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Irish government meets human rights experts after 'collusion' report

Irish government officials are due to meet with an international panel of experts who claim to have uncovered evidence of British Army and police collusion in dozens of sectarian murders.

By: Press Association

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The human rights experts are in Dublin to launch their findings on the circumstances surrounding the deaths of 76 people in 25 loyalist atrocities during the 1970s.

The 115-page collusion report, which was unveiled in Belfast yesterday, says evidence has been found of security force involvement in 74 of the 76 sectarian murders investigated.

The panel claimed senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers were aware and approved of the collusion while officials in London had enough information to intervene.

The Irish Republic's Foreign Affairs minister Dermot Ahern is studying the evidence and his officials will meet with the report's authors in the Irish capital, according to a department spokesman.

University of Notre Dame human rights law Professor Douglass Cassel, who headed the panel, said he was shocked at the extent of the collusion involved in the murders.

The probe included the May 1974 Dublin Monaghan bombings, and the Miami Showband massacre in July 1975.

The experts have called on the British government to appoint an independent inquiry to examine how high up the chain of command collusion went and have also urged the authorities in the Irish Republic to investigate the claims made about gardai.

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