

Dear Dr Richard Hass

Our experience of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET)

Our son and brother Seamus Simpson was shot and killed by the British Army August 11th 1971.

The British soldiers claimed that he was throwing a blast bomb at the time. It was a very difficult time for us.

In 2011 our family were given a witness statement which told us that Seamus didn't throw a blast bomb but was carrying a tricolour at the time he was shot.

We sought advice and support from Relatives for Justice to help us uncover the truth of what actually happened to Seamus.

With the help of Relatives for Justice we wrote a letter to a local paper asking for witnesses to Seamus' death to come forward and 6 individual people subsequently gave witness statements to Relatives for Justice.

We engaged with the HET to ask them to investigate Seamus case and we have been met with obstacles.

They initially informed us that they had carried out an enquiry into Seamus' death in 2006 on behalf of his widow Rosemary Simpson. We requested a copy of the report on the enquiry and they refused saying that Seamus' widow didn't want us to have a copy of it.

With support and legal advice from Relatives for Justice we mounted a legal challenge to compel the HET to give us a copy of the report into our son and brothers killing.

Seamus's widow Rosemary who is very ill, read about the ongoing legal challenge and sent a copy of the report to us, she informed us that she had never told HET that she didn't want the family to have a copy of the report, in fact she thought we had received a copy when it was completed.

We withdrew our legal challenge but my mother had to pay legal fees of £1000. We still have not received a copy of the report from the HET.

We as a family are totally dissatisfied with the treatment we received from HET. The enquiry just reviewed the British army (who killed our son and brother) documentary evidence and doctors statements of the time. There is no evidence that they questioned any of the British army personnel or that that sought any other evidence or witnesses. The HET should be disbanded, they are not impartial at all, we demand an impartial international body to deal with the past not another department of the state who killed our son and brother.

On behalf of the Simpson family