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Sinn Féin to put demand for truth on collusion at the top of the political agenda

Published: 3 February, 2007

Sinn Féin Justice spokesperson Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD, speaking following a meeting of the party's Ard Chomhairle in Dublin this morning, announced details of a major conference on collusion and truth recovery which will take place in Dublin next weekend. He said this conference was part of a wider campaign to step up pressure on the British government and to get to the truth about their role in the deaths of hundreds of Irish citizens. Deputy Ó Snodaigh said:

“Just two weeks ago the Police Ombudsman in the north confirmed that state agencies had colluded with unionist paramilitaries in killing Irish citizens. The Ombudsman’s report gives us only a snapshot of collusion in a very small area, over a short period of time. It was only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the British government’s policy of collusion which was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people not just in the north but here in Dublin City, in Dundalk, Monaghan and Donegal.

“The British government armed, trained and gave information to loyalist death squads for decades. The Dublin Monaghan bombings were carried out by the Glenanne gang, based in Armagh and run by MI5. This gang was a mixture of UDR, RUC, and unionist paramilitaries. They operated with devastating impact for many years.

“There are some, such as Hugh Orde who think we should draw a line in the sand and put the past behind us. We absolutely reject that. The families of those who were killed as a result of British run death squads deserve the truth. And this should happen whether it was those killed in the early 1970s in Dundalk, Dublin or Monaghan or those who were killed by British agent Mark Haddock in recent years.

“It is time that the British government stopped its cover up. It is time that they told the truth about who authorized this policy. It is time that they co-operated with the inquiry into

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Dublin Monaghan. It is time that those responsible were prosecuted.

“The conference next weekend is part of a wider campaign to step up pressure on the British government. It will also be putting pressure on the Irish government. They have known for many years about collusion but have yet to support full independent inquiries to establish the real truth about what happened in this city and elsewhere.”ENDS

Conference on Collusion

10th February

North Star Hotel, Amiens Street, Dublin

Clár

10.30am:

Registration (Tea & Coffee)

11am:

Opening by Mary Lou Mc Donald MEP

11.10am:

First Session: Collusion & Cover Up

Margaret Urwin (Justice for the Forgotten)

Amanda Fullerton (Eddie Fullerton for Justice)

John Finucane (Son of Pat Finucane)

12.30pm

Second Session: Truth Recovery

Chair Bernice Swift

Aengus O Snodaigh TD (SF Justice Spokesperson)

Paul O'Connor (Pat Finucane Centre)

Relative of Ludlow Family

Mark Thompson (Relatives for Justice)

Close 2pm

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