

BBC NEWS

NORTHERN IRELAND

16 November 2010 Last updated at 12:02

Ballymurphy victims' families to lobby politicians

The families of 11 people killed by the British Army in Ballymurphy in west Belfast in 1971 are to lobby politicians at Westminster.

The shootings took place during the Army's Operation Demetrius, during which people suspected of paramilitary activity were interned.

Sinn Fein MP Pat Doherty will accompany the families when they travel to London on Wednesday.

He said the delegation "would highlight the innocence of the victims".

The 11 victims were killed in August 1971 by members of the Parachute Regiment in the 36 hours after the internment of IRA suspects.

Independent investigation

They included a Catholic priest and a mother of eight children.

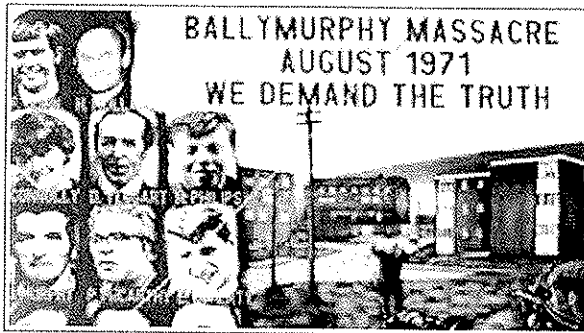
Their families have been carrying on a campaign for an independent investigation into events surrounding the killings.

Last month they asked Attorney General John Larken to order new inquests into the deaths.



News

Ballymurphy families seek London apology



Families of those killed in the Ballymurphy area of west Belfast over 30 years ago are taking their campaign for an independent international investigation to London.

Wednesday, 17 November 2010

TAGS: POLITICS TROUBLES LOCAL NEWS

A mother-of-eight and a local priest were among those killed in the 1971 shootings, which were carried out by the same British Army Parachute Regiment that, six months later, would kill 13 innocent civilians on Bloody Sunday in Londonderry.

The troops claimed they opened fire after being shot at by republicans.

Families of those killed have called for a new inquest into the deaths to be opened, after fresh information was presented at a Sinn Féin press conference last month.

Sinn Féin MP Pat Doherty, who will accompany the families, said they will be demanding an apology from the government.

"These investigations don't have to be expensive if the British Government would just realise, if they told the truth and forced the British army to admit what happened then these things could be brought to the surface very quickly and without huge expense", he said.

As part of the campaign for a fresh investigation west Belfast MP Gerry Adams said he would put forward an "extensive submission", which included eyewitness accounts, inquest verdicts, autopsy reports, inquest, statements by Royal Military Police personnel, RUC reports from the date of the killings and Catholic Church archives.

Mr Adams said he would present the documents to Attorney General John Larkin.

However earlier this month the Northern Ireland Secretary of State told Parliament there should be no more open-ended Saville-style investigations into the past.

Owen Paterson was speaking during a debate on the controversial Bloody Sunday Inquiry, which was the longest of its kind in legal history and cost nearly £200m.