

LOUGHINISLAND

MASSACRE



COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP
COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP
COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP



COVER UP COLLUSION COVER UP



The Attack

On June 18th 1994, at approximately 10pm, UVF gunmen entered the Heights Bar Loughinisland killing six people and seriously injuring five.

The UVF gunmen knew that nationalists, the O'Toole family, owned the Heights Bar and those who frequented the bar were mostly Catholics. That the UVF attack took place as the opening game in the World Cup between Ireland and Italy was being played also ensured that the bar would have had a capacity crowd. For the killers, and those who planned the attack, this increased the likelihood of significant fatalities and casualties, as the intent was to kill as many Catholics as possible. Survivors described how the main gunman, masked and wearing a boiler-type suit and gloves, knelt down and pointing an automatic rifle opened fire spraying the bar in a few bursts of gunfire from the main entrance. The scene was described as one of sheer horror and carnage.

The two killers escaped in a red Honda Triumph Acclaim car driven by a third man. Emergency calls were immediately made as survivors and local people sought desperately to tend to the injured and dying – and administer prayers to those dead. Others immediately took details of the red Honda Triumph Acclaim and a description of the driver who was unmasked. These were provided to the RUC when they arrived.

34 year-old Adrian Rogan, 87 year-old Barney Green, 59 year-old Dan McCreanor, 39 year-old Eamon Byrne, 35 year-old Malcolm Jenkinson and 35 year-old Patsy OHare lay dead.

The tranquility of this rural County Down village, like the lives of all those affected that awful evening was now shattered and indelibly marked.

This attack was the focus of global media and political attention in the build-up to what was to become the peace process. But despite overwhelming evidence of who planned and carried out the attack, no one has ever been charged in connection with the killings.

This information/campaign leaflet sets out that evidence and seeks your support in establishing an independent investigation aimed at providing the truth and justice to the families, survivors and the public concerning the Loughinisland Massacre.

Red Honda Triumph Acclaim Car – the getaway car

- This car was supplied by an RUC agent known as 'Agent Mechanic' and referred to in the Police Ombudsman's Report as 'Person B'
- 'Agent Mechanic' is connected to the UVF's Mount Vernon gang in North Belfast and was involved with a series of UVF attacks and bombings
- He is a close associate of Special Branch agent Mark Haddock
- This same UVF gang were the subject of the, then Police Ombudsman's, Nuala O'Loan, report Operation Ballast
- 'Agent Mechanic' has never been arrested or questioned about his role in supplying the car used in the Loughinisland murders
- BBC Spotlight revealed that in 1997 Agent Mechanic' received a £10,000 payment from the RUC.
- After the attack the car was secreted a few miles away from the Heights Bar at Listooder. The car was found intact at 9.40am the next morning by a member of the public and reported to the RUC at 10.04am
- Within an hour of the discovery of car 'Agent Mechanic' was called by 'Police Officer 4' and that day they met.
- A note on the RUC file states that 'Agent Mechanic' is only to be contacted through his police handler – known as 'Police Officer 4'
- Astonishingly the RUC ordered the destruction of the car 10 months after the murders losing the potential of further forensics opportunities

Police Officer 11

- The location of where the car was recovered was close to the home of a then serving RUC officer.
- Known as 'Police Officer 11' this RUC officer was based in Downpatrick RUC station where the murder inquiry was based
- Police Officer 11' provided the personal details of an eye-witness, who could identify the driver of the getaway car, to the uncle of this same suspect
- Police Officer 11 is the only serving police officer to ever be arrested for collusion.
- Despite the facts set out above, he has never been charged.

The Driver of the getaway car – 'Person X'

- The police are in receipt of information advising as to the identity of the getaway driver of the red Honda Triumph Acclaim. Person X is a convicted paedophile and high level drugs trafficker.
- In a separate development lawyers acting for the Loughinisland families received official documentation that shows that 'Person X' benefitted from a Royal Prerogative of Mercy from the then British Secretary of State, the late Mo Mowlam.
- The Police Ombudsman has refused to investigate this matter.
- Person X was also arrested and charged in relation to another loyalist murder in March 1998, that of David Keys, but was not convicted.
- Person X has never been arrested in relation to his involvement in this atrocity.

Person 'G'

- The Police Ombudsman's Report shows, Ref: (5.66), that in July 1994 information was received by the RUC that 'Person G' had been involved in the Loughinisland murders.
- However, 'Person G' was not arrested in relation to the Loughinisland murders until August 17th 1999 - five years and one month after the information was received as to his involvement.
- 'Person G' was also arrested in relation to possession of loyalist weapons, "shortly after the the Heights Bar murders" and was released without charge - Ref: (5.66).
- Inexplicably no forensic samples were taken from 'Person G'. The Police Ombudsman's investigation was unable to establish reasons or rationale for not taking forensic samples from 'Person G' - Ref: (5.95).
- The Loughinisland families and survivors fear that 'Person G' was/is a serving member of the security forces as a report from the Press Association on 20th June 1994 reported that a number of RIR soldiers were "being interrogated at Gough Barracks by detectives investigating loyalist paramilitary attacks"

Weapons

The weapons used in the attack were a VZ 58 replica AK47 automatic rifle & a Browning Pistol.

These weapons originate from a shipment of weapons imported from South Africa during the apartheid regime for loyalists by MI5 through their agent Brian Nelson.

Several weeks after the attack the weapons used were found by workmen at nearby Listooder Road. This find included boiler-suits, balaclavas, gloves and ammunition.

This created further forensic opportunities which included the recovery of a hair follicle. Given the significant developments in forensic science it is incredulous that the RUC and PSNI have been unable to maximize this potential.

The Police Ombudsman in his report-Ref : (7.9) states "that the failings identified in this report indicate a lack of effective leadership and investigative diligence. There has been a lack of co-ordination and commitment to pursue relentlessly all investigative opportunities to bring these persons to justice"

The Police Ombudsman's Report, Ref: (5.78 & 5.79), reveals the very same weapons used in Loughinisland were also used in three other murders and three attempted murders by loyalists. The RUC and the PSNI have repeatedly refused to state which murders and attempted murders as has the Police Ombudsman. This failure contrasts starkly with information frequently provided in other cases and thus the families, survivors, and public are left with an investigative information gap which raises even more questions.



Loughinisland Massacre – the shocking cover-up

- Murders sanctioned by UVF leader, who the media has alleged as being a Special Branch agent
- The car used in the attack was supplied by another RUC agent from North Belfast's Mount Vernon UVF
- The murder inquiry team did not arrest or interview this agent
- Getaway car, weapons, ammunition, boiler-suits, balaclavas – including a hair follicle - and gloves – a forensic treasure trove – all found intact, yet not one person ever charged.
- Indeed the getaway car destroyed soon after by RUC – forensic opportunities lost forever.
- RUC officer perverts the course of justice by passing on the details of an eyewitness to a relative of a main suspect
- Failure to arrest main suspect despite information received immediately after the attack
- Major delay of up to 3-years in making arrests after new forensic evidence received
- A litany of forensic failings including no DNA samples of main suspects.
- No proper forensic examination of murder scene
- No forensic examination of scene of where the getaway car is left
- Original interview notes of key suspects destroyed by the police
- Weapons used are supplied by MI5 to loyalists via Brian Nelson
- Same weapons used in further 3 murders and 3 attempted murders
- RUC – PSNI & Police Ombudsman refuse to say which murders and attacks
- Senior RUC Investigating Officer involved in Loughinisland murder inquiry refuse to cooperate with Police Ombudsman – why?
- British Government provide Royal Prerogative of Mercy to one of the suspected killers concerning his involvement in other serious crimes
- Police Ombudsman refuses to use Cory definition of collusion in Loughinisland Massacre

Campaign Demands

- A statement of acknowledgement of the failings of original investigation into Loughinisland by the Chief Constable, the British Secretary of State & the Dept of Justice**
- A fresh Independent Investigation**
- That the investigation must have the full cooperation of the police and intelligence agencies**
- And that the investigation have oversight by judicial, legal and human rights experts ensuring state and police cooperation**

What Can I Do?

Please write raising the concerns and supporting these campaign demands to;

- The British Prime Minister
- An Taoiseach
- The British Secretary of State
- The PSNI Chief Constable
- The Minister for Policing & Justice
- The Chair on the Committee for Justice Stormont
- The Chair & Vice Chair of the Policing Board
- The Human Rights Committee Policing Board
- Your elected representative - MLA, MP, TD, MEP, Cllr, Congress representative, Senator
- Church & Civic Leaders
- The media

For further information -contact details

The Loughinisland Justice Group can be contacted via; Mr. Niall Murphy, Kevin R Winters & Co, Queen St Belfast BT1 1HB
Tel: 02890 241888 or niallm@kevinwinters.com
Or Mark Thompson
C/O Relatives for Justice 235a Falls Rd Belfast BT12 4PE

COINCIDENCE OR COLLUSION ? – YOU DECIDE



Police Ombudsman redefining collusion – moving the goalposts

The families and survivors are alarmed that the Police Ombudsman has sought to redefine collusion effectively setting a threshold way beyond that established previously by Sir John Stevens and Justice Peter Cory.

The Police Ombudsman previously operated to the definition of collusion set out by Canadian Supreme Court Judge – Justice Peter Cory – who was appointed by both governments to investigate collusion in a number of cases.

In examining collusion the first task that Justice Cory did

Gough Barracks Asbestos: The States Convenient Shredding Machine ?

- Ref: (5.124 None of the original notes, made during interviews of suspects between 1994 and 1995 in the Heights Bar murder investigation, has been recovered by the Police Ombudsman's investigation. In 1998 documents were destroyed as a result of contamination by asbestos at Gough Police Office. It is believed that the original notes were amongst these.
- In a number of preliminary inquest hearings into direct state killings and other controversial