



INNOCENT

Remembering 15 June 2010, reactions to the Saville Report on Bloody Sunday



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BLOODY SUNDAY
Set the Truth Free 

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bloody Sunday Family Support Programme wish to express our sincere gratitude to the countless unsung heroes in the city and beyond who supported the campaign for justice over many hard years. Their selfless contribution eased the burden of the families and made it possible for the truth to be set free on that momentous day in June 2010. For their efforts on the day we would like to thank the following: Dave Duggan, Maolíosa Boyle, Raymond McCartney, Robin Percival, Eamonn McCann, Christine Bell, Colum Eastwood, Conal McFeely, Adrian Kerr,

Colm Barton, Bishop Edward Daly, Paul McFadden, Eimear O’Callaghan, the Bloody Sunday Weekend Committee, Pat Finucane Centre, Cúnamh, Wave, Void Gallery, Guildhall Press, *the Derry Journal*, Derry City Council, E&I Engineering.

The families wish to thank Julieann Campbell and Mickey McKinney for their dedicated work through the Support Programme funded by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Creggan Enterprises.

Many thanks to Hugh Gallagher for his images of the day.



Conal McFeely – Bloody Sunday Trust

On the afternoon of 30 January 1972, Barney McGuigan kissed his wife, Bridie, and left to go on a civil rights march. The decision was to cost him his life. Barney was one of the thirteen men shot dead by paratroops on what the world was to call ‘Bloody Sunday’ (a fourteenth victim, John Johnston, died four months later). The subsequent inquiry into the atrocity, chaired by Lord Widgery and published in April 1972, compounded tragedy with travesty, concluding that there was a strong suspicion that some of the deceased had been handling weapons or bombs.

That stain on the dead men’s reputation was to linger for almost forty years until, on 15 June 2010, they were all fully and finally exonerated by a British Prime Minister. On that day, David Cameron announced to the House of Commons the findings of an unprecedented second inquiry under Lord Saville: “What happened on Bloody Sunday was both unjustified and unjustifiable. It was wrong.”

Those of us who were on the original march always knew that truth, but the world had to hear it as well. It was typical of the Bloody Sunday families – sequestered in the Guildhall – that they stole David Cameron’s thunder and broke the news themselves to the people of Derry, by giving ‘thumbs up’ signs to the

thousands waiting expectantly in the square below. My own abiding memory of that historic day is of relative after relative, victim after victim, repeating the word **Innocent** to the jubilant throng.

It has been a privilege for me to accompany the families on their long and painful walk to vindication. Their tenacity and dignity has inspired all of us in the Bloody Sunday Trust, and will inspire other communities – in Ireland and beyond – to believe that truth can be set free.

The Saville Report brought comfort to the majority of the bereaved and wounded, although it continues to tarnish the reputation of one of the victims – my own good friend, Gerry Donaghey.

The families can rest now that the truth has been set free and the innocence of their loved ones has been acknowledged officially. It is for others to ensure that justice – the outstanding demand of the Bloody Sunday campaign – is also delivered.

After Saville’s findings were announced, Bridie McGuigan captured the mood simply but beautifully when she spoke to the expectant crowd in Guildhall Square on that warm summer’s day:

*‘The heavens wept when Barney was buried;
the sun shone when his name was cleared.’*



Mickey McKinney – Chair of Proceedings Guildhall Square, Derry

My name is Mickey McKinney. My twenty-seven-year-old brother Willie McKinney was murdered by British paratroopers on Bloody Sunday.

This is a historic day for Derry and I would like to thank you all for your patience as we have all had patience over the past thirty-eight years, but today the waiting has come to an end. This has been a very challenging and traumatic time for the families and the wounded.

Tony Doherty – Collective Family Response Guildhall Square, Derry

Unjustified and unjustifiable.

Those are the words we have been waiting to hear since 30 January 1972 and I think, Derry, you have been absolutely brilliant in this.

The victims of Bloody Sunday have been vindicated and the Parachute Regiment has been disgraced. Their medals of honour have to be removed. Widgery's great lie has been laid bare. The truth has been brought home at last.

It can now be proclaimed to the world that the dead and the wounded of Bloody Sunday, civil rights marchers, were innocent one and all, gunned down in their own streets by soldiers who had been given to believe they could kill with perfect impunity. The Parachute Regiment are the front-line assassins for Britain's political and military elite. The report of the Saville Tribunal confirms this. It was the paras' mission in Derry to massacre people they thought of as enemies of the state. They will have known that murder is what was expected of them when they erupted onto our streets.

Bloody Sunday wounded Derry very, very badly. We may hope that from today we can begin to bind up those wounds. But we recognise, too, that the issues arising from the Report go wider and deeper than Derry's concerns. When the state kills its citizens it is the interests of all that those responsible be held to account. It is not just Derry, or one section of the people of Derry, it is democracy itself which needs to know what happened here on 30 January 1972. The British people need to know. The Irish people need to know. The world now knows.



We could not have done this without your encouragement and support. We know that we stand here today among friends.

Our campaign in the first instance was for justice for our loved ones. But we didn't fight only for ourselves. We have tried to stand in the place of others who have suffered the same grief and the same grievous wrong at the hands of unaccountable power and who may never win any official inquiry, who may never have their truth told. We are mindful of the victims of the Ballymurphy massacre by men of the Parachute Regiment in August 1971, of the families of the two men murdered by the paras on the Shankill Road in September 1972. And of all families bereaved by the paratroopers and other state forces over the course of this bloody conflict. And of all who have died here, from whatever background, at whomever's hand.

Bloody Sunday was the price the Bogside paid for Free Derry. So it is, always and everywhere. Just as the civil rights movement of forty years ago was part of something huge happening all over the world, so the repression that came upon us was the same as is suffered by ordinary people everywhere who dare stand up against injustice. Sharpville. Grozny. Tiananmen Square. Dafur. Fallujah. Gaza. Let our truth stand as their truth too.

Bloody Sunday was a great injustice. But the fight for truth and justice has also been an inspiration to us and to the people of Derry. It has deepened our sense of who we are and made us more aware that we are also citizens of the world. Nobody who struggles for justice will be a stranger here. Nobody who dies in the struggle for justice will be forgotten here. Thank you, Derry.



INDIVIDUAL FAMILY RESPONSES

Duddy Family – Gerry Duddy

My name is Gerry Duddy, brother of Jackie Duddy. Over thirty-eight years ago, a young man, my brother Jackie, in Saville's own words: "was running away from the soldiers when he was shot and at that time he was posing no threat of death or serious injury to anyone."

Widgery destroyed our loved ones' good name – today we cleared them. I am delighted to say – Jackie was innocent.



Gilmour Family – Bernard Gilmour

My name is Bernard Gilmour and that's my brother Hugh. He was shot going over the barricade on Bloody Sunday by Private U. He was seventeen years of age – and innocent.



Kelly Family – Kathleen Cooley

My name is Kathleen Cooley. Michael was my brother; he was murdered on Bloody Sunday. Quoting Saville: "We are sure that the soldier fired either in the belief that no one at the barricade was posing a threat or not caring if anyone at the barricade was posing such a threat."

It's been almost four decades since our brother Michael was killed. Today the truth has been told. I say now to my little brother Michael and my loving mother and father, at last you can rest in peace forever.



McDaid Family – John McDaid

My name is John McDaid. Michael was my younger brother who was murdered on the streets of Derry on Bloody Sunday. Quoting from Saville: "Michael was going to the aid of William Nash, we are sure he was not armed with any weapon."

Thank you for your attention.



Nash Family – Kate Lyons

Some thirty-eight years ago, a story went around the world concocted by General Mike Jackson. He said there were gunmen and bombers on our streets and they were shot and killed. Today that lie has been uncovered.

My name is Kate Nash, sister of William Nash and daughter of Alex Nash. Quoting Saville: "As to the shooting on Rossville Street which caused the deaths of William Nash, John Young and Michael McDaid, Corporal P claimed he aimed at a man with a pistol, Soldier J at a man with a nail-bomb and Soldier P at a man with a pistol. We reject each of these claims as knowingly untrue. We are sure that the soldier who shot and injured Alex Nash while he was tending his dead son Willie at the barricade could not have believed that he identified him as posing a threat or causing serious death or injury."

My brother William – we know he was innocent, we have always known he was innocent. Now the world knows.



Young Family – Leo Young

My name is Leo Young, brother of John who was murdered on Bloody Sunday and who has now been vindicated as innocent. John Young was going to the aid of William Nash when he was shot. We are sure he was not armed with any lethal weapon. John Young was innocent.



McElhinney Family – Jean Hegarty

My name is Jean Hegarty; I'm the big sister to Kevin McElhinney. Quoting Lord Saville: "Kevin McElhinney was shot as he was crawling away from soldiers. These shots were not fired in fear or panic. He posed no danger to life or danger of injury."

Thirty-eight years, four months, fifteen days, almost to the minute – Kevin is innocent.



W McKinney Family – Joe McKinney

I'm Joe McKinney, one of the brothers of Willie McKinney who was murdered on Bloody Sunday. In the words of Lord Saville: "Willie McKinney was shot in the back by an aimed shot and fatally wounded. There was no evidence and no-one has suggested that Willie McKinney was in possession of any form of weapon."

Our brother, Willie McKinney, is innocent.



Wray Family – Liam Wray

My name is Liam Wray, speaking on behalf of the Wray family. Our brother Jim – while trying to exit Glenfada Park to a place of safety – was specifically targeted while posing no threat and shot in the back. As he lay there defenceless, he was deliberately shot again. The Saville Report stated clearly that there was no justification for either of these two shots.

This Inquiry has vindicated the Wray family and much more so, the people of Derry. We always knew the truth and now the world knows the truth. Jim was murdered. Jim was innocent. And to the Derry people, the Wray family's gratitude could never be expressed in words alone. Thank you.



Donaghey Family – Geraldine Doherty

My name is Geraldine Doherty. I am the niece of Gerald Donaghey. Today the world has been told my uncle was innocent. He was murdered by Soldier G as he was trying to get away to safety. Lord Saville has said that there was no justification for his shooting. He was only seventeen. Innocent.



G McKinney Family – Regina McLaughlin

My name is Regina McLaughlin; I am the daughter of Gerry McKinney who was murdered on Bloody Sunday. I'm doing this for Mammy, for Kevin, for Aileen, Tracey, Martine, Fred, Mairead, Daddy's brothers and sisters and in memory of our brother Gerry. Our father has been declared innocent this day by Lord Saville. I quote: "In our view, Private G deliberately targeted Gerry McKinney in Abbey Park. Private G denied firing in Abbey Park, but we are sure that he did so. We conclude that Private G neither had, nor could have believed that he had, any justification for shooting Gerry McKinney, a person who was not posing any threat of causing death or serious injury."

My father is innocent.

Doherty Family – Glenn Doherty

My name is Glenn Doherty; I'm the son of Patrick Doherty. Quoting from Saville: "Patrick Doherty was shot as he crawled away from danger by Lance Corporal F. Lance Corporal F did not fire in a state of fear or panic."

My father was innocent.

McGuigan Family – Charlie McGuigan

My name is Charlie McGuigan; I'm the son of Barney McGuigan. The Saville Report has found today that Soldier F is found to have unlawfully killed Barney McGuigan. Saville adds Barney McGuigan was not doing anything that could have justified his killing... the Inquiry has found that Soldier F falsified his accounts of the day and did not shoot in a state of panic or fear. Quoting Saville: "We are sure Soldier F killed Barney McGuigan from a kneeling position."

Barney McGuigan posed no threat whatsoever and would be celebrating his eightieth birthday tomorrow, were it not for Soldier F.

The truth is out – Barney is innocent.

Johnston Family – Jimmy Duddy

My name is Jimmy Duddy, nephew of Johnny Johnston, the oldest shot on Bloody Sunday. Johnny died a few months afterwards from his injuries. My father John Duddy had worked with the other families for thirty-eight years to get the truth, sadly he passed away in May this year. Like so many others of the families, never to see his loved one cleared and the lies told against them proven to be lies. Johnny, like everybody else, was innocent.



ON BEHALF OF THE WOUNDED

Caroline O'Donnell

My name is Caroline O'Donnell and I am here today on behalf of my father who was shot and wounded on Bloody Sunday. The following are a list of those shot and wounded and have now all passed away:

Michael Bradley – Innocent.
Patrick Campbell – Innocent.
Peggy Deery – Innocent.
Daniel Gillespie – Innocent.
Daniel McGowan – Innocent.
Alex Nash – Innocent.
Patsy O'Donnell – Innocent.

Alana Burke

My name is Alana Burke and I survived Bloody Sunday. I just want you to remember all of those who were injured along with myself:

Michael Bridge – Innocent.
Damian Donaghy – Innocent.
Joe Friel – Innocent.
Joe Mahon – Innocent.
Michael Quinn – Innocent.
Patsy McDaid – Innocent.

Damian Donaghy

My name is 'Bubbles' Donaghy and I will now quote Lord Saville: "None of the wounded were posing a threat of death or serious injury or indeed were doing anything else that would have justified their shootings."

We are all innocent.





John Kelly – Statement of Thanks Guildhall Square, Derry

On behalf of the Bloody Sunday families, I want to thank all those who have joined us on our march for justice over the last thirty-eight years. It was the Guildhall we set off to march to all those years ago. It's a long walk we've had to reach it. We would never have made it without you. Thank you, Derry.

We thank our friends throughout Ireland, throughout the world, who have kept the flame alive with us, who saw to it that the crimes of Bloody Sunday followed the perpetrators wherever they went.

We especially thank the thousands of eyewitnesses who came forward to give evidence to the inquiry – this day is their day too. We know and appreciate the trauma that you all went through to help our families, to carry us along the last stretch of our journey. And I see a few here smiling up at me.

The report is very long, very detailed and covers every possible aspect of Bloody Sunday. However, what matters most, what has mattered over the years, is the innocence of our loved ones. Everything else fades into insignificance compared to the fact that those gunned down on Bloody Sunday were ordinary, decent, *innocent* Derry people. That was the verdict we wanted and that is the verdict we have today. That will be the verdict of history for all time. That is what matters.

We say to those in official positions in government who must now decide how to react to the conclusions of the Saville Inquiry – we say to them only this – that our struggle was for the truth and the justice that only truth can bring. Let the light of that be your guide. The light of justice. Let justice be done. Let justice be done, though the heavens fall. Thank you. We have overcome.







OFFICIAL REACTIONS TO SAVILLE REPORT

David Cameron, British Prime Minister

Statement to House of Commons, 3. 30pm, 15 June 2010

With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement.

Today, my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is publishing the report of the Saville Inquiry, the Tribunal set up by the previous Government to investigate the tragic events of 30 January 1972 – a day more commonly known as ‘Bloody Sunday’. We have acted in good faith by publishing the Tribunal’s findings as quickly as possible after the General Election.

Mr Speaker, I am deeply patriotic. I never want to believe anything bad about our country. I never want to call into question the behaviour of our soldiers and our army who I believe to be the finest in the world. And I have seen for myself the very difficult and dangerous circumstances in which we ask our soldiers to serve. But the conclusions of this report are absolutely clear.

There is no doubt. There is nothing equivocal. There are no ambiguities. What happened on Bloody Sunday was both unjustified and unjustifiable. It was wrong.

Lord Saville concludes that the soldiers of Support Company who went into the Bogside “... did so as a result of an order... which should not have been given” by their Commander... on balance the first shot in the vicinity of the march was fired by the British Army... that “none of the casualties shot by soldiers of Support Company was armed with a firearm”... that “there was some firing by republican paramilitaries... but... none of this firing provided any justification for the shooting of civilian casualties”... and that “in no case was any warning given before soldiers opened fire”.

He also finds that Support Company “reacted by losing their self-control... forgetting or ignoring

their instructions and training” with “a serious and widespread loss of fire discipline”.

He finds that “despite the contrary evidence given by the soldiers... none of them fired in response to attacks or threatened attacks by nail or petrol bombers”... and that many of the soldiers “knowingly put forward false accounts in order to seek to justify their firing”.

What’s more – Lord Saville says that some of those killed or injured were clearly fleeing or going to the assistance of others who were dying.

The Report refers to one person who was shot while “crawling... away from the soldiers”... another was shot, in all probability, “when he was lying mortally wounded on the ground”... and a father was “hit and injured by army gunfire after he had gone to... tend his son”.

For those looking for statements of innocence, Saville says: “The immediate responsibility for the deaths and injuries on Bloody Sunday lies with those members of Support Company whose unjustifiable firing was the cause of the those deaths and injuries”... and – crucially – that “none of the casualties was posing a threat of causing death or serious injury, or indeed was doing anything else that could on any view justify their shooting”.

For those people who were looking for the Report to use terms like murder and unlawful killing, I remind the House that these judgements are not matters for a Tribunal – or for us as politicians – to determine.

Mr Speaker, these are shocking conclusions to read and shocking words to have to say. But, Mr Speaker, you do not defend the British Army by defending the indefensible.





We do not honour all those who have served with distinction in keeping the peace and upholding the rule of law in Northern Ireland by hiding from the truth. So there is no point in trying to soften or equivocate what is in this Report. It is clear from the Tribunal's authoritative conclusions that the events of Bloody Sunday were in no way justified.

I know some people wonder whether nearly forty years on from an event, a Prime Minister needs to issue an apology. For someone of my generation, this is a period we feel we have learned about rather than lived through. But what happened should never, ever have happened. The families of those who died should not have had to live with the pain and hurt of that day – and a lifetime of loss.

Some members of our Armed Forces acted wrongly. The Government is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the Armed Forces. And for that, on behalf of the Government – and indeed our country – I am deeply sorry.

Mr Speaker, just as this Report is clear that the actions of that day were unjustifiable... so too is it clear in some of its other findings. Those looking for premeditation, those looking for a plan, those looking for a conspiracy involving senior politicians or senior members of the Armed Forces – they will not find it in this Report.

Indeed, Lord Saville finds no evidence that the events of Bloody Sunday were premeditated. He concludes that the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Governments, and the army, neither tolerated nor encouraged "the use of unjustified lethal force". He makes no suggestion of a Government cover-up. And Lord Saville credits the UK Government with working towards a peaceful political settlement in Northern Ireland.

Mr Speaker, the Report also specifically deals with the actions of key individuals in the army, in politics and beyond, including Major General Ford, Brigadier MacLellan and Lieutenant Colonel Wilford. In each case, the Tribunal's findings are clear.

It also does the same for Martin McGuinness. It specifically finds he was present and probably armed with a "sub-machine gun" but concludes "we are sure that he did not engage in any activity that provided any of the soldiers with any justification for opening fire".

Mr Speaker, while in no way justifying the events of 30 January 1972, we should acknowledge the background to the events of Bloody Sunday.

Since 1969, the security situation in Northern Ireland had been declining significantly. Three days before Bloody Sunday, two RUC officers – one a Catholic – were shot by the IRA in Londonderry, the first police officers killed in the city during the Troubles. A third of the city of Derry had become a no-go area for the RUC and the army. And in the end, 1972 was to prove Northern Ireland's bloodiest year by far with nearly 500 people killed.

And let us also remember, Bloody Sunday is not the defining story of the service the British Army gave in Northern Ireland from 1969 to 2007. This was known as Operation Banner, the longest, continuous operation in British military history, spanning thirty-eight years and in which over 250,000 people served.

Our Armed Forces displayed enormous courage and professionalism in upholding democracy and the rule of law in Northern Ireland. Acting in support of the police, they played a major part in setting the conditions that have made peaceful politics possible... and over 1,000 members of the security forces lost their lives to that cause. Without their work, the peace process would not have happened.

Of course, some mistakes were undoubtedly made. But lessons were also learned.

Once again, I put on record the immense debt of gratitude we all owe those who served in Northern Ireland.

Mr Speaker, may I also thank the Tribunal for its work – and all those who displayed great courage in giving evidence.

I would also like to acknowledge the grief of the families of those killed. They have pursued their long campaign over thirty-eight years with great patience. Nothing can bring back those that were killed but I hope, as one relative has put it, the truth coming out can set people free.

John Major said he was open to a new inquiry. Tony Blair then set it up. This was accepted by the then Leader of the Opposition. Of course, none of us anticipated that the Saville Inquiry would last twelve years or cost £200 million. Our views on that are well documented. It is right to pursue the truth with vigour and thoroughness... but let me reassure the House that there will be no more open-ended and costly inquiries into the past.

But today is not about the controversies surrounding

the process. It's about the substance, about what this report tells us. Everyone should have the chance to examine the complete findings – and that's why the report is being published in full. Running to more than 5,000 pages, it's being published in ten volumes. Naturally, it will take all of us some time to digest the report's full findings and understand all the implications.

The House will have the opportunity for a full day's debate this autumn – and in the meantime I have asked my Right Honourable Friends the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland and Defence to report back to me on all the issues that arise from it.

Mr Speaker, this Report and the Inquiry itself demonstrate how a State should hold itself to account... and how we are determined at all times – no matter how difficult – to judge ourselves against the highest standards. Openness and frankness about the past – however painful – do not make us weaker, they make us stronger. That's one of the things that differentiates us from terrorists.

We should never forget that over 3,500 people – people from every community – lost their lives in Northern Ireland, the overwhelming majority killed by terrorists. There were many terrible atrocities.

Politically motivated violence was never justified, whichever side it came from. And it can never be justified by those criminal gangs that today want to drag Northern Ireland back to its bitter and bloody past.

No Government I lead will ever put those who fight to defend democracy on an equal footing with those who continue to seek to destroy it. But neither will we hide from the truth that confronts us today.

In the words of Lord Saville:

“What happened on Bloody Sunday strengthened the Provisional IRA, increased nationalist resentment and hostility towards the army and exacerbated the violent conflict of the years that followed. Bloody Sunday was a tragedy for the bereaved and the wounded, and a catastrophe for the people of Northern Ireland.”

These are words we can not and must not ignore. But what I hope this Report can also do is to mark the moment when we come together, in this House and in the communities we represent. Come together to acknowledge our shared history, even where it divides us. And come together to close this painful chapter on Northern Ireland's troubled past. That is not to say that we must ever forget or dismiss that past. But we must also move on.

Northern Ireland has been transformed over the past twenty years... and all of us in Westminster and Stormont must continue that work of change, coming together with all the people of Northern Ireland to build a stable, peaceful, prosperous and shared future.

It is with that determination that I commend this statement to the House.





Mark Durkan, MP for Foyle
Statement to House of Commons, 15 June 2010

May I thank the Prime Minister for his clear statement. From talking to representatives of the families a short while ago, I know that they would want to be associated with those thanks.

This is a day of huge moment and deep emotion in Derry. The people of my city did not just live through Bloody Sunday; they have lived with it since. Does the Prime Minister agree that this is a day to receive and reflect on the clear verdicts of Saville, and not to pass party verdicts on Saville?

The key verdicts are:

“Despite the contrary evidence given by soldiers, we have concluded that none of them fired in response to attacks or threatened attacks by nail or petrol bombers. No-one threw or threatened to throw a nail or petrol bomb at the soldiers on Bloody Sunday.”

A further verdict is:

“None of the casualties... was posing any threat of causing death or serious injury.”

Of course, there is also the verdict that “the British Army fired the first shots, these were not justified and none of the subsequent shots that killed or wounded” anyone on Bloody Sunday “was justified.” In rejecting so much of the soldiers’ submissions and false accounts, the report highlights where victims were shot in the back or while crawling on the ground, or shot again when already wounded on the ground.

Will the Prime Minister confirm that each and every one of the victims: –

Bernard McGuigan, 41; Gerald Donaghey, 17; Hugh Gilmour, 17; John Duddy, 17; Gerard McKinney, 34; James Wray, 22; John Young, 17; Kevin McElhinney, 17; Michael Kelly, 17; Michael McDaid, 20; Patrick Doherty, 31; William McKinney, 27; William Nash, 19; and John Johnston, 59

– are all absolutely and totally exonerated by today’s report, as are all the wounded?

These men were cut down when they marched for justice on their own streets. On that civil rights march, they were protesting against internment without trial. But not only were their lives taken, but their innocent memory was then interred without truth by the travesty of the Widgery Tribunal. Will the Prime Minister confirm clearly that the Widgery findings are now repudiated and binned, and that they should not be

relied on by anyone as giving any verdict on that day?

Sadly, only one parent of the victims has survived to see this day and hear the Prime Minister’s open and full apology on the back of this important report. Lawrence McElhinney epitomises the dignity and determination of all the families who have struggled and strived to exonerate their loved ones and have the truth proclaimed.

Seamus Heaney reflected the numbing shock of Bloody Sunday and its spur to the quest for justice for not only families but a city when he wrote:

**“My heart besieged by anger, my mind a gap of danger,
 I walked among their old haunts, the home ground
 where they bled;
 And in the dirt lay justice, like an acorn in the winter,
 Till its oak would sprout in Derry, where the thirteen
 men lay dead.”**

The Bloody Sunday monument on Rossville Street proclaims:

**“Their epitaph is in the continuing struggle for
 democracy.”**

If today, as I sincerely hope it does, offers a healing of history in Derry and Ireland, may we pray that it also speaks hope to those in other parts of the world who are burdened by injustice, conflict and the transgressions of unaccountable power.

The Prime Minister’s welcome statement – and the statement that will be made by the families on the steps of the Guildhall – will be the most significant records of this day on the back of the report that has been published.

However, perhaps the most important and poignant words from today will not be heard here or on the airwaves. Relatives will stand at the graves of victims and their parents to tell of a travesty finally arrested, of innocence vindicated and of promises kept, and as they do so, they can invoke the civil rights anthem when they say:

“We have overcome. We have overcome this day.”





**Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister
Guildhall Square, Derry, 15 June 2010**

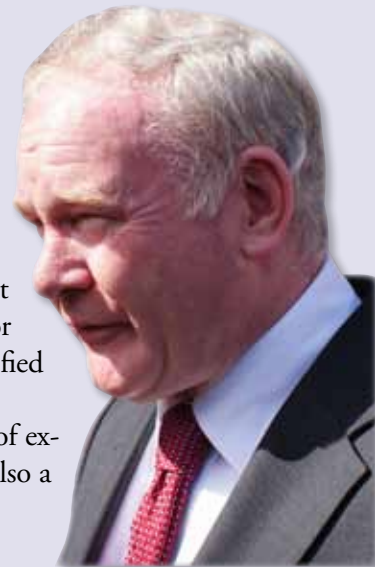
This is a momentous day for Derry and for Ireland and indeed for all those people who hold dear to them the concept of truth and justice. It is a momentous day because, quite incredibly, on the same day, we had a British Law Lord and a British Conservative Prime Minister not pointing the finger of responsibility at the people of Derry, but pointing it clearly at a regiment of the British Army.

In many ways, it's a memorable day and I think the people in Derry who came here in a very dignified fashion to support the families were very struck

by the generosity of words used by David Cameron, and rightly so.

Today is a day when the families have been vindicated. Every single person in this city has been found not to have been contravening anything or doing anything that would have justified what happened.

Today is a watershed for Derry, a day of extraordinary historic significance. It is also a momentous day for truth.



**Mary McAleese, President of Ireland
Public Statement, 15 June 2010**

I welcome today's publication of the Report of the Saville Inquiry into the awful events which occurred in Derry on that fateful Sunday, 30 January 1972.

Thirteen innocent people were shot dead and a similar number wounded, one of whom subsequently died. The injustices perpetrated that day and the suffering they engendered were compounded by the subsequent Widgery Report and led many people at the time to despair of the efficacy of politics or peaceful protest.

Bloody Sunday thus became a seminal event in the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

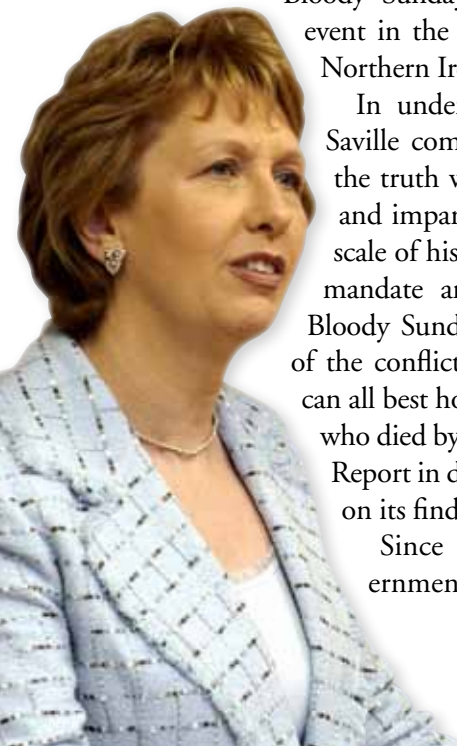
In undertaking the Inquiry, Lord Saville committed himself to seeking the truth with fairness, thoroughness and impartiality. The comprehensive scale of his Report is reflective of that mandate and of the importance of Bloody Sunday in the overall narrative of the conflict in Northern Ireland. We can all best honour the memory of those who died by taking the time to read the Report in detail and to reflect carefully on its findings and conclusions.

Since 1992, the British Government has acknowledged that

those who were killed were innocent of any allegation of handling arms or explosives, so while the Saville Report was not required to establish that innocence it was needed in the interests of establishing truth and serving justice. Since the Saville Inquiry has found that all the deaths and casualties were unjustified and unjustifiable, the implications of this finding will clearly need to be considered by the appropriate authorities.

For those who survived, for the bereaved and for the people of Derry, today is a deeply sensitive and distressing day, as well as being a poignant time for all those who were victims or lost loved ones in the Troubles. It is also a momentous day for the survivors and families of Bloody Sunday as they have pursued their campaign for justice and truth for over thirty-eight years and have done so with resolute and dignified determination. I fervently hope that, by its publication, the Saville Report will provide them, at long last, with the consolation that the world now knows the awful truth about Bloody Sunday.

I thank Lord Saville, his colleagues and team for their work and commitment over the last twelve years. I also wish to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Tony Blair and the late Secretary of State Mo Mowlam for the decision to establish the Inquiry.





*Above: President Mary McAleese receives the Bloody Sunday families at Aras an Uachtaráin.
Below: Representatives from the Bloody Sunday families delivering a copy of the Saville Report findings to Taoiseach Brian Cowen in the Offices of the Taoiseach, Merrion Street, Dublin.*



Brian Cowen, An Taoiseach

Statement on the Publication of the Saville Inquiry, 15 June 2010

Today is the day when the truth has been set free in the city of Derry.

This is not about the re-opening of old wounds, but rather it is about the healing of the gaping wounds of injustice left behind by the terrible events of Bloody Sunday.

The brave and honest words of Prime Minister David Cameron in the House of Commons today will echo around the world. I thank him for the good faith he has shown in ensuring that the Saville Report has been published so early in his time in office.

Is cúis bróin agus náire an méid a tharla i nDoire ar Dhomhnach na Fola. Mar a dúirt Promh Aire na Breataine, David Cameron, ní féidir seasamh leis an méid a tharla ná é a chosaint.

Anois agus ocht mbliana is tríocha caite, tá fíor scéal na neachtraí agus lom chlár na fírinne deimhnithe.

Early this morning, in Rossville Street in Derry, a small group of the citizens of that city gathered to complete a journey. They walked from the Bloody Sunday Monument to the Guildhall, following the intended route of the thousands who took part in the civil rights march of 30 January 1972.

It was a route that their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends set out upon on that fateful day.

Many of them never returned.

Thirteen men and boys were killed and fifteen more were wounded by British soldiers on the streets of their home town on that day. One of those wounded died later that year.

Their names are carved in stone in Derry, where they fell.

Their memories are etched in the hearts of their loved ones.

And their deaths are inscribed indelibly on the pages of Irish history.

It is a short distance from the Bogside to the Guildhall, but the journey that was completed today has taken over thirty-eight years.

There are very few events in the history of a nation that are universally recognised and remembered – that are known for all time only by a name, a place or a date.

Bloody Sunday is such an event in the history of Ireland.

It was an immense tragedy for those who were killed and injured,

and for the people of Derry. It was also a turning point in the Troubles in Northern Ireland, which led to a huge upsurge in support for violence. It was therefore an immense tragedy for all of the people of these islands.

Thousands died, and many more were injured, in the Northern Ireland Troubles. Nearly 500 people died in 1972 alone. Each of those deaths gave rise to unspeakable grief and loss and suffering. In each case, those left behind had to face the unbearable truth of a loved one never to be seen again – taken suddenly, without warning and without reason.

It is important to state clearly once more that violence – from whatever quarter – was not justified.

Not then.

And not now.

Today, we think of all of the victims, the bereaved and the injured. And today, we resolve that this will never happen again.

The publication of the Saville Report is about the future as well as about the past.

In Derry today, and across the North, a new generation is growing up in peace and equality. They do not face the injustices that motivated the civil rights movement in 1972. They live in an Ireland that, in 1998, engaged in a historic act of self-determination when the people, North and South, voted for the Good Friday Agreement. That was an overwhelmingly powerful democratic act that would have seemed unthinkable to their fellow citizens a mere twenty-six years earlier.

We owe it to our children to continue the great collective endeavour to build a better future, in Derry and throughout Ireland.

The beauty, character and history of the city of Derry place it at the centre of Ireland's story – from the foundation of the walls nearly 400 years ago to the Nobel prize winners of today. There are chapters of grief, destruction and division, certainly. But there are also chapters of joy, of creativity and of hope.

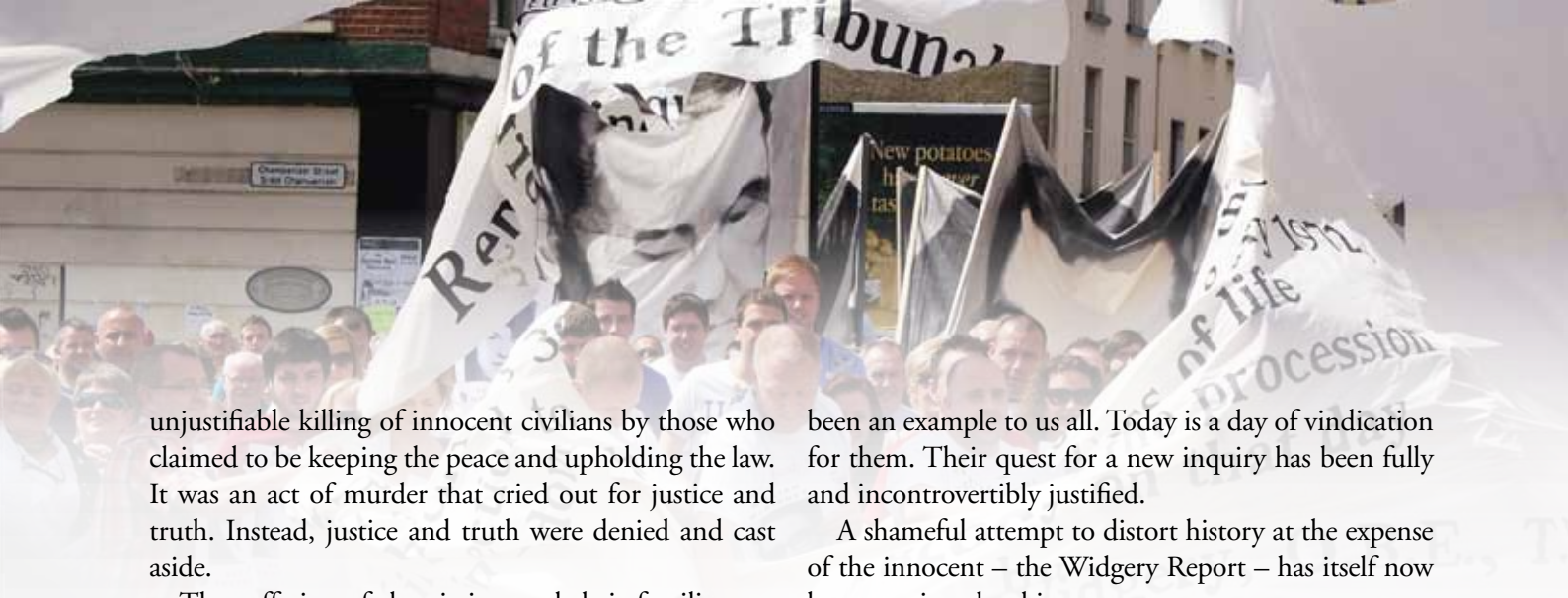
Now, the city is building its own future, freed from the shackles that held back previous generations. As the peace bridge makes its symbolic journey across the majestic River Foyle, so the people of Derry are continuing on their journey of reconciliation.

I hope and believe that the publication of the Saville Inquiry report is another step on that journey.

And – let there be no doubt on this point – it is a necessary step.

Bloody Sunday was unique. The ultimate injustice perpetrated on Bloody Sunday was the unjustified and





unjustifiable killing of innocent civilians by those who claimed to be keeping the peace and upholding the law. It was an act of murder that cried out for justice and truth. Instead, justice and truth were denied and cast aside.

The suffering of the victims and their families was deeply compounded by the discredited and disgraceful findings of the Widgery Tribunal. That is why the Irish Government joined with the families in pressing for a new Inquiry.

The Saville Inquiry was made necessary not by the events of Bloody Sunday, horrific though they were. The Saville Inquiry was made necessary by the whitewash that was the Widgery Report.

I want to pay tribute to the families and friends of the victims of Bloody Sunday, and all of those who fought for justice. Their dignity and their determination have

been an example to us all. Today is a day of vindication for them. Their quest for a new inquiry has been fully and incontrovertibly justified.

A shameful attempt to distort history at the expense of the innocent – the Widgery Report – has itself now been consigned to history.

The truth has been set free.

From this day forth, history will record what the families have always known to be true.

And from this day forth, the world will understand what the people of Derry have always understood. Fourteen innocent people died on the streets in Derry on 30 January 1972.

There is no doubt. There are no ambiguities. In truth, there never were.

They were innocent.

May they rest in peace.

Protestant Church Leaders

'Hand of Friendship' Extended to Bloody Sunday Families

Bishop Ken Good, Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and Rev Paul Kingston, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, met with the families at the site of the Bloody Sunday Monument in the Bogside on Wednesday 16 June 2010.

The church leaders said they hoped Lord Saville's report would "bring comfort and relief to the families who lost loved ones as a result of that fateful day". In a joint statement they said:

A cloud that has been hanging over this city for almost four decades has begun to lift. The pain, tension and conflict that resulted from Bloody Sunday have not only blighted many lives, they have also seriously damaged healthy community relationships.

Our hope is that the Saville Report will bring comfort and relief to the families who lost loved ones as a result of that fateful day. We believe that the Report presents a challenge and an opportunity for new and closer relationships within our wider community.

Recognising the goodwill and the significant efforts already made by many people from all sides, we dare to believe that this can be a decisive turning point in reaching out to one another. Our hope is always for more than mere co-existence. We wish to contribute to and to feel part of a self-confident, welcoming city that is at peace with itself.

We commend the families of the victims of Bloody Sunday for their patience and dignity through very difficult and trying times. We sense something of their pain and our prayer is that they can now face the future with a renewed sense of hope.

Our purpose in meeting the families today is to hold out a hand of friendship. As Christian leaders, we believe that reconciliation is at the very heart of the Christian message. We therefore extend our hand of friendship and assure the families and all the victims of our Troubles of our prayers and support as we walk together on this new journey.

