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McGurk's story is to be heard across the water

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by Alana Fearon

The grandson of one of the 15 innocent men, women and children brutally murdered by a UVF bomb in a North Belfast bar has taken his campaign for truth across the water.

Robert McClenaghan's grandad, Philip Garry, was killed in the McGurk's Bar explosion in December 1971.

Fourteen other innocent people were killed in the bomb which the British Government immediately portrayed as an IRA 'own goal'.

But after almost 37 years campaigning for truth and a British government apology, families of the McGurk's Bar victims are still waiting on justice for their loved ones.

Last month, the long-awaited Historical Enquiries Team (HET) review into the bombing was slammed by the families as a "whitewash" and an "insult" to their loved ones' memories.

Adamant the quest for the truth about collusion will continue, Robert has taken his campaign to England.

Addressing meetings in cities from Liverpool to Birmingham, the An Fhirinne spokesman said victims' groups had finally decided a truth commission was the only way forward.

Intent on using his platform in England to make a direct appeal to former soldiers to tell their story and reveal the hidden truth behind collusion and state murder, Robert said he wanted to promote a commission that everyone could buy into.

"All the victims' groups have sat down and spent endless hours raking through the collusion issues and we have concluded together that a truth commission is the only way forward and that is what I am in England to promote," he said.

"We need everyone to come to the table and tell the truth and that is the message we are trying to sell.

"What we want to do is to look at our individual case in the wider, broader

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WEBSITE MILESTONE: The 100,000th picture has just been uploaded onto Belfastpix.com. Belfast Media Group's online photosales website, which is one year old this week, has images from present day right back until 1979. Since going live last year the site has went from strength to strength. Each month the photographic archive has more than 500,000 page impressions. Log on to www.belfastpix.com to for more.



context of state collusion and murder and so my talks and addresses in England are part of an overall consciousness drive.

“Given the sheer number of victims’ families all our groups represent, there is an enormous weight behind our truth campaign and our calls for a truth commission, and the drive is now on to get both the British and Irish governments to honour their responsibilities and help us get to the truth.”

Robert is being facilitated in his speaking tour by the Troops Out Movement, a British-based movement campaigning for British withdrawal from Ireland.

Group Secretary Mary Pearson said she hoped Robert's tour would encourage people to join the campaign for truth and justice.

“Hopefully people will pledge their support for victims’ families and do their bit to pressurise the British government,” she said.

“There have been so many cases of collusion and state-sponsored murder yet the truth is hidden away and victims and their families deserve the truth.”

Property News

What housing slump?



Thousands of local buyers defied reports of a property market slump last week as they queued for a dream home in Northern Ireland's first eco-village. Lisburn's Brokerstown Village, a development of more than 1,000 energy efficient homes, was buzzing with interest from buyers at its two open days earlier this month. In fact, selling agent Ulster Property Sales estimated that more than 2,000 visitors have already flocked to the eco-friendly and ever so chic 'future-proof' properties, which offer 60 per