

# THE MURDER OF PAT FINUCANE

**On Sunday 12 February 1989 Pat Finucane, Human Rights Lawyer, was murdered in front of his wife and young children**

**“There is strong evidence that collusive acts were committed by the army (FRU), the RUC SB and the Security Service. I am satisfied that there is a need for a public inquiry”.**

*The Honourable Peter Cory CC CD QC  
Former Judge of the Canadian Supreme Court*

**“... there was collusion ...”**

*Sir John Stevens  
Former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police*

**“... the British government continues to throw up road-blocks to the Finucane inquiry. It argues now that new legislation is needed before the inquiry can be established. Not surprisingly, its proposal for a new Inquiries Bill has already threatened the public perception and credibility of any investigation that comes after its enactment.**

**... Instead of the parliament, government ministers would decide who will hold the inquiry, what the terms of reference will be, whether hearings will be held in public, whether evidence will be published, who will be called as a witness, if subpoena power is warranted, and whether the report will be published.”**

*Congressman Chris Smith  
Chairman of The Africa, Global Human Rights and International Relations Sub-Committee of the United States Congress*

**“I take the view that this provision makes a very serious inroad into the independence of any inquiry; and is likely to damage or destroy public confidence in the inquiry and its findings, especially in any case where the conduct of the authorities may be in question.**

**As a Judge, I must tell you that I would not be prepared to be appointed as a member of an inquiry that was subject to a provision of this kind.**

**I have shown the provision in question to ... William Hoyt (formerly Chief Justice of the Canadian Province of New Brunswick) and John Toohey (formerly a Justice of the High Court of Australia). Both have told me that they too would not be prepared to accept appointment to an inquiry that was subject to a provision of this kind ...”**

*The Right Honourable The Lord Saville of Newdigate  
Chairman of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry*

**“It seems to me that the proposed new Act would make a meaningful inquiry impossible. The Commissions would be working in an impossible situation. For example, the Minister, the actions of whose ministry was to be reviewed by the public inquiry would have the authority to thwart the efforts of the inquiry at every step. It really creates an intolerable Alice in Wonderland situation. There have been references in the press to an international judicial membership in the inquiry. If the new Act were to become law, I would advise all Canadian Judges to decline an appointment in light of the impossible situation they would be facing. In fact, I cannot contemplate any self-respecting Canadian Judge accepting an appointment to an inquiry constituted under the new proposed Act”.**

*The Honourable Peter Cory CC CD QC  
Former Judge of the Canadian Supreme Court*

In the teeth of these fundamental objections the Inquiries Act became law on 7 April 2005.

Mrs Geraldine Finucane has written to all Senior Judges in England, Scotland and Wales requesting that, if asked, they indicate that they would not be prepared to accept appointment to an Inquiries Act Inquiry into the murder of her husband.

Her request for a full independent inquiry into the death of her husband is supported by many domestic and international human rights bodies and individuals. Amongst those who have expressed concern are the following:

the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers;  
the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extra-judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions;  
the United Nations Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders;  
the United Nations Human Rights Committee;  
the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture;  
the Irish government;  
the House of Representatives of the US Congress;  
the US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, Dr Mitchell Reiss;  
the House International Relations Committee, USA;  
the House Sub-committee on International Operations and Human Rights;  
the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission;  
Amnesty International;  
the International Commission of Jurists;  
the International Federation of Human Rights;  
Human Rights First;  
Human Rights Watch;  
Frontline;  
the International League for Human Rights;  
the Committee on the Administration of Justice;  
British Irish RIGHTS WATCH;  
Liberty;  
the Haldane Society;  
the Patrick Finucane Centre, Northern Ireland;  
Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign  
Justice for the Forgotten, Dublin  
Springhill Community House, Northern Ireland;  
Relatives for Justice, Northern Ireland;  
the Law Society of Northern Ireland;  
the Law Society of England and Wales;  
the Law Society of Ireland;  
the General Council of the Bar of England & Wales;  
the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland;  
the General Council of the Bar of Ireland;  
the International Bar Association;  
the American Bar Association;  
the Association of the Bar of the City of New York;  
the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, USA;  
the Lawyers Alliance, USA;  
the Brehon Law Society, USA;  
Human Rights Watch Canada  
the International Centre for Human Rights and Economic Development, Canada;  
the International Association of Democratic Lawyers;  
the European Democratic Lawyers Federation;  
the Norwegian Helsinki Committee;  
the Society of Labour Lawyers.

**In order to register your support for our stance and your objection to the current legislation please visit**

**[www.madden-finucane.com/support](http://www.madden-finucane.com/support) to register your support**