


[HOME](#)
[History](#)
[NewsoftheIrish](#)
[Book Reviews
& Book Forum](#)
[Search / Archive](#)
[Back to 10/96](#)
[Papers](#)
[Reference](#)
[About](#)
[Contact](#)

Adams's appeal in 'Disappeared' case welcomed

(Marie Louise McCrory, [Irish News](#))

A south Armagh woman whose husband has been missing for almost 25 years has welcomed an appeal for information by Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams.

Kathleen Armstrong, from Crossmaglen, said she believed Mr Adams was "the only man who could do anything" for her family.

Charlie Armstrong (57), pictured, went missing on August 16 1981 as he drove to collect an elderly neighbour on his way to Mass in Crossmaglen.

The Provisional IRA has never admitted his murder but it is widely believed the paramilitary group were responsible.

The father-of-five never arrived at the church and his unlocked car was found abandoned across the border at a cinema in Dundalk the following day with traces of gunpowder residue inside.

A three-week search on a site in north Monaghan in 2002 failed to find the remains of Mr Armstrong.

"I have previously appealed for anyone with information relating to Charlie Armstrong to come forward, either to me directly, or to the family or to anyone else who they have confidence in. I want to renew that appeal," Mr Adams said.

Asking for information about the other Disappeared, he added: "Last August, after lobbying from Sinn Féin, the British and Irish governments announced their decision to retain the services of a forensic expert who had produced a detailed report with recommendations on how to recover the missing bodies.

"I expect work will begin this spring and summer to implement the forensic experts report.

"It is vitally important that those charged with this difficult task have all the information possible to make their efforts a success."

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Mr Adams said the IRA had "met with the forensic expert and that each site has been visited by the expert and the IRA, including individuals with primary knowledge.

"However, if there is any other information available which might help I am appealing for those with it to now bring it forward," he said.

"This is particularly the case in respect of the disappearance of Charlie Armstrong whose family I have met a number of times."

Mrs Armstrong said she welcomed the statement.

"I am hoping someone comes forward," she said.

"That's all we can do.

"Gerry Adams has been very supportive.

"I think he is the only one who can do anything for us. I would be delighted with any information."

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[BACK TO TOP](#)

[About](#)

[Home](#)

[History](#)

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[Bookstore](#)

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