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SDLP backs demands for inquiry on army killings

By Barry McCaffrey

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SDLP leader Mark Durkan yesterday backed demands for an independent inquiry into the deaths of 11 people during the introduction of internment 37 years ago.

The 11 victims, including Catholic priest Fr Hugh McMullan, were shot dead by the British army in the greater Ballymurphy area of west Belfast in a three-day period in August 1971.


Yesterday Mr Durkan, pictured, met victims' families at Stormont and pledged support for their campaign.

He said an independent tribunal would be the only proper tribute to the Ballymurphy victims and he now plans to table a motion at Stormont to call for the British government to acknowledge that the dead were innocent victims.

Briege Voyle, whose mother Joan Connolly was shot dead, said: "The meeting was very positive and Mark Durkan has promised to bring us over to Westminster before the publication of the Eames/Bradley report in October, so that we can inform other MPs about the atrocity and the need for a proper and transparent investigation into what was allowed to take place."

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