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McGurk's Bar massacre to be commemorated

North Belfast News

Aine McEntee

12/01/2006

To mark the 35th anniversary of the McGurk's Bar massacre in 1971, a new website to remember those who died has been set up.

Kathleen Irvine was one of those murdered during that fateful night and her family has spearheaded the Internet project to raise the profile of their campaign for truth.

Pat Irvine said she hoped relatives of those murdered would support the website.

"The website is in memory of Kathleen Irvine, and for all the relatives of those murdered.

"It gives people a chance to share any information with other victims and because we hope family members will supply information about their loved ones, and how they died, it's a very personal and unique tribute to them all."

On 4 December 1971, a car containing four members of the UVF pulled up outside McGurk's Bar at the junction of North Queen Street and Great George's Street.

One of the loyalists got out and left a bomb in the hallway of the bar which exploded without warning. The entire building was destroyed and 15 people were killed. Many others were injured.

A memorial on the site of the bar on Belfast's North Queen Street has since been erected in their memory.

The Police Ombudsman's office is in the middle of carrying out a review into the massacre.

Pat Irvine said she felt confident that the truth behind McGurk's bar will be confirmed 'once and for all'.

"Everything's going well with the Ombudsman. We can foresee in the future that yes we will be given what we've asked for, which is the absolute truth," Pat Irvine said.

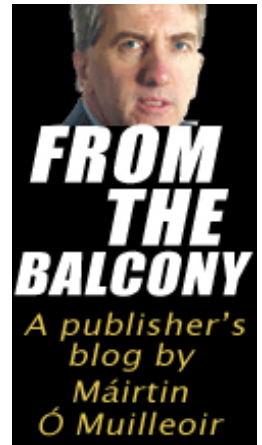
"We are being treated with respect and honesty, and they are keeping us informed of everything, so it all seems very positive. All the documents I've given to the Ombudsman proves the innocence of these people, beyond the shadow of any doubt."

By logging onto the Internet, www.themcgurksbarmassacre.com you can get in contact with those behind the website.

The 35th anniversary falls on Monday December 4, and there will be a candlelit procession to the monument in North Queen Street after a commemorative service in St Patrick's Church.

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