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News & Opinion

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Ballymurphy Massacre is raised at Taoiseach's question time

Andersonstown News Thursday

By Ciarán Barnes

The killing of 11 innocent civilians in Ballymurphy 37 years ago has been discussed during Taoiseach's question time.

Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny spoke in detail about the Ballymurphy Massacre in the Dáil. He raised the case after meeting with the families of the dead.

The 11 victims were shot dead by the Parachute Regiment over a three-day period in August 1971. British soldiers involved in the slaughter are also suspected of shooting dead civilians on Bloody Sunday in Derry five months later.

Mr Kenny said that a number of serious questions need to be answered by the British government about the Ballymurphy Massacre. He later called on Taoiseach Brian Cowen to raise them with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Welcoming Mr Kenny's comments, Briega Voyle, the daughter of Massacre victim Joan Connolly, said: "We met with Fine Gael TD Jimmy Deenihan who promised that he would take our case forward.

"He was as good as his word. The matter was raised with his party leader and was brought up for discussion at Taoiseach's question time.

"We will be following this very important development up with the Anglo-Irish Secretariat to ensure that the issues raised by our families are brought directly to the British government."

The families' meetings with TDs were organised by Relatives for Justice (RFJ).

The charity's Deputy Director, Andrée Murphy, said it was encouraging that the killings are being given a hearing at Leinster House.

She said: "Dealing with the past is challenging and difficult, but there remain horrendous cases that cannot be resolved through the desktop reviews of the Historical Enquiries Team or any superficial, localised initiative.

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Business & Recruitment

Government urged to provide more help for social enterprise

THE first ever social enterprise trade show became the foreground for a campaign to urge the government to recognise the contribution social enterprises make to society. At the all-Ireland Trade event, Networks 2008, held at St George's Market on Tuesday, social enterprise businesses were given the chance to raise the profile of the services they provide in the community. Speaking at the event, John Steele, Chairman of Bryson Charitable Group, made the call for the



"We are delighted that this has been raised at this level, and will be immediately contacting the Anglo-Irish Division of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs to take this forward."

Department of Finance and Personnel

Property News

What housing slump?

Thousands of local buyers defied reports of a property market slump last week as they queued for a dream home in Northern Ireland's first eco-village. Lisburn's Brokerstown Village, a development of more than 1,000 energy efficient homes, was buzzing with interest from buyers at its two open days earlier this month. In fact, selling agent Ulster Property Sales estimated that more than 2,000 visitors have already flocked to the eco-friendly and ever so chic 'future-proof' properties, which offer 60 per

