



English/Gaeilge

Newsroom

Latest News ▶

Archives

Special Features

Audio/Video

Podcast

Campaign
Literature

RSS Feed



Subscribe to our all
new email news
service &
multimedia news
centre.



Background

Policies

Peace Process

Elections

Join/Donate

Newsroom



Adams Accuses British State of Involvement in murder of Pat Finucane

Published: 11 February, 2009

Sinn Féin west Belfast MP Gerry Adams today unveiled a mural to murdered human rights lawyer Pat Finucane.

The event which was chaired by Sinn Féin Councillor Marie Cush, was also addressed by Pat Finucane's brother Seamus and Mark Thompson from Relatives for Justice.

Mr. Adams commended those who designed the mural and all of those involved in organising the series of events this week to celebrate Pat Finucane's life and to mark his murder by the British state and UDA.

The Sinn Féin leader outlined the extent of collusion between unionist death squads and the British state in the murder of Pat Finucane, and linked this to the concern many victim families and Sinn Féin have about the role of the British state in respect of truth and truth recovery and the recent Consultation Group on the past's recommendations: "the role of the British state in Pat Finucane's murder, and through collusion in the murder of hundreds of other citizens, is one reason why Sinn Féin has serious reservations around the proposal from the Consultative Group on the Past for the creation of a Legacy Commission appointed by the British government."

Mr. Adams said:

"I also want to commend Pat's family who along with hundreds of other families, have campaigned relentlessly for many years for the truth into the deaths of their loved ones.

The dignity and courage they have shown is in stark contrast to the behaviour of the British state.

Thursday is the 20th anniversary of Pat Finucane's death.

Pat was a good, conscientious solicitor who worked long difficult hours, under trying conditions, representing his clients.

Other stories for 11 February, 2009

- [Terms and conditions of recapitalisation programme tokenistic - Morgan](#)
- [Tugann an Taoiseach cúl leis an Ghaeltacht](#)
- [Government failing to get Ireland back to work](#)
- [Taoiseach turns his back on the Gaeltacht](#)
- [Ferris slams deferment of waste management payments](#)
- [Cost to the public: purse of paying suspended cops unacceptable - Martina Anderson](#)
- [Taoiseach must address extraordinary rendition issue with President Obama - Ó Caoláin](#)
- [Morgan welcomes announcement of](#)

Latest News



Daily news from Sinn Féin

An Phoblacht



Ireland's most popular political weekly newspaper online.

Online Store



Books, videos, CDs, shirts and much more available online.

Friends of Sinn Féin



If you live outside of Ireland you can still play your part.

He came from a working class background. In fact he and I went to the same school on the Falls Road.

He was a lawyer working within a unionist dominated legal and judicial process that had been corrupted by years of British manipulation and a succession of new and ever more repressive laws.

All of this was designed to maximise the power of the state and reduce the rights of citizens.

Pat was also a husband to Geraldine and a father to three young children.

But his devotion to human rights, his diligence in pursuit of his calling and his success even when up against a judicial structure as biased as that which existed in the north of Ireland, had also brought him to the attention of others.

Within the RUC he was a figure of hate. We now know that British intelligence agencies were plotting against him.

Loyalist death squads, heavily infiltrated by agents and informers were being pointed at him as someone - in their words - to be 'took out'.

The extent of this state collusion is illustrated by those involved in Pat's murder.

Ø The leader of the UDA group which carried out the killing was a Special Branch agent - Tommy Lyttle.

Ø The man who subsequently confessed to being the UDA gunman who killed Pat Finucane was Ken Barrett, also a Special Branch agent.

Ø The UDA man who supplied the gun was William Stobie, a Special Branch agent - later killed in 2001 by the UDA when he threatened to lift the lid on the Finucane case.

Ø And the man who provided the intelligence for the killing was Brian Nelson, a British army agent.

Ø Pat's murder also came just weeks after British Home Office minister Douglas Hogg stood up in the British Parliament and claimed that some solicitors in the North of Ireland were 'unduly sympathetic to the IRA'.

Nelson, it should also be remembered was centrally involved in the importation of South African weapons in 1988.

The impact of this weapons shipment, which the British knew about from Nelson, from other agents in the north, as well as in South Africa, is to be found in the statistics of murder.

In the three years prior to receiving this weapons shipment the unionist death squads had killed 34 people.

[ICTU demonstrations](#)

- [Martin McGuinness to address commemoration in honour of murdered Sinn Féin councillor, John Davey](#)
- [Human Rights NGOs must be included in Charities Bill – Ó Snodaigh](#)
- [Fianna Fáil/Green Government betrays children with special needs – Ó Caoláin](#)
- [Special needs teacher cutbacks unjustifiable - Doherty](#)
- [Sinn Féin condemn Derry shooting](#)
- [Minister and Belfast Mayor gain inside view of 'The Tunnel'](#)
- [Schools Chief Inspector's Report shows hard decisions are needed](#)
- [Minister announces preferred corridor for A2 Ballykelly bypass](#)
- [INI Record in Derry Dismal](#)
- [Anderson calls for creation of rates relief programme for small business](#)
- [Audit Office Report on Public Service Agreements show failings- Maskey](#)

In the three years after the shipment they killed 224 and wounded countless scores more.

The dramatic rise during this period in the number of Sinn Féin activists and family members being killed can also be traced directly to this fact and to the information the Special Branch and British agencies were passing on to their agents within the unionist death squads.

In the following six years three Sinn Féin Councillors, 11 party activists, and 7 family members, including brothers, sons, spouse and partners were to be killed.

Many others were to be seriously wounded. Republican homes and Sinn Fein offices became the frequent targets of attack by loyalist death squads.

Since his death Pat's family has battled for an independent, international public inquiry into his murder.

They have campaigned tirelessly and have won significant international support, including from the new US President Barack Obama.

The British system resists this demand.

Why? Because Pat Finucane's murder and those involved with it highlights the depth and extent of collusion between British forces, unionist death squads and the British political establishment.

In addition, the role of the British state in Pat Finucane's murder, and through collusion in the murder of hundreds of other citizens, is one reason why Sinn Féin has serious reservations around the proposal from the Consultative Group on the Past for the creation of a Legacy Commission appointed by the British government.

This is not the independent and international commission, established by a reputable international body like the UN, that Sinn Fein believes is necessary to properly address this issue.

Clearly, the British State are protagonists in this conflict, they are not innocent observers.

It is important therefore that we continue to support the Finucane family in their demand for an independent international judicial inquiry.

Other events:

Wednesday 11th February 6.30pm - Front of Antrim Road (Just above the Landsdowne Hotel) - Candlelight vigil

A candlelight vigil in memory of Pat Finucane. A member of the Finucane family will speak.

Thursday 12th February 12.30pm - Front of Belfast High Court building - Anniversary gathering

Organised by Relatives for Justice, the anniversary gathering will highlight the Finucane family's demand for an independent, international public inquiry. The speakers are Sinn Fein MLA Alex Maskey; Mike Ritchie, director of the

Committee for Administration and Justice (CAJ); and Monsignor Raymond Murray.

Thursday 12th February 7pm - Saint Marys College , Falls Road -

Panel discussion - Pat Finucane: The Time for Truth

Organised by Relatives for Justice, the panelists are;

- Peter Madden, a friend and legal partner of Pat in the Madden and Finucane legal practice Seamus Finucane, brother of Pat Finucane
- Alex Maskey, Sinn Fein MLA, who was shot by loyalists directed by British agent Brian Nelson who was also involved in Pat's murder
- Jim McCabe, husband of West Belfast woman Nora McCabe who was murdered by the RUC in July 1981. Pat Finucane represented the McCabe family in their campaign for truth and justice.

This event will be chaired by Relatives for Justice Spokesperson Clara Reilly.

[Return to Top](#)

© Copyright 2009
webmaster@sinnfein.ie [Privacy Policy](#)