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**Title:** Interview given by an Italian journalist, Fulvio Grimaldi, on RTÉ [Raidió Teilifís Éireann] News, in which he details his personal experiences of 'Bloody Sunday', 30 January, 1972.

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Interview given by Italian Journalist, Fulvio Grimaldi,  
on the R. T. E. "News at One-Thirty" programme on  
31st January 1972.

"I was in the front line of the march as the march approached the barricade erected by the military in William street. There were a few exchanges, a few throws of stones nothing very heavy, and after about three or four minutes, the Army moved up with this water cannon and sprayed the whole crowd with coloured water. Then the crowd dispersed.

"Successively, it returned and threw some more stones: nothing as I have seen in other places in Northern Ireland, nothing really very heavy. After which gas was used massively by the Army and the crowds dispersed towards the meeting place, which was at Free Derry Corner. As the crowd was moving away, I would say about a couple of thousand people - completely peaceful because they had been drenched with gas and they could hardly breathe, and many were sick - suddenly in the area behind Free Derry Corner - Rossville flats. I think it is called, the big square in front of those flats - the Army, the paratroopers, moved in on Saracens.

And other paratroopers followed on foot, and they jumped out. The people were thinking they would be given another dose of gas and scattered very hurriedly and they really fled towards Free Derry Corner. The Army jumped out and they started shooting in all directions. I took pictures of this, I took recordings of this, and there is no doubt whatsoever that there wasn't the slightest provocation.

"There hadn't been one shot fired at them. There hadn't been one petrol bomb thrown at them. There had not been one nail bomb thrown at them. They just jumped out and, with unbelievable murderous fury, shot into the fleeing crowd".

Q. Are you certain that at no stage before the paratroops opened fire there were shots fired from the top of Rossville flats?

A. "I am absolutely certain, and it is proved by the tape, which records the whole following of events. Absolutely no shot, no nail bomb even, nothing at all. That crowd was dispersing".

Q. The British army claim that they were shooting snipers on the top of the flats. Were any of the dead or wounded you saw anywhere other than actually in the streets?

A. "Let me tell you what I saw. Now they were only in the street and in the squares. I saw a man and his son crossing the street, trying to get to safety, with their hands on their heads. They were shot dead. The man got shot dead. The son, I think, was dying.

"I saw a young fellow who had been wounded, crouching against the wall. He was shouting 'don't shoot, don't shoot.' A paratrooper approached and shot him from about one yard. I saw a young boy of 15 protecting his girl friend against the wall and then proceeding to try and rescue her by going out with a handkerchief and with the other hand on his hat. A paratrooper approached, shot him from about one yard into the stomach and shot the girl into the arm.

"I saw a priest approaching a fallen boy in the middle of the square, trying to help him, give him the last rites perhaps, and the army - I saw a paratrooper kneel down and take aim at him and shoot at him, and the priest just got away by laying flat on his belly. I saw a French colleague of mine who, shouting 'press, press' and raising high his arms, went into the middle to give help to a fallen person and I saw again paratroopers kneeling down and aiming at him, and its only by a fantastic acrobatic jump that he did that he got away.

"I myself got shot at five times. I was at a certain stage shielding behind a window, I approached the window to take some pictures. Five bullets went immediately through the window, and I don't know how they missed."

Q. What was the mood of the people in the Bogside as this was going on.

A. "It was panic, it was sheer despair, it was frustration. I saw people crying, old men crying, young boys, who had lost their friends of 14, 13 and 15 years, crying and not understanding. There was astonishment. There was bewilderment, there was rage and frustration.

"It was the most unbelievable. . . . . I have travelled many countries. I have seen many civil wars and revolutions and wars. I have never seen such a cold-blooded murder, organised, disciplined murder, planned murder."