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Mr Laurence Robertson MP
Chairperson
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

September 7th 2015

Correspondence by email

Dear Mr Robertson,

We wrote to you during the last term of parliament requesting that the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) examine the matter of collusion between the UK's security forces and intelligence agencies with illegal groups, in particular with loyalist paramilitaries.

I again emailed the Clerk to the committee more recently regarding our initial correspondence. As yet we have not had a reply.

Since we wrote to you several investigative documentary programmes by the BBC London, BBC NI, and RTE, have been aired further shining a light on illegal collusive activity. These have included awful acts of murder of citizens from across the community and religious divide. The programmes also examined collusive acts that have taken the lives of regular members of the security forces.

We also note that you are about to hold hearings on the supply of explosives and weapons by the former Libyan regime to the IRA.

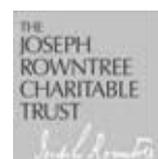
We believe that the matters relating to this hearing and that of collusion are also connected albeit incomplete focusing only on one organization. Nevertheless in this instance State recruited and run agents within the ranks of the IRA have;

1. Used the imported Libyan arsenal directly by participating in attacks;
2. Were part of providing intelligence for attacks using these weapons;
3. Planned actual attacks;
4. Provided these weapons for bugging and 'deactivation' that were subsequently used with effect to kill police officers, soldiers and civilians;

And agent handlers were;

5. Privy to key steps and decisions taken by agents such as Freddie Scappaticci, and others, during the detention, interrogation and killing of alleged agents within the IRA using these weapons;
6. Aware of the location of key IRA arms dumps containing the Libyan semtex and weapons yet either (a) chose not to seize these; (b) bugged the weapons and put the locations under covert surveillance without preventable actions; (c) permitted their use;
7. Further the same agencies involved thwarted investigations by the CID into these instances post the attacks;

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8. Destroyed evidence, including forensic and ballistic evidence;
9. Protected those responsible.

Agent handlers within the Special Branch, British Army Intelligence and the Security Service MI5 all took decisions contrary to rule of law and rather than thwarting attacks and preventing the inevitable loss of life they permitted attacks to take place. Further the evidence demonstrates that attacks were even facilitated in order to protect 'sources' and 'agents'.

Given the establishment of the facts as presented publicly and consistently in terms of legal culpability, including compensatory/reparatory measures being sought by way of your current inquiry for victims bereaved and injured from the use of the Libyan arsenal, then surely the British government must also bear a significant contribution towards financial reparations.

We would welcome the opportunity to present more authoritatively on this matter, citing and referencing specifically the cases related to the key points outlined herein including through the disclosure and discovery of key evidential material from court hearings, and to take forward our initial request that the NIAC hold without any further delay an inquiry into the practice of collusion that has so affected our entire society.

We are also in contact with and supporting a range of people who wish to present their own testimony from those bereaved and injured from across the community to former members of the security forces.

Finally it would be a serious omission if the NIAC were to hold an inquiry that examined the impacts on victims of the Libyan armaments only. The importation and use of weapons imported from the South African regime in the late 1980's that armed Ulster Resistance, the UDA and UVF and that led to an unprecedented sectarian onslaught against the nationalist and republican community with hundreds of killings involved agents of the State; most notable being Brian Nelson who travelled to South Africa to assist in organizing the shipment. Others too were arrested and detained in Paris along with South African diplomats.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Mark Thompson
Director
Relatives for Justice