

Press Release – Press Release - Press Release

29th January 2014

Bloody Sunday March Committee 2014

“Justice... it concerns us all”

It is unfortunate to say the least that there has been public disagreement among members of the Bloody Sunday families over continuing to march on the anniversary of the killings. There is no need for this. Some family members think it is right to continue marching, others believe that marching now serves no purpose. Everybody should be free to do what they believe and nobody should be denounced because of that.

The case for continuing to march is outlined in the booklet, “Go On The Paras!”, written by Eamonn McCann and published this week as part of the commemoration and programme of events.

Nobody has the right to put themselves forward as speaking for “the Bloody Sunday families”, as if they were representing every family. We had 28 people hit by bullets on Bloody Sunday. By this stage, nearly two generations later, there are literally hundreds of people who could claim to be members of the “Bloody Sunday families”. They are not a political group with agreed policies. They have disagreements. This is normal, natural.

There were at least 10,000 people on the original Bloody Sunday civil rights march. Every one of them was the target of attempted murder. The Bloody Sunday issue isn't the property of any group, whether a group of family members or a political group. It is an issue for everybody - and not just everybody in Derry.

This is reflected in the fact that the speakers at this year's events include Stafford Scott, a leading member of the black community in Tottenham. He will be the main speaker after the Sunday march. He will also be speaking on Saturday night in Pilot's Row, about his community's experience of policing, from the Broadwater Farm riots 20 years ago to the more recent killing of Mark Duggan.

Members of the families of the Disappeared joined Bloody Sunday families on Monday night. Professor Phil Scraton will give a lecture on Friday at the Nerve Centre on the police cover-up of the Hillsborough deaths. Paddy Hill of the Birmingham Six will be speaking on Saturday afternoon both about the injustice suffered by himself and the five others - and also about the right of the families of the victims of the Birmingham bombs to truth and justice. Professor Patricia Lundy will also speak at this event on her groundbreaking research into the Historical Enquiries Team (HET). Representatives of the

Shell to Sea campaign in Mayo, the anti-fracking campaign in Fermanagh and Leitrim, Clare Daly TD, leader of the anti-austerity campaign in the South and a range of others will also be speaking in Pilot's Row on Saturday. Sunday night in Sandiono's will see the traditional after-march gig - this year comprising anti-war songs and poems from the 1914-1918 war. Films shown at the Nerve Centre include the Oscar-nominated "5 Broken Cameras", on the theft of Palestinian land by the Israeli State and the Panorama documentary "Britain's Secret Terror Force".

All this constitutes an effort to place Bloody Sunday in the context of other injustices at the hands of State forces here in Ireland and around the world, from Ballymurphy to Gaza to Syria, North London, Mount Vernon etc. Everyone will be made welcome to all events, whatever their political views.

Bloody Sunday March Committee

Statement Ends

Note to Editor: This statement should only be printed if carried in full.

