

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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5th April, 1978.

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Dear Fr. Bradley,

On behalf of the Taoiseach Mr. J. Lynch, T.D., I wish to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your letter of 28 March which you addressed to the Chief Constable, R.U.C., Headquarters Belfast in relation to recent murders in the Portadown area.

Yours sincerely,

B. McCARTHY

Private Secretary

Rev. Father John Bradley,  
Parochial House,  
Obins Street,  
Portadown,  
CO. ARMAGH.

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Private Secretary,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Transmitted please for information. A copy of Fr. Bradley's letter was also forwarded to your Minister.

B. McCARTHY  

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Private Secretary to Taoiseach

W. F. Murray

5/4  
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Copies  
Mr James Callaghan, M.P., Prime Minister, London.  
Mr Jack Lynch, T.D., Prime Minister, Dublin.  
The Apostolic Nuncio, Phoenix Park, Dublin.  
Mr M. O'Kennedy, Minister of External Affairs, Dublin  
Mr Brian Lenehan, Minister, Dublin.  
Mrs M. Thatcher, M.P., House of Commons, London.  
The Attorney General, Royal Courts of Justice, London.  
Police Authority, 48 High St., Belfast.  
Chief Superintendent, RUC Portadown.  
Mr Mason, M.P., N.I. Office, Belfast.

Parochial House  
Obins Street  
PORTADOWN  
Co Armagh  
28 March 1978

Dear Sir,

On 25 March 1978 a public-house (Queen's, Thomas St., Portadown) was attacked - an abominable act. Some days earlier (16 March) a Protestant was attacked at his home in Deramore Drive, Portadown.

Immediately following these outrages seven Catholic youths (to my knowledge) were arrested and held under emergency powers and two are to be charged with the bomb at the pub on 25 March 1978 - "Irish News" 28 March 1978 - arrests and charges followed within hours.

On 8 March 1978 two members of my Catholic flock (Denis Kelly and Thomas Trainor of Ballyoran Park, Portadown) were gunned down (and died) as they walked along the Armagh Road, Portadown. I am not aware that anyone, as yet, has been charged with this heinous crime. Nor am I aware that anyone has been arrested and held for a three day or seven day period under emergency powers following this double murder.

On 9 January 1976 I addressed a letter to Prime Minister Wilson about twenty unsolved murders of Catholics known to me, mainly from this area. Since the time of writing to my knowledge only one (No. 3 on my list) has been solved. I am now adding Nos 22, 23 and 24 to my original list.

I want to stress that I am thoroughly opposed to all forms of illegal activity - from whatever quarter it comes. But, people are baffled by the speed and success of the RUC/security forces when Protestant/loyalists are attacked and by the apparent negligence and failure when Catholics are attacked and killed. My list and the recent happenings here, outlined above, would seem to support that allegation. People are even more baffled as it is felt the killers of innocent Catholics hide in the majority areas - where it is claimed the RUC/security forces have full acceptance and co-operation.

I appeal to you to intervene personally in this area to ensure all killers are apprehended and dealt with. I feel your personal strong intervention and direction is needed for effectiveness. I feel ALL killers must be hunted down if the claim of impartiality is to be sustained.

Yours sincerely

*John Bradley*  
Rev. Father John Bradley

The Chief Constable  
RUC Headquarters  
Brooklyn  
Knock Road  
BELFAST

Encl. Extract from letter sent to Mr Wilson on 9 January 1976 plus Nos 22, 23, 24.

Extract from letter sent to Mr Wilson on  
9 January plus Nos 22, 23, 24.

Parochial House  
Obins Street  
PORTADOWN  
9th January 1976

Dear Prime Minister,

I want to draw your attention to the following twenty one murders in the Portadown and adjoining areas. Twenty of the murdered were Catholics; the family of the twenty first is Catholic. These unsolved murders date back as far as 1972:

- 1 & 2 Francis & Bernadette Mullan (Married Couple) of Broughadoey, Moy were  
gunned down at their remote farmhouse on 5th August 1973. UNSOLVED
3. Denis Mullan was shot dead in his house at Aughanlig, Moy on 1st Sept 1975  
UNSOLVED
- 4 & 5 Peter & Jane McKearney (Husband & Wife) of Listanlet, Moy were murdered in  
their farmhouse on 23rd October 1975. UNSOLVED
6. Felix John Hughes of PORTADOWN disappeared on 13th July 1972. It is felt  
he was taken into a Protestant enclave and tortured. His weighed-down body  
was taken from a pond near PORTADOWN on 4th August 1972. On 15th May 1973  
a sixteen year old boy was ordered to be detained for a period of eight  
years. Where are the others involved in this murder? UNSOLVED
7. Patrick Connolly was killed when a grenade was thrown through his window  
at 6 Deramore Drive, PORTADOWN - an almost totally 'loyalist' enclave. His  
family have fully cooperated with the RUC - providing lists of intimidators  
and other useful information. UNSOLVED
8. Denis Gorman of Irish Street, PORTADOWN was found wounded and dying in  
Obins Street, PORTADOWN on 25th August 1973. UNSOLVED
9. Mrs Trainor was murdered as she was going to her home in Churchill Park,  
PORTADOWN on 1st April 1975. Her husband was seriously wounded in the same  
attack. UNSOLVED

10. [redacted] McVeigh of 279 Ballyoran Park, PORTADOWN was gunned down and died as he rode home on his bicycle from work at PORTADOWN on 3rd April 1975.  
UNSOLVED
- 11, 12 On 28th April 1975 gunmen burst into a Social Club at Bleary, PORTADOWN.  
& 13 They murdered Joseph Toman, Brendan O'Hara and John Feeney. UNSOLVED
- 14&15 On August 1st, 1975 a mini-bus returning from bingo was ambushed a few miles from PORTADOWN. As a result of this Joseph Toland and James Marks died. Five were seriously injured. UNSOLVED
16. A pub was bombed at Ballyhegan, PORTADOWN on 4th September 1975. Mrs Hall died as a result. UNSOLVED
17. Ronald Trainor (son of Mrs Trainor above) died early on the morning of 15th December 1975 after his home at 91 Ballyoran Park, PORTADOWN had been bombed. UNSOLVED
18. Seamus Mallon died after a Catholic owned business was blown up at Address, PORTADOWN on 26th December 1975. UNSOLVED
- 19,20 Declan and Barry O'Dowd (brothers) and Joseph O'Dowd (their uncle) were & 21 murdered when gunmen rushed into their home at Ballydougan, PORTADOWN on 4th January 1976 during a family celebration. UNSOLVED
22. Peter Woolsey, Cornascriebe, PORTADOWN, found murdered in his farm-yard - October 1976. UNSOLVED
23. Denis Kelly, 398 Ballyoran Park, PORTADOWN was gunned down and shot dead in day-light as he walked along the Armagh Road, PORTADOWN on 8th March 1978
24. Thomas Trainor, 422 Ballyoran Park, PORTADOWN (Son of No. 9 on list and brother of No. 17 on list) was shot dead as he walked along the Armagh Rd, PORTADOWN on 8th March 1978.