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Massacre collusion claims 'fanciful' says MEP

([Irish News](#))

A Northern Ireland MEP yesterday (Wednesday) denounced a European Parliament visit by the families of six men murdered in a loyalist massacre as a Sinn Féin "coat-trailing exercise".

Families of six men shot dead by the UVF as they watched a 1994 World Cup match in a bar in Loughinisland, Co Down, joined Sinn Féin's Bairbre de Brun and Caitriona Ruane for a series of meetings with MEPs yesterday to highlight their concerns about security force collusion in the attack.

But while Jim Allister, described the Loughinisland shootings as an outrage, he also claimed the allegations of collusion were outlandish and said they proved Sinn Féin was insincere about dealing with the past.

"Yesterday's coat-trailing exercise in Brussels by Sinn Féin, based on outlandish claims about collusion in the Loughinisland murders, in itself shows how insincere Sinn Féin is about moving forward," he said.

"The Loughinisland murders, like all terrorist crimes, were indeed a terrible outrage, whose perpetrators deserve to be convicted and severely punished – through the judicial process which Sinn Féin refuses to support."

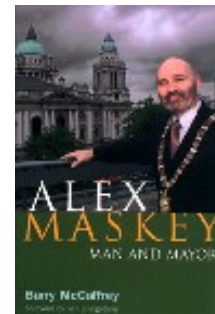
Ms Ruane branded the Democratic Unionist MEP's comments insensitive and insulting to the Loughinisland families and accused Mr Allister of making a number of obnoxious statements in the European Parliament.

December 1, 2006

This article appeared first in the November 30, 2006 edition of the [Irish News](#).

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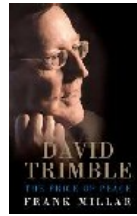
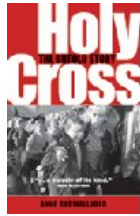
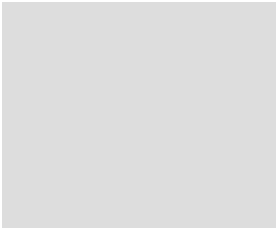
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