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Daily

Bloody Sunday relatives' campaign to be screened

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

A new documentary charting the ordeal of the families of those killed on Bloody Sunday during the five years of the Saville Inquiry will be screened tonight.

Bloody Sunday: A Derry Diary will be shown at 10.15pm as part of the Hidden History series on RTE One.

The documentary will outline the context of the Inquiry and give background to the relatives' campaign for justice after the British Army shot dead 13 unarmed Derry men at a civil rights march in the city.

A spokesman for the programme makers said: "At the subsequent Tribunal of Inquiry, Lord Chief Justice Widgery exonerated the soldiers and blighted the reputation of those who were killed and wounded by describing them as gunmen and bombers.

"In 1998 a new Tribunal of Inquiry was announced into the day that has become known as Bloody Sunday.

"Bloody Sunday: A Derry Diary follows the course of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry from the point of view of the families of the victims as they travelled between Derry and London over a five-year period."

The filmmaker, Margo Harkin, was an eye witness to Bloody Sunday and gave evidence to the tribunal.

The spokesman added: "This strong and moving documentary gives another side to the story of that tragic day.

"Through Margo's personal insight, and sensitive interviewing techniques, we are introduced to the people whose lives have been dramatically changed and impacted on as a result of Bloody Sunday.

"We hear many heart-wrenching eye witness accounts of families and friends of the dead, and those wounded on the day.

"We hear about the main players from both sides and the evidence they gave to the tribunal."

The director also gives her own memories of the day alongside Eamonn McCann, who followed the tribunal closely over a six-year period between 1998 and 2004.

Bishop Edward Daly, who was also present on the day and did his best to aid the wounded, gives us his account of the tragic events.

Bloody Sunday: A Derry Diary was originally commissioned to tie in with the publication of the Bloody Sunday tribunal's report, which the families have now been told not to expect until late 2007 or early 2008.

Bloody Sunday: A Derry Diary was shown again as a work in progress at the Foyle Film Festival in November 2006.

It was also shown as part of the FIPA International festival in Biarritz in France in January 2007.

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