

LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD!

Brothers,

Many of you may not know the details of the events of Bloody Sunday. I have copied a bit from Wikipedia for your knowledge. Below is a petition that has been forwarded by our NYS AOH FFAI chairman. Please consider signing.

Bloody Sunday (*Irish: Domhnach na Fola*)^[1]—sometimes called the Bogside Massacre^[2]—was an incident on 30 January 1972 in the [Bogside](#) area of [Derry](#),^[3] [Northern Ireland](#). Twenty-seven civil rights protesters were shot by the [British Army Parachute Regiment](#) during a [Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association](#) march.^[4] Thirteen people, seven of whom were teenagers, died immediately, while the death of another person 4½ months later has been attributed to the injuries he received on the day. Two protesters were injured when they were run down by army vehicles.^[5] Many witnesses, including bystanders and journalists, testify that all those shot were unarmed. Five of those wounded were shot in the back.^[6]

Two investigations have been held by the [British Government](#). The [Widgery Tribunal](#), held in the immediate aftermath of the event, largely cleared the soldiers and British authorities of blame — Widgery described the soldiers' shooting as "bordering on the reckless" — but was criticised by many as a "[whitewash](#)"^{[7][8][9]} including by former chief of staff to [Tony Blair](#), Jonathan Powell.^[10] The [Saville Inquiry](#), established in 1998 to look at the events again (chaired by [Lord Saville of Newdigate](#)), was expected to report in late 2009 but has now been delayed until March 2010.^[11]

The [Provisional Irish Republican Army](#)'s (IRA) campaign against the [partition](#) of Ireland had begun in the two years prior to Bloody Sunday, but perceptions of the day boosted the status of and recruitment into the organisation enormously.^[12] Bloody Sunday remains among the most significant events in the [Troubles](#) of Northern Ireland, chiefly because it was carried out by the army and not [paramilitaries](#), and in full public and press view.^[2]

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gerard McVicker

President McVicker, my Brothers:

If for no other reasons, than those listed below, let us urge everyone we know, to sign the Bloody Sunday petition, and encourage letters, phone calls, or whatever it takes, to bring truth and justice to this matter, once and for all. We owe them that much:

* John (Jackie) Duddy (17)...Shot in the chest in the car park of Rossville flats. Four witnesses stated Duddy was unarmed and running away from the paratroopers when he was killed. Three of them saw a soldier take deliberate aim at the youth as he ran. Uncle of Irish boxer John Duddy.

* Patrick Joseph Doherty (31)...Shot from behind while attempting to crawl to safety in the forecourt of Rossville flats. Doherty was the subject of a series of photographs, taken before and after he died by French journalist Gilles Peress. Despite testimony from "Soldier F" that he had fired at a man holding and firing a pistol, Widgery acknowledged that the photographs showed Doherty was unarmed, and that forensic tests on his hands for gunshot residue proved negative.

- * Bernard McGuigan (41)...Shot in the back of the head when he went to help Patrick Doherty. He had been waving a white handkerchief at the soldiers to indicate his peaceful intentions.
- * Hugh Pious Gilmour (17)...Shot through his right elbow, the bullet then entering his chest as he ran from the paratroopers on Rossville Street. Widgery acknowledged that a photograph taken seconds after Gilmour was hit corroborated witness reports that he was unarmed, and that tests for gunshot residue were negative.
- * Kevin McElhinney (17)...Shot from behind while attempting to crawl to safety at the front entrance of the Rossville Flats. Two witnesses stated McElhinney was unarmed.
- * Michael G. Kelly (17)...Shot in the stomach while standing near the rubble barricade in front of Rossville Flats. Widgery accepted that Kelly was unarmed.
- * John Pius Young (17)...Shot in the head while standing at the rubble barricade. Two witnesses stated Young was unarmed.
- * William Noel Nash (19)...Shot in the chest near the barricade. Witnesses stated Nash was unarmed and going to the aid of another when killed.
- * Michael M. McDaid (20)...Shot in the face at the barricade as he was walking away from the paratroopers. The trajectory of the bullet indicated he could have been killed by soldiers positioned on the Derry Walls.
- * James Joseph Wray (22)...Wounded then shot again at close range while lying on the ground. Witnesses who were not called to the Widgery Tribunal stated that Wray was calling out to say that he could not move his legs before he was shot the second time.
- * Gerald Donaghy (17)...Shot in the stomach while attempting to run to safety between Glenfada Park and Abbey Park. Donaghy was brought to a nearby house by bystanders where he was examined by a doctor. His pockets were turned out in an effort to identify him. A later police photograph of Donaghy's corpse showed nail bombs in his pockets. Neither those who searched his pockets in the house nor the British army medical officer (Soldier 138) who pronounced his death shortly afterwards say they saw any bombs. Donaghy had been a member of Fianna Éireann, an IRA-linked Republican youth movement. Paddy Ward, who gave evidence at the Saville Inquiry, claimed that he had given two nail bombs to Donaghy several hours before he was shot dead.
- * Gerald (James) McKinney (34)...Shot just after Gerald Donaghy. Witnesses stated that McKinney had been running behind Donaghy, and he stopped and held up his arms, shouting "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!", when he saw Donaghy fall. He was then shot in the chest.
- * William A. McKinney (27)...Shot from behind as he attempted to aid Gerald McKinney (no relation). He had left cover to try to help Gerald.
- * John Johnston (59)...Shot in the leg and left shoulder on William Street 15 minutes before the rest of the shooting started. Johnston was not on the march, but on his way to visit a friend in Glenfada Park. He died 4½ months later; his death has been attributed to the injuries he received on the day. He was the only one not to die immediately or soon after being shot.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

William J. "Bill" Schimpf
 Chair
 Standing Committee