

PRESS RELEASE 10th January 2013

## **Gerry Conlon Launches Bloody Sunday March Commemorative Badge**

On Wednesday (9th Jan 2013) at 11.30 people gathered around the Bloody Sunday monument on Rossville Street as Kate Nash welcomed Gerry Conlon on behalf of the Bloody Sunday March Committee to launch their Black Ribbon Badge.

[link to video on Bloody Sunday March website:

[http://bloodysundaymarch.org/for\\_justice/gallery/video-library/](http://bloodysundaymarch.org/for_justice/gallery/video-library/) ]

Kate Nash said: *"The sense of common experience is evident to all here. If anyone knows the depths to which the British establishment will sink in its treatment of Irish 'political' prisoners Gerry Conlon is one such man."*

Conlon along with his late Father Guiseppe and three others were sentenced to life imprisonment based on false allegations that they had played a part in the IRA bombings of public houses in Guilford and Woolwich in 1974. Although it soon became very clear that the case against all the defendants was fundamentally flawed, all would spent many years in various British prisons for crimes they did not commit. Guiseppe died in such circumstances in 1980 and his last words to his son were: "my death will be the key to your release".

It would be another ten years before that freedom was achieved. And today 23 years later, always prepared to lend support to other cases of injustice, his own fight for justice continues. Earlier in the day he spoke at Derry courthouse lending his support to the case for the release of Marian Price, whose detention he has described as *"internment by remand"*.

Linda Nash of the Bloody Sunday March Committee said

*"The original march in 1972 was organised to protest at the use of Internment by the Northern Irish government of the day and so it is fitting that someone of Conlon's standing should unveil this year's commemorative badge."*

There are images of the badge on the Bloody Sunday March website:

[http://bloodysundaymarch.org/for\\_justice/about-us/ribbon-badge/](http://bloodysundaymarch.org/for_justice/about-us/ribbon-badge/)

This year's Bloody Sunday March for Justice takes place on Sunday 27th January, leaving the shops at Central Drive, Creggan at 2.30pm. Speaking at the monument Gerry Conlon urged everyone to join the march.

In the week leading up to the march there will be panel discussions and film screenings. Full details of the programme of events are available on the Bloody Sunday March website at: [ [http://bloodysundaymarch.org/for\\_justice/programme-2013/](http://bloodysundaymarch.org/for_justice/programme-2013/) ] or just follow the link from the front page of the site.

Bloody Sunday Weekend March Committee

<http://BloodySundayMarch.org/>