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## Mary Lou McDonald presents Tony Blair with Oireachtas report on collusion

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Sinn Féin National Chairperson and MEP for Dublin Mary Lou McDonald has presented British Prime Minister Tony Blair with the latest report from the Oireachtas Justice Committee on the Barron Inquiry which describes cross border attacks by British surrogates as "international terrorism". Ms. McDonald met Mr. Blair today when she visited Downing Street as part of a Sinn Féin delegation including Gerry Adams MP, Martin McGuinness MP, Conor Murphy MP and Councillor Pádraig Mac Lochlainn.

Speaking after the meeting she said: "This morning I presented Tony Blair with the latest report from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Barron Inquiry which investigated nine atrocities on both sides of the border between 1974 and 1976 in which 18 people were killed and it describes the acts as 'international terrorism'. It goes on to state that people employed by the British administration were 'engaged in the creation of violence and the butchering of innocent victims' and it says the British Cabinet at the time was 'aware of the level at which the security forces had been infiltrated by terrorists'.

"The British authorities refused to co-operate in any meaningful way with the Barron inquiries and the Oireachtas Committee hearings despite overwhelming evidence of British state complicity in murders and bombings throughout Ireland. I hope this document may help the British Prime Minister to understand that this is an international human rights issue and that the British government must fulfil its obligations, including to the bereaved and the survivors. It is almost a year since the Dáil unanimously passed a motion calling for a full independent inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane yet the British government still refuses to establish such an inquiry.

"Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has been too quick to accept Tony Blair's refusal to co-operate with inquiries. It is not enough for the Taoiseach of this state simply to request the British Prime Minister's help in such matters. He must, on behalf of the Irish people, demand that Tony Blair face his responsibilities in relation to Britain's dirty war in Ireland." ENDS

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