

[Most Popular](#)[Most Emailed](#)

[Breaking](#)[Sport](#)[Business](#)[World](#)[Gossip](#)



Issue Changer:



[NEWS >](#)

## British could have avoided Sunday inquiry: McGuinness

By Staff reporter

20/03/08

THERE would have been no need for a Bloody Sunday Inquiry if the British government had admitted its guilt over the role of paratroopers in the deaths of 14 civilians in Londonderry, Martin McGuinness said yesterday.

The Sinn Fein MP was responding to claims in a book by Jonathan Powell, a former aide to Tony Blair when he was prime minister, that he told the government it could have avoided spending millions of pounds on the most expensive judicial inquiry in British history.

The Mid Ulster MP, who admitted he was a member of the IRA in a draft submission to the inquiry, yesterday recalled the remarks which Mr Powell said were made in a private conversation to him.

"I can clearly recall the conversation alluded to by Jonathan Powell and in fact have publicly referred to it myself on a number of occasions," he said.

"I told Tony Blair and Jonathan Powell that what was required was for the British government to come out with its hands up and admit the truth of Bloody Sunday. In those circumstances there would have been no need for an inquiry."

Thirteen people were shot dead in Derry on January 30 1972 by paratroopers during a civil rights march. A fourteenth person died months later from injuries sustained during the shootings, which are regarded as a seminal moment in the Northern Ireland conflict.

An inquiry was set up by Tony Blair in 1998 under the chairmanship of Lord Saville.

It first sat in Derry in 2000 and took oral evidence from more than 900 witnesses.

In a written reply in the House of Commons in February Northern Ireland secretary Shaun Woodward revealed the inquiry had cost £181.2 million to date.

## Related Stories

- [Bloody Sunday relatives call on Saville to give them report](#)
- [North's bill for inquiries hits £42m](#)
- [Bloody Sunday bill tops £180m](#)

 Print  back to top

Bookmark:  Delicious  Digg  Reddit  Facebook  StumbleUpon

 Email this story