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## Loughinisland families take their case to the European Parliament

Published: 28 November, 2006

Members of the Loughinisland Justice Group are today visiting the European Parliament in Brussels to seek the support of MEPs and EU officials in relation to their complaint to the Police Ombudsman in relation to the role of police informers in the atrocity and the failure of the police to investigate the atrocity and bring the murderers before a court.

The Loughinisland Justice Group is made up of relatives of those murdered by the UVF in O'Toole's bar in June 18th 1994. South Down MLA Caitriona Ruane is accompanying the delegation and they were greeted at the European Parliament by Bairbre de Brún MEP.

Speaking from Brussels Ms Ruane said:

"Earlier this month I accompanied the families of the six men killed by the UVF in Loughinisland to Westminster. I am pleased to accompany them to the European Parliament also. It has been a long and difficult road for the families who have been waiting 12 years for justice.

"Today's visit to the European Parliament presents the families with the opportunity to enlist the support of the wide range of political groupings and individual MEPs in the time ahead.

"In recent months it has been established that:

A British Agent has admitted supplying the car used in murders  
The car used by the murderers to get away has subsequently been destroyed by the investigating team

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If you live outside of Ireland you can still play your part.

A hair follicle was found on one of the balaclavas - yet nobody has been charged

At least one of the weapons used was imported from South Africa by British Agent Brian Nelson

The PSNI have consistently refused to answer questions from the families preferring to hide behind the Official Secrets Act

"The families have in asked the Police Ombudsman to carry out an investigation into these matters. It is essential that the Police Ombudsman conducts a diligent independent investigation into the families' complaint and we await with interest the report of the Police Ombudsman into this matter. The families will be presenting the political groupings with a declaration, seeking their support for such a course of action.

"What happened at Loughinisland had a deep impact across the island. These families deserve nothing less than the truth. Sinn Féin will continue to stand with the families in the time ahead as they seek answers to the very serious questions which they are now raising into the events of that night 12 years ago and the subsequent behaviour of the RUC and PSNI.

Speaking today Ms de Brún said:

"I am pleased to welcome members of the Loughinisland Justice Group to the European Parliament today. The group will meet with representative from all of the political grouping here in Brussels to update them on the case and to enlist their support. I will endeavour to do my very best to be of assistance to the families in their search for justice." ENDS

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