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News & Opinion

Latest news

What happens next in families' quest for truth?

North Belfast News 30th of January 2009

When the dust has settled who is going to take forward the recommendations contained within the Eames Bradley 190-page report, the New Lodge Six Time For Truth committee has asked.

Committee member John Loughran, who lost his uncle, John Loughran in the 1973 atrocity attended the launch of the report this week and said the team behind the report of the Consultative Group on the Past effectively finished their jobs this week.

"The state is still bound to act by law," he said. "In 1997 Tony Blair made this commitment when he said that where the state was involved in acts it should be thoroughly investigated

"This report calls for an international enquiry - who is going to legislate for this, who is oversee this?

"In terms of their past record for example Bloody Sunday and the Pearse Jordan inquest the British government has frustrated campaigns for truth time and again

"I do have huge concerns about who is going to drive this on, because even though all their research and work is brilliant they are no longer in a job. Their mandate stops today.

"They were the guarantors, now they're gone and no one knows who is going to facilitate this debate which will colour how we deal with the past."

John added that the report deserved a fair hearing.

"Initially when we had made our submission we had some grave concerns around the issues of appointment because the British government appointed them unilaterally," John said.

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Belfast's next generation of leaders...

Nominations now open for 2009 40 Under 40

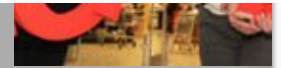
American congressman turned university chancellor, Marty Meehan, will be the guest speaker at this year's Belfast Media Group Belfast



"After seeing the report this week I think everyone needs to read it, it has 30 recommendations and it deserves a fair hearing instead of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

"I think if this begins the process of dealing with the past then that is good and I think Eames/Bradley has started to create the environment for that. In war all sides do terrible things. For the future it's important to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Top 40 Under 40 in association with Sainsbury's. Nominations are now open for this year's Sainsbury's sponsored Top 40 Under 40.



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