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News

McCord takes campaign to White House

Sunday, March 18, 2007

By Stephen Breen

This is the moment when anti-collusion campaigner Raymond McCord took his fight for justice to George Bush's

The north Belfast man met the US president to hand over Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's report into his son, Raymond jnr's murder.

Mr McCord, who also met US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and other leading politicians, returns to Belfast tomorrow.

The victims' campaigner hopes last week's visit will heap pressure on the British government to bring his son's UVF killers and the police officers who protected them over the years before the courts.

Said the crusading dad: "I did not go to America just to talk about my own case. I am going to the US to fight for all victims of collusion. I was looking forward to my meetings with the US politicians and I am pleased they gave ordinary people like me the chance to highlight our experiences of collusion.

"I used this trip to pressure on the British government by highlighting collusion between police officers and loyalist serial killers."

Mr McCord travelled to Washington with the group Relatives for Justice as part of a cross-community group of collusion victims.

The victims included Paul McLwaine, whose son David was butchered by UVF informers in 2000, and Teresa Slane, whose husband Gerard was shot dead by the UDA in 1988.

Fr Sean McManus, who is the head of the Irish National Caucus organisation, praised Mr McCord for bringing his message to the United States. Added Fr McManus: "When people saw Mr McCord walking the halls of Congress and the White House with a Catholic priest like myself, it makes a powerfully compelling statement.

"Just as Irish-Americans have stood in solidarity with the Finucanes, we will stand with the McCords, and we will not let any case of collusion slip through the cracks. Both the Finucanes and the McCords are the first to emphasise that their cases are merely the tip of the iceberg and both want all the other cases given due attention."

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