

Relatives for Justice - CEO's Report

U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION CONGRESSIONAL HEARING REPORT MARCH 2018
& JANUARY 2018 ACH SPONSORED VISIT



Congressional Hearing Tuesday 22nd March 2018

The hearing was the result of AOH lobbying from the earlier January visit, with the emphasis of addressing British bad faith concerning the implementation of legacy agreements.

Both US visits focused on the UK failure to implement key legacy mechanisms agreed at Stormont House including additional concerns post that agreement.

These included; draft legislation that contained a 'national security veto', a proposed amnesty via a statute of limitations for UK armed forces, failure to fund plans by the LCJ so that legacy inquests could proceed proper, a rearguard attack on the Police Ombudsman, and after 17 years the ongoing UK failure to adhere to Article 2 investigative procedures - this arising from the ECtHR May 2001 ruling, McKerr & others, in which the CoE/CoM Execution of Judgments has refused to sign off on their supervision of the UK following that ruling.

The hearing examined these issues in the wider context of **The GFA at 20 - Achievements & Unfinished Business** - accountability for past crimes, including collusion, dealing with the legacy of the past, victims and survivors, healing and recovery, and police reform.

Also testifying were Brian Gormley of the CAJ and AOH President Judge James McKay. In addition to the hearing Congressman Smith moved a resolution to the floor of the Congress - Res. 777 - in support of the GFA and ongoing work aimed at securing progress on these as yet outstanding matters concerning truth, justice and accountability. A copy of RFJ's submission @ <http://relativesforjustice.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Testimony-by-Mark-Thompson-RFJ-to-Helsinki-Commission-March-22-2018.pdf>



Congressman Chris Smith Helsinki Commission & RFJ CEO Mark Thompson

Direct link below to Helsinki Commission site with video of testimony by all three witnesses:

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/good-friday-agreement-20>

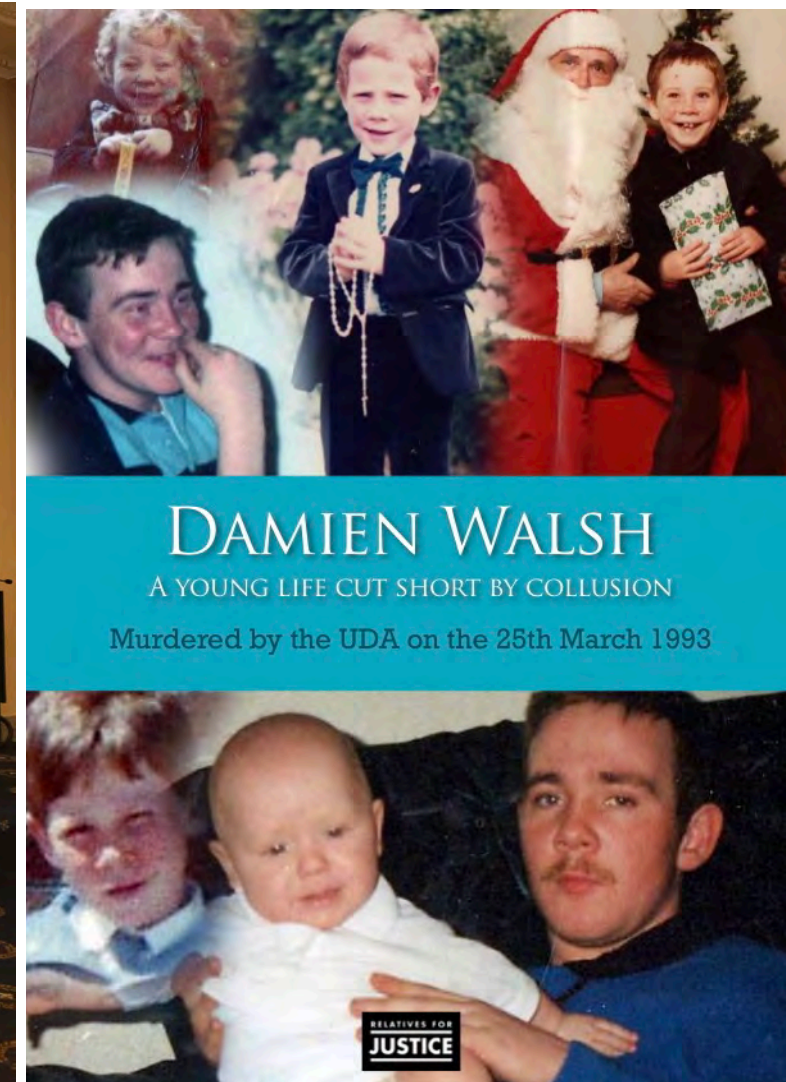
Present for the hearing alongside Co-Chairman Smith were Senator Ben Cardin and Representative Brendan Boyle.

Read into the record, additional written evidence, were submissions by Geraldine Finucane updating on the legal challenge this June at the UK Supreme Court concerning the UK's refusal to hold an inquiry into the murder of human rights lawyer Pat Finucane.

RFJ also submitted a copy of a recent report into the 1993 murder of 17 year old Damien Walsh, which was launched on the 25th anniversary of his murder the Sunday following the hearing.



Seated view from which RFJ CEO gave his testimony during Helsinki Commission, Security & Cooperation in Europe, Hearing - Families prominent and always to the fore of what we do. Copy cover of report into Damien's murder - <http://relativesforjustice.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Damien-Walsh-Report-MAR-2018-Final.pdf>



Our particular thanks to Chris Smith and his team for their constant vigilance in promoting and safeguarding human rights and to AOH National President, Judge James McKay, Sean Pender, Jere Cole and other National AOH Board members who secured the hearing.

REPORTING BACK - AOH SPONSORED VISIT & U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING

Briefing & Building Support

Following the hearing Malachy McAllister and myself met with and briefed senior staffers and advisors from the offices of Congress Representatives Joe Crowley, Brendan Boyle, Peter King, and Senators Chuck Schumer and Robert Menendez.

Malachy, a Belfast native, was himself a victim of collusion in an attack on his family home in 1988 by loyalists.

Malachy is referred to in the De Silva Review as T12 - that is Target 12 - for assignation by UK State agents.

That disclosure, official admission, confirms that previously the UK lied to a US Federal Court in their bid to have Malachy and his family ejected from the US.

(L/R below) - RFJ CEO Mark Thompson & Lane Bodian of Senator Schumer's office.

Malachy McAllister and Alice Lugo of Senator Menendez's office.



Malachy, his wife Bernadette and their four children, fled Belfast after the attack. Initially they went to Canada where they soon established themselves but this was short lived as the UK authorities exerted their reach into their former dominion - commonwealth.

The McAllister's crossed the border to the US where they sought sanctuary.

However, intent on forcing U.S. authorities to evict them the UK used every available means including deliberately lying to a Federal Judge saying that collusion was republican propaganda and that they were not

behind the attack, which is now shown beyond doubt to be the case.

That said, and after almost 20 years, the McAllister family still live year to year with the uncertainty of whether or not they'll be deported.

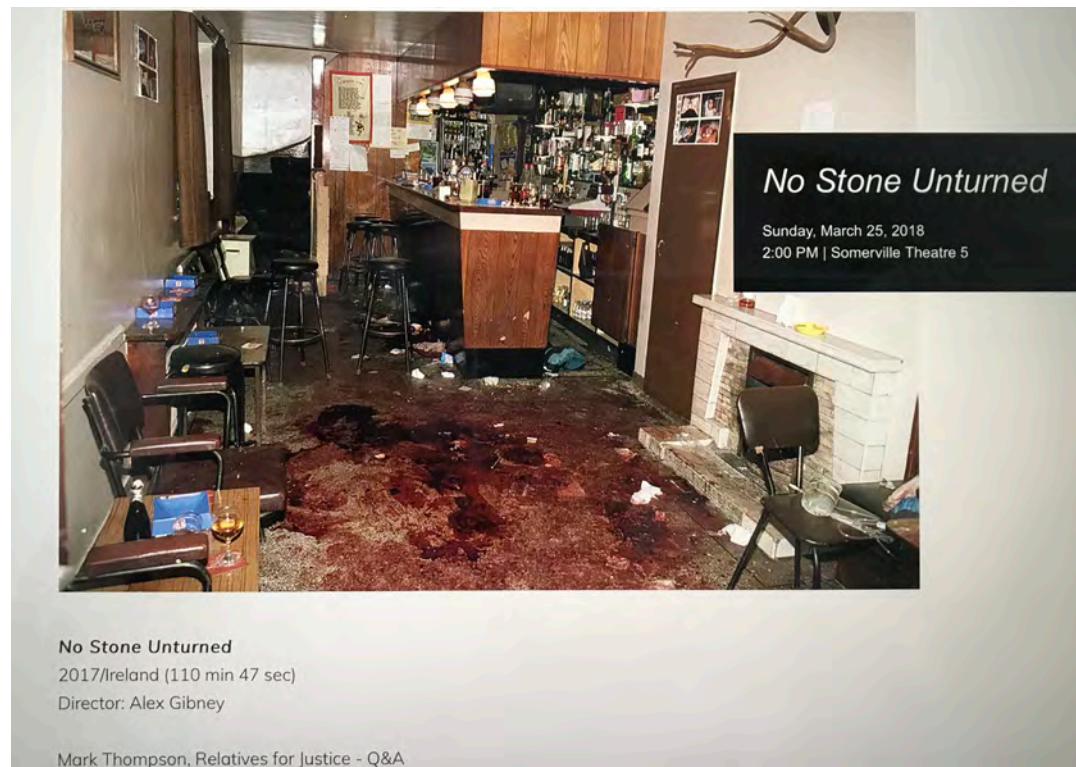
Nearly 50 Representatives of the U.S. Congress and Senate have supported the position that they should remain in the U.S.

Such is the toll that Bernadette died several years ago from cancer, brought on no doubt by the stress and anxiety of the uncertainty, the fear of returning and being further targeted.



*Malachy with Representative
Brendan Boyle*

REPORTING BACK - AOH SPONSORED VISIT & U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING



No Stone Unturned - Irish Film Festival - Q&A Boston

With the trains down for the DC hearing and having to navigate through the snow and ice from the early hours it was an equally early start for the 6.20am train to Boston from Newark, NJ.

The Somerville Theatre was the venue with a packed house for the acclaimed documentary-film into the June 18th 1994 Loughinisland massacre. The audience was visibly moved, some to tears, angry about what had happened, educated about collusion, and above all keen to do what they could to support the families. Plans are already afoot for further screenings and talks with Boston native Michael P McDonald.



USEFUL LINKS

No Stone Unturned link to purchase, rent, watch DVD via Amazon

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/video/detail/B078HFQG7J>

Link to Congressman Chris Smith's GFA House Resolution 777 - and accompanying statement: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/777/text>

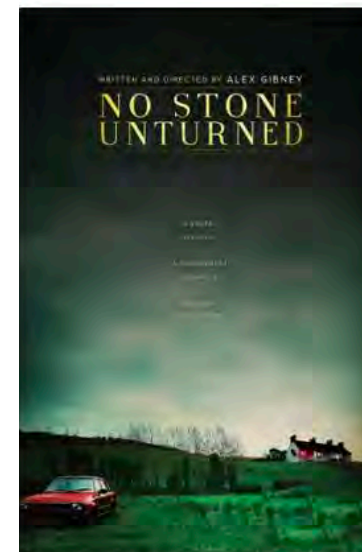
www.relativesforjustice.com

Twitter: @RelsForJustice

Facebook: Relativesforjustice

No Stone Unturned

Fine Point Films (2017) 15



Director

Alex Gibney

Runtime

1h 51m

AOH Freedom for All-Ireland rallies to RFJ & the cause of families

Thompson to Speak in NYC

MARK Johnson, the head of the Belfast-based Relatives for Justice group, will travel to the U.S. this week for meetings and public events with the aim of securing American help to break the deadlock and get justice for legacy victims' families in the North.

Terming "American pressure on the British now critical",

Thompson's tour comes just after British Secretary of State James Brokenshire resigned due to health concerns, and the one-year anniversary of the collapse of the Stormont Assembly. A press release from the AOH says that Thompson will appeal for American help at five public events, and in meetings with elected officials.

"Over the past 25 years Thompson and Relatives for Justice, have fought for the victims killed by British crown forces and their loyalist criminal agents, where there seemed no chance for justice," the press release added.

"Recently Mark Thompson and Relatives for Justice filed a formal complaint to the Police Ombudsman on behalf of the family of American citizen, long time Bronx resident and respected member of New York's Irish community, Liam Ryan, murdered two years after purchasing the Battery Bar in his native Tyrone.

"Now as the British try to give their troopers and constabulary an amnesty while starving inquest courts and Ombudsmen investigators of needed funding, Thompson is making an emergency appeal for American help."

The tour has the support of a number of Irish American groups, led by the AOH. Thompson will speak on Wednesday, Janu-



Mark Thompson.

ary 10 at the Suffolk County AOH Division 2 Hall, 27 Locust Avenue in Babylon, Long Island at 8 p.m., hosted by New York State AOH President Victor Vogel.

The following night he will speak at Wolfe Tone's, 37 East 29th Street in New York, from 6-9 p.m., with a suggested donation of \$25.

On the 12th, he will be in Rockland County at Hibernian House, 28 Railroad Avenue, Pearl River at 7 p.m.

On the 13th he will visit the AOH hall, 375 Ontario Avenue in Albany, where the Father Murphy award will be presented to Ciaran Geraghty, past AOH New York State Freedom for All Ireland chair.

Thompson's final public event will be at the Quiet Man on the 14th, at 15 North Division Street, Peekskill at 3 p.m., hosted by Dan Dennehy.

AOH Freedom for All-Ireland (FFAI) January 2108 Trip

New York State AOH FFAI Committee organised an emergency trip early January with five speaking engagements; Wolfe Tone Irish pub Manhattan, Suffolk County, Long Island, Pearl River, Rockland County, Albany, and finishing at Peekskill NY.

An estimated 600 hundred people attended events with a number of briefing meetings in between. This lobby led directly to the Congressional Hearing.

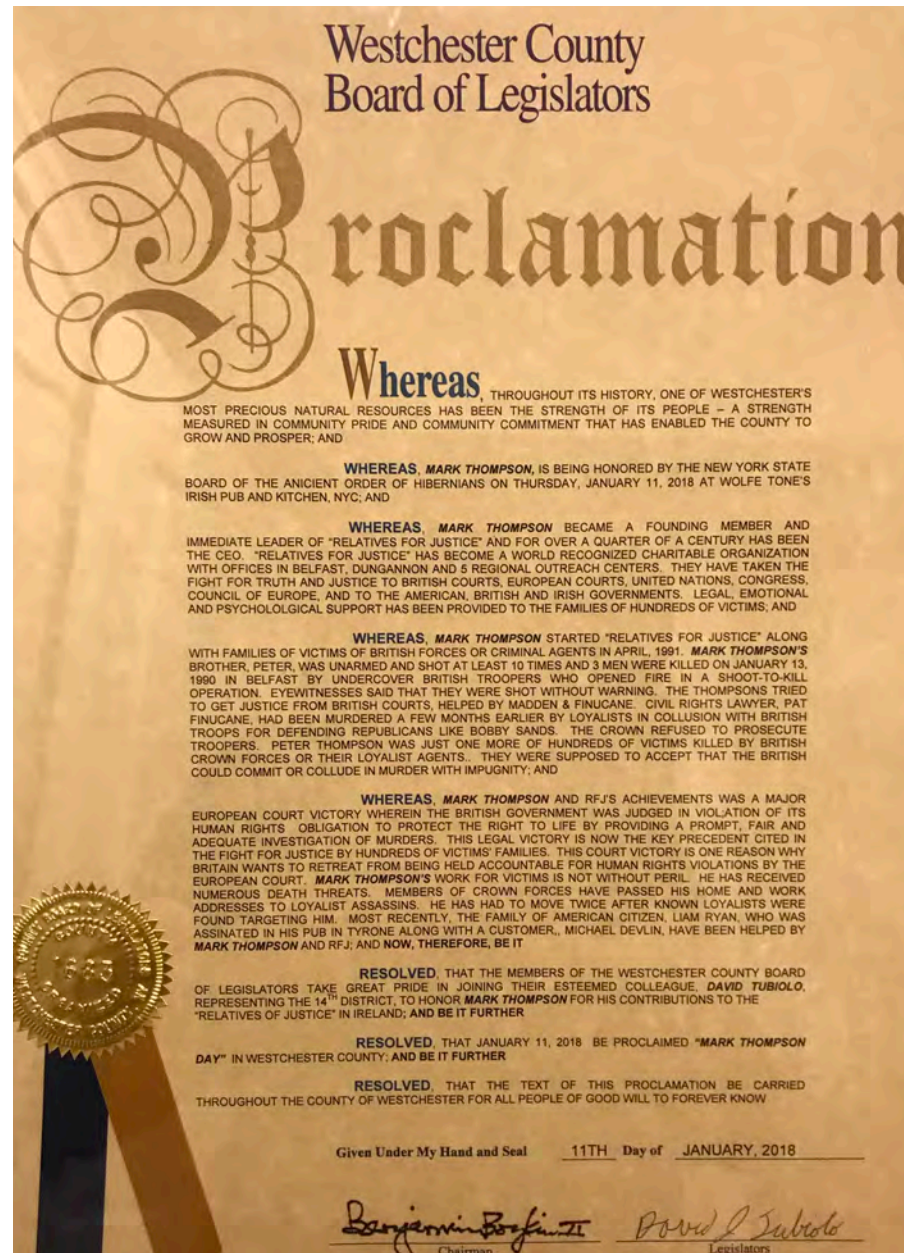
NY State President Vic Vogel and FFAI Chair Martin Galvin put together the trip and key AOH National Board members Sean Pender, Jere Cole, Dan Dennehey, and John Manning, as well as Chris Thompson, Jeff Nisler and others, were on hand to help out, which they certainly did. A huge thanks to Martin and Vic.

Too numerous to mention are all the folks who kindly gave their time, commitment and energy to ensure the trip was a massive success - those who organised, housed, fed, drove, and kindly hosted me, and supported our work and cause.

There are several blogs from that trip on our website www.relativesforjustice.com

RFJ were awarded several prestigious proclamations for our human rights work from the NY State Assembly, the President of the Borough of the Bronx, Westchester County Board of Legislators, including having a day named in honour of our work in Rockland County.

JUST TWO OF THE MANY ENDORSEMENTS OF RFJ'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY & SUPPORT WORK



RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE USA - A 501 (C) (3) NOT FOR PROFIT U.S. REGISTERED CHARITABLE NGO - INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

RFJ-USA

Relatives for Justice USA is a not for profit 501 (c) (3) U.S. registered NGO in the U.S.

RFJ-USA seeks to fund raise in the U.S. to help assist with much of the therapeutic, family support and activity based work with those bereaved and injured as a direct result of the conflict in Ireland.

All donations by U.S. citizens are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

We welcome any and all donations which are greatly appreciated.

For further details please contact:

info@relativesforjustice.com

