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Collusion: a reality

An Fhirinne call for immediate action after stark findings

Andersonstown News

Damian McCarney

11/09/2006

The British government have been called to account for the findings of a damning report released this week which confirmed there was evidence of collusion in the deaths of scores of Catholics during the conflict.

A report carried out by an independent panel of inquiry, headed by Professor Douglas Cassel of the renowned Notre Dame Law School in Indiana, discovered that in 24 of 25 incidents in the early 1970s, evidence strongly suggested collusion by members of the security forces. The findings implicate the RUC and UDR in 74 deaths on both sides of the border.

One passage of the report said that evidence indicates that members of "the RUC were aware of their sectarian crimes, yet failed to act to prevent, investigate or punish them.

"On the contrary, they allegedly made statements that appeared to condone participation in these crimes."

Robert McClenaghan, a spokesperson with An Fhirinne, a group who have campaigned to expose British collusion in the murder of nationalists, has called on the British government to respond positively to the latest report by setting up an independent international inquiry.

"This report is but the latest to highlight instances of collusion North and South of the border, and particularly in light of similar instances in West Belfast we need an international, independent inquiry into these serious allegations.

"The British State can no longer bury its head and refuse to comment as it did earlier this week.

"The families of the 74 murdered people demand answers now," said Mr McClenaghan.

He also condemned unionists for not acting on this most serious matter and urged the community to support the ongoing campaign of bereaved families to get justice in cases involving collusion.



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“The silence of the entire unionist establishment, newspapers, councillors, MPs and MLAs in response to this report has been deafening.
 “For the families of this collusion it is both frightening and sickening.
 “If these were 74 cases of IRA collusion with, say the Irish government, these same politicians would be outraged, but they are sitting like sheep afraid to open their mouths because they know that collusion is a reality. If this report had happened in any other country, governments would have collapsed,” he added.
 “An Fhirinne supports these families in their search for truth and justice. They need support from all right-thinking people North and South in Ireland. The Irish government should convene a special summit with the British government to discuss this report and the families' concerns to ensure that it is acted upon and not left to gather dust,” said Mr McClenaghan.

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