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## New Lodge Six remembered at local ceremony

North Belfast News

By Áine McEntee

02/09/2007

A memorial event to mark the 34th anniversary of the six men murdered by the British Army in the New Lodge took place at the weekend.

North Belfast Sinn Féin assembly candidate and councillor Carál Ní Chuilín said it was high time that the families of those murdered were told the truth.

The murders of Jim Sloan, Jim McCann, Brendan Maguire, Tony TC Campbell, John Loughran and Ambrose Hardy took place between the 3 and 4 February in 1973 and left a community bereft and stunned.

Addressing crowds at the memorial garden, the New Lodge councillor highlighted the importance of remembering those who lost their lives during the conflict.

"This event means a lot to this community, a community that has suffered greatly for more than 30 years in their search for truth and justice. These six men were fathers, husbands, brothers and sons and their murders have indelibly marked the lives and the memory of this community," Carál Ní Chuilín said.

On the 30th anniversary of the killings, the families of the six men and the wider community launched a report, based on a community inquiry.

The findings of this report concluded that the British government was responsible for the men's murder. The families have yet to receive an apology.

On Saturday, hundreds turned out to pay their respects on the 34th anniversary of the atrocity.

Carál Ní Chuilín said Sinn Féin remains determined to challenge any attempt to cover up and dismiss any killings.

"The British government has yet to accept culpability for this atrocity.

"This was a carefully crafted political act to attack us as a people, our way of life and our very existence," she said.

"The link between state murders and the killings highlighted recently in the O'Loan Report on collusion, is that political direction for the murders of so many of our people was endorsed at the very highest political level.

"Of course we knew about this, we knew that Unionist politicians also knew about it and said nothing, some nationalist politicians knew about it and said nothing and worse still, the Irish government knew about it and said nothing.

"They said nothing about the fact that when it came to state murder, no one would state the truth.

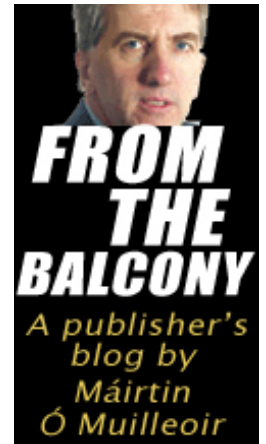
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