent a decade investigating the Finucane murder, found that collusion had taken place with British soldiers and police co-operating with loyalists in the killing. But despite all this, the PPS has ruled there is not enough evidence to prosecute.

The decision has stunned the Finucane family, human rights campaigners, politicians - and a former police officer.

The murder victim's son, John Finucane, called it an insult to his family.

"It's very insulting to me as someone who lost my father and it has vindicated my family's decision not to put our trust in the criminal justice system.

"What this decision says very clearly is that anyone who has lost someone or has been injured by the state cannot expect it to be dealt with by the authorities.

"It fuels the paranoia and fuels the hurt of those who have lost loved ones through state actions."

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said he was "disappointed" by the decision not to prosecute.

Sinn Féin MLA Alex Maskey blasted the decision as "scandalous", while SDLP justice spokesman Alban Maginness said it was "the mother of all cover-ups".

Whistle-blowing ex-RUC officer Trevor McIlwrath and human rights group Relatives for Justice also called for prosecutions to be brought against security service personnel who plotted to murder Mr Finucane.

In a statement released on Monday the PPS also confirmed that a Browning pistol handed over to the RUC by William Stobie to be "de-activated" was given back to the UDA in fully working condition.

The weapon was used in the 1992 Ormeau Road Sean Graham's betting shop massacre in which five Catholics were murdered. It was also used in a December 1991 UDA attack at the Devenish Bar that resulted in the death of Finaghy man Adam Wallace.

Editorial, page 6.

**29/06/2007**