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Cappagh, Co Tyrone

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At around 2230 hours an unknown number of gunmen shot and killed four men and seriously wounded a fifth at Boyles Bar just outside Cappagh, Co Tyrone. One man is reported to have been killed in the bar's toilet. The others are reported to have been in a car which pulled up outside the premises. Two of them were killed in the vehicle and a third was killed in a nearby field as he fled from it. The wounded man apparently made his way into the bar where he collapsed. He has subsequently been taken to the RVH where he is reported to be in a serious condition.

No claims of responsibility have yet been made in respect of this incident which is believed to have been the work of Loyalist paramilitaries. The dead and wounded were all Roman Catholics. They have been named as:

Deceased:

Thomas ARMSTRONG, 52 yrs, 10 Lurgylea Rd, Cappagh Malachy NUGENT, 20 yrs 114 Aughnagar, Cappagh John QUINN, 23 yrs 130 Lurgyles Road, Cappagh Martin Joseph McNALLY, 17 yrs (alias Dwain O'Donnell) Glenbeg, Galbally, Dungannon

Wounded:

Malachy RAFFERTY, 21 yrs 80 Lurgylea Road, Cappagh

A man and his family narrowly escaped injury when the car in which they were travelling drove into the scene and their vehicle was hit by some of the gunfire.

Sinn Fein have reportedly alleged that security force collusion lay behind this incident.

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Statement by the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D. on the shooting of four men in Co. Tyrone.

I condemn in the strongest terms the murders of four innocent men in Co. Tyrone last night. This was an act of cold-blooded viciousness to which all decent-minded people will react with horror and revulsion. The authorities must spare no effort in tracking down the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

I offer my most sincere condolences, and those of my colleagues in Government, to the bereaved families.

Department of the Taoiseach. 5th March 1991