

COMPETITION  
Sign up for our newsletter and WIN a year's supply of NUTTY KRUST

Written illustrations are available on request from any Bank of Ireland branch. All mortgages are subject to status. Suitable security is required. Principal applicant must be 21 years or older unless otherwise stated. Bank of Ireland Mortgages are provided by Bank of Ireland Mortgages Limited. Bank of Ireland Mortgages is a trading name of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland which is authorised by the Irish Financial Regulator and authorised and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Services Authority. Details about the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Financial Services Authority are available from us on request. The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland with limited liability, Registered in England and Wales with branch number BR000459.

3328081106d

### News

- Jobs
- Carry
- Marketing
- Other Titles
- Services**

- Local & National
- World News
- Politics
- Property
- Health
- Education
- Business
- Environment
- Technology
- Video
- Family Notices
- NI Crime Map

By Victoria O'Hara  
Tuesday, 9 December 2008

Actor Jimmy Nesbitt is backing a new appeal by the families of the Disappeared, asking those with information to "listen to their conscience" and speak to the commission set up to help locate their remains.

The Coleraine man was set to arrive in the province this morning to meet some of the families at the Wave Trauma Centre, an organisation which supports people traumatised or bereaved by the years of violence in Northern Ireland.

Alongside today's meeting, a letter on behalf of the families has been sent to every newspaper across Ireland, north and south, and to the Irish press in the United States and England urging those with information to speak to the Commission.

Print Email

Search

Bookmark & Share

Digg It

del.icio.us

Facebook



From The Belfast Telegraph Archives

Jimmy, who is a patron of WAVE, has said that the families have suffered enough and they deserve closure.

"I have nothing but admiration and respect for the families of the Disappeared," he said.

"Theirs is a story of unimaginable pain and suffering, and this will continue until the remains of their loved ones are returned.

"The families have always said that they don't want revenge or retribution, but closure and every time I meet them the dignity they show in the face of their suffering is humbling."

The acclaimed actor, who has appeared in many films including Bloody Sunday, for which he won Best Actor at the British Independent Film Awards, added: "I would ask anyone who knows anything about where the bodies are buried, to look into their hearts, listen to their conscience and speak to the commission.

"They have nothing to fear in doing this and could help bring closure to a family who has suffered for decades."

The families hope that the publication of the letter will convince people to contact the commission's confidential telephone number.

Part of it reads: "Whilst Northern Ireland has moved on and is at peace, we remain the forgotten victims of the Troubles. Margaret McKinney said that her torment ended on the day she was able to bury her son Brian. We know that we will only find peace when the remains of our loved ones are returned to us.

"So to those who can help, we have a very simple message this Christmas. For God's sake, end our suffering."

Anna McShane, the daughter of Charlie Armstrong who disappeared in August 1981, said that the families cannot move on until the remains of their loved ones are recovered.

She said: "The families of the Disappeared will continue to look for the remains of their loved ones until they are found. It will continue down through the generations of the families, if that is what it takes.

"We are living with a perpetual longing to have the remains returned so that we can give our loved ones a Christian burial and have a grave to visit.

"We will not give up until we achieve that."



What are these?

### Heading Out In Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland Nightlife in Pictures



### Northern Ireland Troubles



A Conflict in Pictures

### In Pictures: Fashion and Glamour



From Belfast catwalks to red carpets of LA

### Post a comment

Limit: 500 characters

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article

\* Name (only this field displayed)

\* Email

\* Town/City

\* Country/State

\* Required field

Remember Me

Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's [Terms of Use](#).

Posts submitted in UPPERCASE letters will be rejected.



currys.co.uk/christmas

**DearWizard**  
please calm down before you blow a casket. I know you must have a major problem with nationalists voicing opinions, but the bad old days of pre-69 are over and dead. You can't shut us up, any more, old chap, so wake up and smell the tea...

*Posted by Tommy Cooper | 09.12.08, 12:31 GMT*

**To 'John From London'**. You are being very naive. Nesbitt comes for a unionist's background and has even boasted of being a member of a loyalist flute band in Coleraine. Why on earth would you expect him to condemn the British or Unionists? Catch yourself on.

*Posted by no longer fooled republican | 09.12.08, 12:22 GMT*

**John from London** - Jimmy does NOT need to bring in a bit more balanced condemnation! By supporting the families of the disappeared he is simply trying to end their misery once and for all! This article is NOT about condemning Republican atrocities versus Loyalist atrocities! Why do you commentors always make this about sides.

*Posted by PL | 09.12.08, 11:07 GMT*

**I can't fully agree with what 'Billy for the truth' has said, as I think Jimmy is a fine person. Having said that, Jimmy does need to bring in a bit more balanced condemnation, and not just violence caused by republicans. We can't hide or head in the sand at the violence caused by loyalists, either.**

*Posted by John from London | 09.12.08, 10:51 GMT*

**Richard**  
You're being silly by trying to cloud the issue. I seem to have touched a raw nerve with you. All I ask is for Jimmy to stand up and condemn all acts of terror, not cherry pick with a one-sided hand. Call me cynical if you wish, but I bet Jimmy must have a new TV show coming out soon...

*Posted by billy for the truth | 09.12.08, 10:46 GMT*

**Billy is L---** your last name? Maybe you should supply the names of the victims abducted, tortured, murdered and secretly buried by the "British and Loyalists/Unionists" eh...? Or are you just another apologist for cowardly Provo's.

We wont go away you know, Billy L---. Every time someone with your mentality opens his or her foul mouth in an attempt to divert the subject, someone like me will be there to shut it! Now, on yer bike!

*Posted by wazard | 09.12.08, 10:31 GMT*

**Mr Nesbitt was a member of a loyalist flute band in coleraine and has said so publicly.**

*Posted by Tom | 09.12.08, 10:23 GMT*

**Billy for the truth** - He's a patron of WAVE - this is an organisation for both sides - this has NOTHING to do with condemning or condoning atrocities. I'm sure like all decent people he would condemn all atrocities, but this particular one involves people that have been missing for years - and all it took was for those responsible to say where they were!

*Posted by Wotsit | 09.12.08, 10:10 GMT*

**Come on Billy.** Lets not turn this into another "them and us" situation. If someone is representing a particular charity or cause they should not have to condemn all other acts of violence just to prove their neutrality. Mr Nesbitt didn't condemn the Bali bombing and 9/11 - does that make him an Al Quaeda (not sure of spelling) sympathiser as well?

Grow up and move on.

*Posted by Richard | 09.12.08, 09:59 GMT*

**I find it extremely disquieting when actors - ; suddenly start voicing their opinion on such sensitive and horrendous issues as the Disappeared. I am somewhat suspicious of it all, noting that Mister Nesbitt has never once voiced his concern over British and Loyalists/Unionists atrocities such as McGurk's Bar, Monaghan and Dublin bombings, et al....**

*Posted by billy for the truth | 09.12.08, 08:16 GMT*

## Also in this section

- [World's 'oldest mum' has first child at 70](#)
- [X Factor JLS gig - five girls injured](#)

- 460 education jobs face axe
- 50% of shop sales are from south
- Irish pork: Northern Ireland pork gets the all-clear but question mark now hangs over beef after cattle ate dioxin meal

