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Rosemary Nelson

7 comments
TUESDAY
15/04/2008
14:33:26

Public Inquiry into Rosemary Nelson's Murder begins

A public inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland solicitor Rosemary Nelson has begun its hearings in Belfast today.

The 40-year-old lawyer was killed in a car bomb claimed by the loyalist paramilitary group the Red Hand Defenders in March 1999.

The inquiry, led by former High Court judge Sir Michael Morland, will today begin investigating claims security force members may have colluded in Mrs Nelson's murder.

Prior to her death, the mother-of three came to prominence for representing a group of high profile republican and nationalist clients, including the Catholic Garvaghy Road residents' group that opposed Orange Order parades.

The parades flashpoint at Drumcree in Portadown placed Mrs Nelson at the centre of a violent dispute that caused major disturbances across Northern Ireland in the late 1990s.

Prior to her murder, Mrs Nelson told representatives of the US Congress and the United Nations that her life was being threatened by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

And while the allegations were denied by police, the claims fuelled speculation of a wider conspiracy against Mrs Nelson in the aftermath of her murder.

More than £15 million has so far been spent on the Rosemary Nelson case and the failure to catch her killers continues to cause controversy.

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Former UN investigator Param Cumaraswamy, who worked to protect lawyers around the world from intimidation, was one of the first officials to raise concerns for Mrs Nelson.

"I welcome the inquiry," he said speaking ahead of today's hearings.

"The perpetrators of that tragic brutal murder of Rosemary Nelson on March 15, 1999 must be identified and brought to justice. I trust that the process of this inquiry will leave no stones unturned to seek the truth."

Proceedings will start today with an opening statement on the background to the case by counsel to the Inquiry, Rory Phillips QC.

It is understood the opening statement could take several days to deliver.

It is thought the first witnesses will give evidence at the inquiry at the end of the month.

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On 15 Apr at 09:59 - Realist from Belfast said:

So when will the inquiry begin into Kingsmill, Shankill, Enniskillen, etc., etc. Oh wait, there won't be.

On 15 Apr at 10:21 - D D from Lurgan said:

Everyone deserves justice but this is a case of justice against the forces which are set in place to provide justice, COLLUSION Belfast realist, Collusion

On 15 Apr at 11:29 - sam millar from belfast said:

I can see the whitewash brushes getting ready... There will never be justice for this family.

On 15 Apr at 11:59 - OBserver from Belfast said:

If the law breaks the law, then there is no law but chaos.

On 15 Apr at 12:28 - paddy from america said:

hey realist walk a mile in our shoes

On 15 Apr at 13:15 - watchmanx from belfast said:

Fact is paddy we all here in Northern Ireland walked many miles mostly following coffins, sadly there is a hierarchy of victims, investigations and even more so of inquiries. The truth will never be told and all the ranking over of the embers leads to a oneside un/truth commission dependent on your view. Personally - draw a line below the troubles treat each victim the same, no further investigations or inquiries for any, let the dead bury the dead and let them all rest in peace.

On 15 Apr at 13:40 - Billy from South Belfast said:

What shoes are they exactly Paddy?

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

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DIRECTOR: Andy Tennant

STARRING: Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, Donald Sutherland

DETAILS: USA / 113mins (12A)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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