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Inishowen families slam report on Troubles



The late Councillor Eddie Fullerton, who was shot dead at his home by masked intruders in May, 1991.



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Two Inishowen families who lost loved ones during The Troubles have slated the recommendations of the Eames-Bradley report.

One of the key proposals in the report is that each family of the 3,500 victims of The Troubles should be paid £12,00 as a once-off 'recognition' rather than compensation. The report also advocates the setting up of a "truth and investigation commission" which would, victims' families claim, fall far short of full criminal investigations.

Lord Robin Eames and Denis Bradley held a press conference in Belfast on Wednesday to mark the publication of the report of the Consultative Group on the Past.

Amanda Fullerton, whose father Eddie was killed while still a serving member of both Buncrana Town and Donegal County Councils, told the Journal yesterday that the proposals are 'unacceptable'.

"I've just had a look at all the information and the recommendations. From where we stand, I don't think there's a one price fits all solution that can be applied over a short period, after 30 years of conflict.

"For us it's absolutely not about money. It's an outrageous proposition - we all feel a sense of injustice."

'Blood money'

Robert Cunningham, whose brother Henry was also shot dead by Loyalist paramilitaries, shares Ms Fullerton's anger.

"We were told that our case is going to be re-investigated but is going to be re-investigated, but I wouldn't

hold our much hope for it. Between the British government and the Irish government, they want to bury the lot.

"The Irish Government gave e15,000 to some of us three years ago. Three of us gave our money to the Finucane Centre in Belfast. If we had known the way things were going to go on, we wouldn't have taken the money. Knowing what we know now, I think it's blood money and that's it. I'm disgusted. It would have been fairer and more decent if they just didn't pay anything.

"I'm not saying anything against the families that take it. We did and I can understand why they would. It's a messy situation."

'Families should decide'

Amanda Fullteron believes that each family should be allowed to decide whether or not to pursue a full criminal investigation into each death, rather than the government making one decision for all.

"A line being drawn on the past is completely unacceptable. Different victims families have different expectations. Some are happy to confront the truth, others don't want to face it. Others want truth and justice. Our family has struggled for years to find truth and justice in relation to our father's murder. We have a process that is ongoing, on a cross-border basis. For there to be a recommendation Historical Enquiries Team be subsumed into some framework where investigations could be wound up quickly, without prosecution and moved to a truth or information process only is unacceptable.

Under European law we are entitled to a full police investigation and the pursuit of justice when a loved one has been brutally murdered. Are they asking us to waive our father's right to that investigation and to justice? It should be our choice whether we pursue truth only or truth and justice. We're not accepting it, we're taking our fight further. At the end of a day, it's a disgrace that we have to."

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