



3 comments
 THURSDAY 30/11/2006 17:15:34
Paisley: 'Public must break silence'

Intimidation is forcing those with knowledge of the IRA's abduction and murder of a Northern Ireland teenager to keep quiet, the Democratic Unionist leader has said.
 By: Press Association

VIDEO
 COMMENTS
 HOT TOPIC
 RELATED STORIES

The Rev Ian Paisley said the wall of silence since the 1975 kidnapping and death of Columba McVeigh, 17, who was accused of being an informer for the British Security Forces, had been responsible for years of torment for his family.

His body has never been found despite extensive searches near the border with the Irish Republic and Mr Paisley said his elderly mother Vera needed closure when he met her in Dungannon this afternoon.

"I believe that there are those in this community who know ... the pressure of the community must be on them," he said.

"It is time for you to speak, you have been responsible by your silence, you have been responsible for years of agony, years of tears and years of trial and the time has come, if you are a man (to speak).

"I am making several inquiries at the minute - there are other lines that need to be followed up. There could be something somewhere where there`s been some record kept of what`s happened and that could be inaccurate, but we have a long struggle because these people have no intention of doing this except for that pressure that is on them."

Mr Paisley was contacted by the late Monsignor Denis Faul, a campaigner for those abducted and accused of being informers by the IRA, asking for his help.

In July of this year the North Antrim MP said Msgr Faul had told him not to give in until the bodies had been retrieved.

NEWS HEADLINES

- Blair and Ahern to meet for talks
- Heroin concern after 6 die in Dublin
- Two held after man dies in Galway
- Man dies in Ardglass harbour
- 12:09 Over 100 gay weddings in NI
- 11:31 Turkish official shot in Iraq
- 11:26 Search launched in Galway city
- 11:07 200 jobs to be created in Cork
- 10:44 Greens to target Assembly seats
- 10:14 Kofi Annan: 'Iraq is worse now'
- 09:59 Govt announces aid for Philippines
- 09:48 Man dies on Co Louth fire
- 09:21 Post mortem due in Clare death
- 09:10 Man due in court over RTE attack
- 08:49 Empey: 'Election deadlock threat'
- 08:23 Police hurt in Boucher Rd rampage
- Adams angry at lost voters
- Empey: 'Hain must stop meddling'
- Cocaine seizure in Cork city
- SF slam SDLP's 'unholy alliance'
- Fierce weather set to continue
- Hiker found safe in west Cork
- MPs push for £100,000 salaries
- Cardinal speaks out on AIDS fight
- Pinochet suffers heart attack

UTV NEWS ON AIR

CLICK SILVER
 BROADBAND

SPEEDS NOW UP TO 8MB*

FROM ONLY **£9.99 NI**

€9.99 ROI

ALSO

WIRELESS ROUTER OPTION AVAILABLE

Migrating Customers receive FREE broadband for a month

NEW

UTV TALK PEAK PACKAGE NOW AVAILABLE

* NI only

Today`s meeting in Co Tyrone was set up by DUP Peer Lord Morrow.

Mr Paisley added: "From what information I have I think there are some people who would speak but there is pressure on them from another section of the community to keep quiet and don`t speak and I am appealing to the people that they can come and see me if they want to."

Mrs McVeigh, who is in her 80s, has repeatedly criticised Republicans for failing to give evidence to the police, said she was angry at her son`s killers.

"He was only 17 you know, he was not an old man playing Cowboys and Indians, he was a 17-year-old son," she said.

"There`s lots of them you know... Down the road going into the chapel and they won`t look at you down the road coming out of it.

"That scum, I would not even give them butter for my bread, they should have had it done 30 years, think about it. "

In 2003 Mrs McVeigh said she had given up hope of ever finding her son`s body.

She was speaking as Irish police completed a 14-day excavation at bogland at Bragan near Emyvale, Co Monaghan, in the Irish Republic.

The operation was the third dig in the area following new information about his whereabouts passed to the Irish Government by the IRA.

In 1999 the IRA offered to help locate the bodies of the nine so-called Disappeared.

A total of three victims were found in 1999 while West Belfast mother Jean McConville was found by a walker at Shelling Beach in Co Louth in the Republic after being captured by the IRA during the conflict and accused of being an informer.

Republicans have said that they gave all evidence available to the special north-south commission established to search for the bodies of the disappeared in 1999.

Lord Morrow said: "Other families are suffering just as horrendously and there is a cry from them also - they want the return of the bodies of their loved ones, that is not a big ask."

 [E-mail this story to a friend](#)



Watch the latest on-air news bulletins.

[WATCH HERE](#)

If you have a **broadband** connection, such as **UTV ClickSilver**, you can watch a higher quality version.

[WATCH HERE](#)

Click below to browse through the archives of online streaming news.

[BROWSE HERE](#)

SEARCH ARCHIVES



Enter a keyword above and select the newsroom section to search.

Click below to browse through the online news, sport and entertainment archives.

[BROWSE HERE](#)



COMMENT TRACKER:
LOGIN to track comments on this story

3 comment(s), order: **FIRST, LAST** [post your comment](#)

On 30 Nov at 22:24 - Decent Person from Humanity said:

What a SOCIETY WE LIVE IN! An 80 year old mother is looking closure for the the loss of her son!Both sides are looking to assist! Not a political point score but humanity!Time for those who know to do the human thing not hide behind believes that are no more! Big people stand up to responsibility in life and beyond!! Think on

On 1 Dec at 01:05 - Mark from Londonderry said:

Pressure has to be continued to be PILED on those who know what happened and who did it!!.

On 1 Dec at 08:40 - Kieran from Derry said:

A bereaved family have not been able to bury their murdered son, after many years, because the IRA have not revealed where they hid his body.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [House Rules](#) | [Acceptable Use Policy](#) | [UTV Corporate](#) | [u.tv Journalism](#) | [UTV Local](#)

Copyright © 2006 UTV Internet and the UTV plc Group. All rights reserved.