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Monday, 21st July 2008

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Cost shouldn't stop probe into Troubles deaths

Published Date: 08 July 2008

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By Staff reporter

A man whose brother was murdered on Bloody Sunday says people who died during the Troubles have a right to have their deaths fully investigated.

Liam Wray's comments follow the publication of a report from the NI Affairs Committee which said the high cost of such inquiries is "financially unsustainable".

Responsibility

Mr Wray said it was the police's responsibility to fully investigate the circumstances of such deaths.

"Anything else is putting a price on justice and on people's lives," he remarked.

The Policing the Past report found that out of more than 1,100 unsolved murders from the Troubles re-opened by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET), just one has been put forward for prosecution.

Need review

It said the Â£34m project re-examining more than 3,200 killings needed reviewed, and warned the cost of the HET and associated investigations could spiral to more than Â£45m - 60% over the original budget.

Committee chairman Sir Patrick Cormack said he was worried about the impact of historical investigations on the PSNI's workload.

"We are concerned about the impact of this in relation to the police service's primary role in policing the present," he said.

The full article contains 200 words and appears in Journal Tuesday Derry Edit newspaper.

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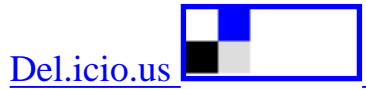
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