

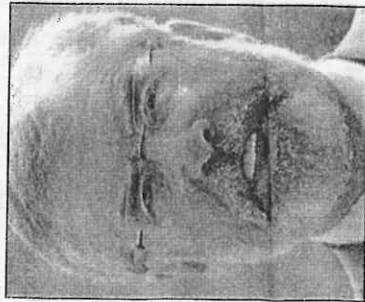
# Adams hits back at his critics over Aine storm

*'I'm willing to take the flak, but leave my family alone'*

IN his most comprehensive rebuttal to date of criticism directed at him after the conviction of his brother on child sex charges, the former West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has asked why more questions are not being asked about the RUC's handling of the case.

The Sinn Féin President has come under withering media and political fire in the wake of the recent conviction of his brother Liam for the rape and sexual abuse of his daughter Aine.

Writing extensively on the issue in his column in today's *Andersonstown News*, Mr. Adams describes the "unprecedented" investigation by four law agencies of the Liam Adams

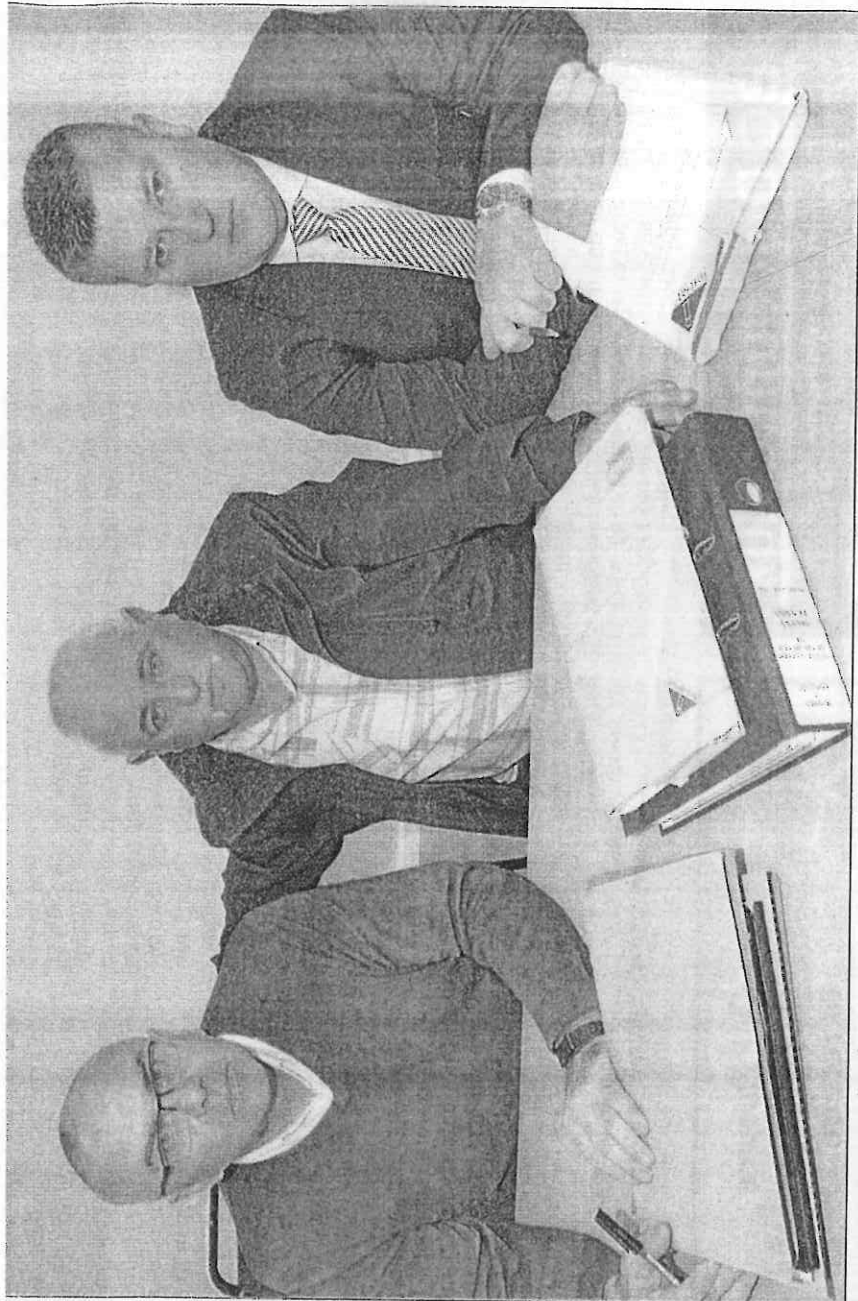


**REBUTTAL:** Gerry Adams case, and specifically the evidence he gave. He asks why the authorities decided not to pursue the case when Aine first made the allegations as a minor in 1987.

Mr. Adams says he's not asking for special treatment, but wants his family to be given space.

And he describes criticism of his role in the case as "a barrage of vitriol" from his opponents designed to "score political points".

**See column, page 24**



**TRUTH CALL:** Paul Butler (RFJ), Danny Lennon's brother Seán and Fearghal Shiels from Madden and Finucane Solicitors

# Andytown tragedy: Family want the truth 37 years on

**BY FRANCESCA RYAN**  
f.ryan@belfastmediagroup.com

37 YEARS after he was shot dead by the British Army, the family of a West Belfast man have made an application to have an inquest held into his death.

Danny Lennon was shot dead by soldiers as he drove a car along Finaghy Road North

in August 1976. The IRA man was killed instantly and the car mounted the kerb and mowed down a mother, Anne Maguire, and three of her children. All three children were killed as a result of the incident. The deaths sent shockwaves through West Belfast and far beyond.

However, no investigation or inquest has ever been held

into Danny Lennon's death. Similarly, no inquests have ever been held into the Maguire children's deaths.

## Murdered

Danny's brother Seán said his parents passed away without ever knowing why their son was shot.

"My parents were never even officially informed of

Danny's death by the police," he said. "I was the one who told them that day and they died never knowing why their son was killed. We tried to get answers when we engaged with the HET [Historical Inquiries Team] but the soldiers involved, whose identities are known, all refused to co-operate."

**Read the full story on page 6**

# Search for truth about an A'town tragedy

## 3 children and young IRA man were killed

BY FRANCESCA RYAN  
f.ryan@belfastmediagroup.com

THE family of a young West Belfast man shot by the British Army 37 years ago have made an application to have an inquest held into his death.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Danny Lennon (25) are among the best-known and distressing of the conflict.

The IRA volunteer was shot dead by soldiers as he drove a car along Finaghy Road North in August 1976. Danny was killed instantly and lost control of the car which mounted the kerb and mowed down a mother, Anne Maguire, and three of her children. All three children were killed: Andrew (6 weeks), John (2) and Joanne (8).

No investigation or inquest ever took place to give the Lennon family some answers as to why Danny was shot. A Historical Enquiries Team (HET) report, given to the family earlier this year, also failed to address the reason why soldiers opened fire in broad daylight on a busy road.

Similarly, no inquests have ever been held into the death of the three Maguire children.

Both Danny's parents and three of his six siblings have since passed on, but the family are still determined to find answers. Their solicitor, Fearghal Shiels of Madden and Finucane, said an inquest could offer some answers.

"We have lodged an application to the Attorney General requesting that he use his powers under the Coroners Act to direct the Coroner to hold an inquest," he said. "If the Attorney General directs an inquest, the soldiers will be compellable witnesses which is crucial as there has never been any public examination

of these soldiers and the reasons why they opened fire on a car that was posing no threat, why they shot at this car in a densely populated area.

"There are compelling reasons why an inquest should be held," he added. "If any civilian is killed by the State, it cries out for an explanation, but in this case, there has been nothing.

"The request was lodged in August and is under active consideration. A few queries have been raised with us already and we have replied. All the family want is an examination about why Danny met his death."

Danny's brother Seán said his parents passed away without ever knowing why their son was shot.

"My parents were never even officially informed of Danny's death by the police," he said. "I was the one who told them that day and they died never knowing why their son was killed.

"We tried to get answers when we engaged with the HET but the soldiers involved, whose identities are known, all refused to co-operate. We got the final report earlier this year and there was nothing in it that shed any light on why Danny was killed. The only positive outcome of the HET was getting Danny's death certificate last year. We had never received it in all these years.

"From as far back as when Danny was killed, there have been obstacles. Someone rang the Coroner's office at the time purporting to be speaking on behalf of my mother saying we did not want an inquest and so we never got one, even though that call was nothing to do with our family. That was very disturbing for us. We hope that we can at last get an inquest and find out why Danny was killed."

Relatives for Justice case worker Paul Butler explained why the organisation is supporting the Lennon family in their call for an inquest.

"There was no independent or effective investigation carried out at the time of Danny Lennon's death," said Paul. "Both the



ANSWERS: Paul Butler (RFJ), Danny Lennon's brother, Seán, and Fearghal Shiels from Madden and Finucane solicitors; below left, how the Andersonstown News reported the deaths of the Maguire children and Danny Lennon in August 1976

*"We tried to get answers when we engaged with the HET but the soldiers involved, whose identities are known, all refused to co-operate."*

Seán Lennon

RUC and the HET have failed to properly investigate the circumstances that led to the death of Danny Lennon and the Maguire children.

"The Lennon family engaged with the HET in good faith three years ago. However, it became clear when the family met with

the HET that they were not carrying out a proper or effective investigation into their brother's killing.

"All of the British soldiers who were involved in the killing of Danny Lennon refused to co-operate with the HET.

"The recent HMIC [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of

Constabulary] inspection of the HET has vindicated the family's view that the HET is a flawed process to address the matter of state killings. If a fresh inquest is granted by the Attorney General the soldiers will be compelled to attend the inquest and to give evidence."



**BAND** Distribution Ltd.  
YOUR ONE STOP COMPUTER SHOP  
**Sales Upgrades Repairs**  
WEB SITE: [www.band-distribution.co.uk](http://www.band-distribution.co.uk)

**Universal Laptop Charges £27.00**

**Epson Inks £2.00**

**All Computer & Laptop Repairs Get A Free Health Check**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Farset Enterprise Park<br/>Unit 5 - 638 Springfield Road<br/>Belfast<br/>BT12 7DY<br/>Tel 028 90 205242</p> | <p>Argyle Business Centre<br/>Unit 23 - 39 Argyle Business Centre - Belfast<br/>BT13 2AU<br/>Tel 028 90 320301</p> |
|--|--|

**SCA APPEAL**  
FOR DONATIONS OF FURNITURE AND CLOTHING

SCA URGENTLY needs donations of items of clothing, furniture and garden furniture  
To arrange for collection  
**PLEASE RING BELFAST 02890 237160 OR 07943411038**  
WE AREA LOCAL CHARITY - Charity No. XN45479

Advice Centre, 197 Falls Road • 90 329085

**APPEALING FOR VOLUNTEERS**  
Your help will be greatly appreciated

All proceeds from this appeal for furniture and clothing will go towards the financing of SCA's work in the community and our cross community initiatives. This includes providing Day Care Services for older people, Volunteer Project, Advice Centre Services and two Nearly New Retail Outlets.  
**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS APPEAL**  
Applications from older people particularly welcome

Visit our web site on [www.scaitd.net](http://www.scaitd.net)

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION