



Former head of RUC Special Branch told by Margaret Thatcher in Downing St. meeting regarding running agents involved in criminality and murder: “carry on and just don’t get caught”

Murder, lies, cover-up and impunity

Just who’ll report on the authors of the report?

Today a much-anticipated report, in some quarters, will become the focus of attention; the consequence of which could be enormous in terms of the wider political process. Whilst a panel has been appointed to publicly deliver this report it is acknowledged and accepted that it will be penned by the state’s intelligence agencies.

Of course hypocrisy and double standards are abound and plentiful. And let’s not forget that the very agencies writing the report have had their hands and fingerprints on numerous murders for which there has been no accountability.

People talk about a dirty war – here’s what we know the UK Government, through its intelligence service MI5, British army intelligence and RUC Special Branch, was involved in and what they collectively did with the evidence in order to conceal their actions.

Relatives for Justice has this morning set out **40 Quick Facts** readily and handily available (admittedly we could have had thousands) about the agencies that are writing this report. A very obvious question for our society is: Who’s going to report on these agencies?

Quote in Text Box - <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rte-documentary-uncovers-government-collusion-with-loyalist-paramilitaries-31296370.html>

40 Quick Facts

1. Bloody Sunday the guns are destroyed¹ once an inquiry is scheduled;
2. At Gough barracks, Armagh, police interview notes of those suspected to have been involved in multiple killings and also suspected to have been working for the various intelligence agencies, are destroyed²;
3. Also related to this are the ordered destruction of volumes of documents concerning intelligence linked to scores of killings, including by the SAS³;
4. The rubber bullet that killed 11-year-old Francis Rowntree, which was doctored and handed into the RUC at the time by West Belfast representative Paddy Devlin, was destroyed⁴ when RFJ asked for the case to be reopened;
5. In various police interrogation centers those involved in killings are also recruited as agents⁵ and put back out on the streets and into their paramilitary organizations rather than being processed through the courts;
6. And guess what? They continue killing;
7. In one infamous incident the payments to a notorious North Belfast loyalist killer were increased⁶ the more he killed;
8. That Special Branch and MI5, and other members of the security forces, regularly briefed their agents – those involved in murders – of the status of investigations by other police departments trying to solve these crimes⁷;
9. Some of these detectives speak of living in a culture of fear and threat of their lives and say publicly they fear Special Branch and the intelligence services more than the IRA⁸;
10. Intelligence agencies burned down the offices housing the Stevens Enquiry inside a secured police station during his investigations into collusion in a bid to obstruct⁹ and destroy all his evidence;

¹<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/mar/14/bloodysunday.northernireland>

² Relatives for Justice statement from May 20th 2003 following preliminary inquest hearing at which lawyers for the PSNI & MoD informed the coroner that documents had been destroyed following 'contamination by asbestos'; also reported on UTV news May 20th 2003 by Ivan Little

³ Ibid.

⁴ Letter from police, Feb 8th 2005, to RFJ Director stating bullet no longer exists & report by RFJ into killing, 2005

⁵ http://www.patfinucaneinquiry.com/archive/pat_finucane/2013-05-15_4.pdf
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2001/jun/14/northernireland.richardnortontaylor> - (Walker report on file with RFJ)

⁶ <https://www.policeombudsman.org/Investigation-Reports/Historical-Reports/Operation-Ballast-investigation-into-the-circumsta> - *Operation Ballast Report, Section 3. The Murder of Sharon McKenna. (13.1 - 13.49)*

⁷ Ibid. Section (23.1-23.14.)

⁸ <http://relativesforjustice.com/transcript-of-utv-insight-programme-re-walker-reporttranscript-of-utv-insight-programme-policing-the-police-part-one-commentary-%E2%80%A8the-divisions-in-northern-irish-society-have-clear-physical-ma/> (Part-two hears Ex- Chief Superintendent; "I fear the Special Branch more than I fear the Provisional IRA or the Real IRA.")

⁹ Steven Enquiry 3 Report April 17th 2003, Section 3, *Obstruction of my Enquiries*
<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/collusion/stevens3/stevens3summary.pdf>

11. British Army covert surveillance video recordings possibly identifying those involved in an attack on a home in Co. Tyrone where 76 year-old pensioner Rosanne Mallon is killed are destroyed¹⁰ once the inquest begins;
12. In the same inquest former Special Branch officers say they 'burnt' their note books¹¹;
13. Covert soldiers on the ground at the scene of this killing are ordered not to react¹² by their HQ when they witness and report the attack;
14. Nine undercover soldiers are present and observe the killing of Lurgan republican Sam Marshall by loyalists as he left a police station yet do not prevent the killing or apprehend those responsible¹³;
15. The Special Branch set-up their own secretive internal forensics and ballistics department that provides false information, effectively burying the chain of investigative evidence in 18 killings and two attempted killings¹⁴;
16. In the Loughinisland Massacre the largest exhibit, the car used in the attack that claimed six lives and that would have undoubtedly provided a treasure trove of forensic evidence, is destroyed¹⁵;
17. In the killing of two teenage boys in Armagh reports of a suspicious car containing two men turn out to be undercover soldiers¹⁶;
18. In this same attack forensic evidence is destroyed¹⁷;
19. As it becomes clear the gun used in the above attacks was of a type normally provided by the authorities to members of the 'security forces' for personal protection the ballistic evidence in the form of cartridges and bullets identifying who this weapon was registered to go 'missing'¹⁸;
20. The pattern of weapons allegedly going 'missing' from members of the 'security forces' and then being used in attacks and killings is so systemic that the figures beggar belief¹⁹;
21. Special Branch arranged for weapons to be taken from British Army armouries by agents and then used in loyalists murders²⁰;

¹⁰ <http://relativesforjustice.com/murder-lies-and-videotape/>

¹¹ <http://relativesforjustice.com/mallon-murder-weapon-linked-to-other-collusion-cases/>

¹² Disclosures from civil action by the Mallon family against the MoD reveal statements made by a number of covert soldiers who were ordered 'not to react' on reporting the shooting; (*statements on file with RFJ*)

¹³ <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/mar/05/british-army-loyalists-ira-report>

¹⁴¹⁴ <http://relativesforjustice.com/its-the-collusion-question-in-mallon-inquest/>

¹⁵ <http://krw-law.ie/the-loughinisland-massacre-collusion-and-cover-up-18th-june-1994-rfj-and-krw-law/>

¹⁶ Relatives for Justice report into the May 1994 murders of Armagh teenagers Gavin McShane & Shane McArdle 2015

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Figures on file with RFJ including parliamentary figures & UDR report: The Ulster Defence Regiment – The Loyalist Militia published by Sinn Féin Publicity Department 1991, Dublin 1, Ireland

²⁰ <http://relativesforjustice.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/S.Graham-Full-Report-Web.pdf> (*The recovery of the 9mm pistol Page 24 onwards*)

22. Weapons even go 'missing' from the forensic science labs only to be again used in murders by loyalists²¹;
23. MI5 agents within loyalism import a shipment of weapons from South Africa with the full knowledge of their MI5 handlers²²;
24. These weapons cause havoc and claim hundreds of lives that we have documented²³;
25. Paralleling this is the dissemination of thousands of intelligence records to loyalists paramilitaries containing the personal details of nationalists and republicans for targeting²⁴;
26. Republicans living in rural areas are arrested by Special Branch and told that loyalists will kill members of their families. MI5 representatives also make threats during these detentions. The relatives of republicans in rural areas are killed²⁵;
27. "Security force" surveillance cameras on interfaces and those monitoring nationalists districts are routinely switched off when attacks occur or are 'not working'²⁶;
28. Restriction orders prohibiting the presence of regular patrols are issued via the Task Coordinating Group (TCG) in order to facilitate collusive attacks²⁷;
29. Emergency calls to police are not responded to²⁸;
30. Medical professionals are obstructed in attending to those injured and dying²⁹;
31. Families are harassed³⁰;
32. Evidence is not collected from murder scenes³¹;
33. Those living under threat are denied access to publicly funded security provisions normally provided to safeguard against attacks³²;
34. The bereaved and injured have to conduct their own investigations³³;

²¹ RFJ and Doherty family correspondence, November 14th 2011, with police concerning the killing of Sean Doherty, August 30th 1975, in which the weapon used was from a batch of 100 weapons sized from loyalists that were subsequently 'stolen' from NI Forensic Science Laboratory (NIFSL)

²² <http://relativesforjustice.com/portfolio/collusion-report-1990-1994/> & RFJ Collusion lecture Féile An Phobail St Mary's College, Belfast August 4th 2015

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Documented statements from families on file with RFJ including RFJ publication; *Investigations –What Investigation?*

²⁶ Supra 21

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Statements of witnesses to community Inquiry into the killing of Patrick Shanaghan, Castlederg, Co Tyrone, September 1996

³⁰ <http://www.caj.org.uk/files/2013/02/26/No. 24 Adding insult to injury. 1994 .pdf>

³¹ Supra 21

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

35. And ironically they then become the target for 'security force' harassment and death threat³⁴. Lawyers representing families affected by state violence are threatened. Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson are killed;
36. De Silva report into the UK government sponsored killing of lawyer Pat Finucane states that 85 percent of all intelligence to loyalists came from the 'security forces'³⁵;
37. It was so dirty that these agencies even facilitated and permitted the killing of regular police officers and soldiers³⁶ in order to protect their agents within republican organizations;
38. During the recent inquest into the loyalist killing of Daniel McColgan it emerged that one of the guns used belonged to a member of the British army, RIR, and that seven cartridges sent to England for ballistic and forensic tests went 'missing'³⁷;
39. In the same inquest it is revealed that detectives ignored a person who was involved in the killing and who then presented himself to police. Hours later he was found dead at the foot of Cavehill after allegedly jumping off the cliff edge³⁸;
40. In the Wotton/McConville case it emerged that surveillance evidence from a bugging tracking device placed in the car belonging to Wotton exists. However, when lawyers for the pair seek the evidence the soldier responsible for retaining it is given time off during which the computer disk containing the information is erased³⁹.

These agencies continue their activities including within the courts on a daily basis, denying families the right to truth

Time For Truth

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³⁴ Ibid. & supra 29

³⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/246867/0802.pdf (Page 255 11.23 section: *The Scale and nature of leaks from the security forces page 251 onwards*)

³⁶ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b05x8gzs/panorama-britains-secret-terror-deals> & <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05v2g1r>

³⁷ <http://relativesforjustice.com/daniel-mccolgan-inquest-continuing/>

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ <http://relativesforjustice.com/daniel-mccolgan-inquest-continuing/>