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## Relatives For Justice group seek US intervention on collusion

Delegation to meet Clinton on US city tour

North Belfast News

By Aine McEntee

23/02/2007

A cross-community delegation including North Belfast man Raymond McCord are to meet with Hillary Clinton next month in America as part of a victim's initiative to highlight the issue of collusion.

The delegation of four families and two Relatives For Justice (RFJ) staff will meet with the former First Lady who is running for president in 2008 as well as fellow contender Barack Obama in Washington as part of a wide range of political meetings.

The group of victims includes Raymond McCord whose son Raymond was murdered by loyalists and was the subject of a recent explosive Police Ombudsman's report, the father of Paul McIlwaine, murder by loyalists in 2000, Pauline Davey whose father councillor John Davey shot by the UVF in 1989 and Theresa Slane whose husband Gerard was murdered by UDA/UFF gunmen in his home in 1998.

The group will meet politicians in both New York, Boston, Philadelphia and will also address the congressional house and house of senators in Washington. Raymond McCord said he was looking forward to the meeting. "I'm looking forward to bringing the young lad's name and the issue of collusion to America.

"Myself and others will be able to tell the Americans about collusion – something which unionist politicians have failed to do time and time again," Raymond McCord said.

"You only have to look at Jimmy Spratt the DUP man who's running for the assembly in South Belfast.

"He's the former chairman of the police federation but he's more concerned with Hugh Orde's love life than justice for victims, and on this occasion where the majority of victims are from the unionist community, you can see that his priorities are all wrong.

"When you talk about justice, you have to have the truth. I intend to tell Hillary Clinton about collusion. She's not just getting it from republicans or nationalists – she's getting it from a protestant, which makes an even stronger case I think, when she's gets it from the unionist community."

300 letters

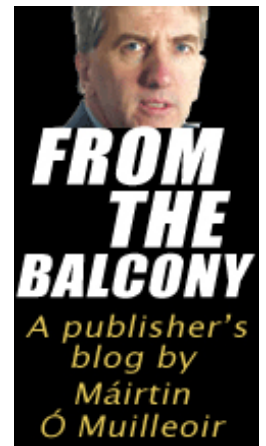
Sandra Murphy from RFJ said they were bringing over 300 letters from families who have lost loved ones during the conflict asking for American

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intervention. She added it was the first time a cross-community delegation would be making the trip.

"We have these letters from families saying why they want US intervention in terms of highlighting state abuse and collusion, and they're asking for a congressional fact-finding mission," she said.

"There needs to be an international dimension to this. The families want to maximise international press around the issue of collusion and are using this time and momentum to do that."

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