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## The victims deserve justice

North Belfast News

Straight talking: With former Lord Mayor of Belfast Martin Morgan

26/01/2007

The Police Ombudsman has confirmed what the community has known all along – that is that elements in the RUC and some of whom remain in the PSNI controlled, managed and colluded with members of the north Belfast UVF.

Some of these informers were directly responsible for the murders of Catholics and Protestants alike and the most disturbing component of this is that we can with some confidence state that some of the murders carried out by these scumbags could have been prevented.

In addition to this police officers did not intervene on the occasions when they knew or suspected that loyalist paramilitaries were planning and about to embark on killing members of the community.

The actions of these individuals is disgusting, in fact these individuals are disgusting and deserve two things, firstly our utter contempt and secondly a day in court facing justice.

Hugh Orde is someone who has and will continue to bring about positive change in policing in the north of Ireland, but even Mr Orde cannot smooth over the chasms that these people have created. He must act and act now against those who remain in the PSNI but were handlers for loyalist touts involved in these cases

The individuals concerned who dare to call themselves police officers should be hounded out of office and their pensions deducted accordingly. They deserve a prison sentence and can join some of their mates in Maghaberry. Ronnie Flanagan should resign in disgrace from HM Inspector of Constabulary and those who did not cooperate with the Police Ombudsman should be disciplined and charged at the very least with the obstruction of justice.

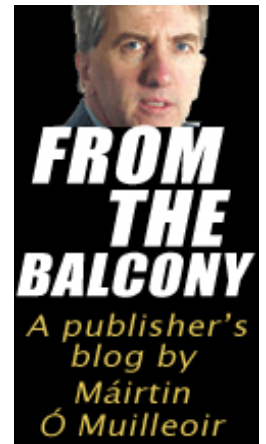
Peter Hain is yet again re-confirming his credentials as an incompetent politician. This hopeful for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party (God help Labour) has refused to convene an inquiry into the findings of the Police Ombudsman on the basis that it was all in the past and would cost too much.

This is totally pathetic from a person who doesn't understand the true meaning and value of justice. Who cares whether these terrible injustices and the management of the same took place five or ten years ago. I don't care if they happened 20 years ago or 20 days ago. We have broken families and graves all as a consequence of police collusion with paramilitaries. Senior police officers were aware of all of this and I would dare to say so did the government – they all have dirty hands with blood on them.

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At a time when a British government is committing billions of pounds to an illegal war in Iraq it should not concern itself with spending money to do the right thing by the victims of a British police force in the north of Ireland. Who cares what Unionist politicians think or say, when faced with such injustices, they are either too embarrassed with their deluded and misplaced support of a former RUC – created to defend a Unionist Stormont and a Unionist way of life, or dumbstruck that the RUC would do such things.

I find the whole thing deeply worrying and it leaves a bitter and lasting taste. The RUC were and now the PSNI are charged with being impartial and to serve and protect all in the community.

The RUC have proven that at the very least some in their ranks were nothing short of murderers themselves by allowing loyalist touts to carry on as if everything was all right.

If you or I did such a thing we would be locked up – why are they not going to be locked up?

Peter Hain is wrong to attempt to confine such things to past times. He camouflages it all as if we have to understand that life was tough back then.

As NIO officials and securocrats monitor all of the press in these islands Peter Hain should note that he didn't live here in the dark days.

What he forgets is that loyalists, republicans and the state forces were simultaneously involved in crimes against humanity. What makes it all the more sinister is that government agencies were directly involved in it and now we're expected by Hain and his cronies to simply move on?

It is Hain who should move on and let the judicial process take its due course and bring justice to those in this society who deserve it.

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