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Loughinisland families set for European Parliament

The families of six men gunned down in a Northern Ireland bar as they watched a World Cup match are to take their case for justice to the European Parliament.

By: Press Association

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Relatives of people killed in the June 1994 Loughinisland massacre will meet MEPs later this month to highlight concerns about security force collusion in the loyalist gun attack.

Patrick McCreanor, whose uncle Dan McCreanor and great uncle Barney Green were among those murdered, confirmed during a visit to Westminster today that the families plan to take their case directly to Brussels.

He said: "What we are trying to do is ensure people are aware of what happened in Loughinisland and get to the truth of what happened.

"We`re in London today meeting the Conservatives, Labour MPs, the Liberal Democrats and members of the Northern Ireland Select Committee.

"We will be in Brussels later in the month.

"We`re telling them 12 years have passed since the massacre and the police have kept us in the dark for all this time.

"It`s time everyone got to the truth of what happened."

The victims were watching Jack Charlton`s Republic of Ireland squad beat Italy in the 1994 USA World Cup on television in a bar in the County Down village of Loughinisland when an Ulster Volunteer Force gang struck, opening fire on customers.

The victims, who were all Catholic, came from Loughinisland,

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Ballynahinch, Drumaness and Downpatrick.

Emma Rogan, who was eight when her father Adrian, was shot dead, said the families were delighted with the support their campaign had received in Northern Ireland in recent months.

"It`s been heartening to have people from both communities in places like Loughinisland, Ballynahinch and Downpatrick come up and wish us well in our quest for justice," she said.

"What we are trying to make clear to the MPs today is the six people killed in Loughinisland were innocent.

"My father was innocent. He was a hard-working family man who adored his children.

"He had friends on both sides of the community and had no political association whatsoever.

"My father happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"He didn`t deserve what happened to him and he certainly doesn`t deserve the secrecy which has shrouded the police investigation all this time."

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