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US lawyer set to interview loyalist on New Lodge Six

North Belfast News

By Áine McEntee

15/02/2007

The North Belfast News can exclusively reveal that the probe into the 1973 New Lodge six massacre is set to take a massive leap forward when a loyalist, confirming his role in the atrocity, is interviewed by American lawyer Ed Lynch.

A special news conference was hosted today (Thursday) by the families on the back of news that a former UVF member has publicly confirmed that he worked with British military intelligence to organise and take part in the gun attack which left six men dead.

The news has distressed and angered families who have long maintained that the massacre was a joint operation by Loyalist paramilitaries and the British army, acting on the direction of the Military Reconnaissance Force (MRF) later to be known as the Force Research Unit (FRU).

Kathleen Sloan whose son was murdered said she was prepared to meet the loyalist face to face.

"I would go face to face with him. And I would ask him why. And I would ask him would he like it if it was his son or brother that was killed that day. Jim was only four weeks married when he was murdered. He didn't even get to see his own wedding pictures. When he died he didn't even know his wife was pregnant with his son."

Paul O'Neill speaking on behalf of the families said they were prepared to speak to anyone about what happened.

"We've been totally stonewalled and ignored for years. This was an ambush, those men were set up. It was mass murder. We will speak to anyone who wants to help us get the truth out."

Willy Loughran whose brother was murdered said he too was prepared to meet the UVF man.

"The fact a man using the pseudonym John Black has come forward the week after the 34th anniversary of the killings, and is prepared to detail his role in the massacre with the British army, must be welcomed.

"Family representatives are prepared to engage directly with this man. This revelation confirms long-held beliefs that the New Lodge massacre was a well-planned operation that was conceived of, directed and planned by British intelligence. It is essential for families that every new evidential lead must be vigorously and robustly pursued."

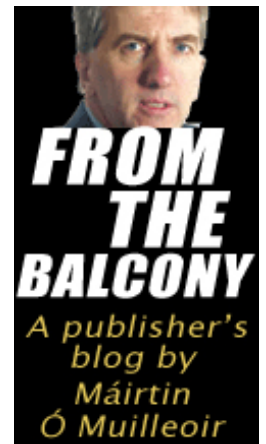
North Belfast Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has called on the British government to break its silence and order a fresh investigation. Echoing this, the families are also calling for a new and independent

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investigation on the basis that the RUC did not effectively investigate the 1973 massacre.

The British government has a moral responsibility to assist families in their quest for truth and justice Willy Loughran added.

“The New Lodge Six Massacre remains an open wound in this community. Families are now seeking urgent meetings with the British and Irish governments to raise serious concerns about the far reaching implications of this revelation of high-level collusion.”

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