

Names of 11 dead read out in House of Lords

Nuala O'Loan addresses the issue of 1971 'Murph killings

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THE names of those killed in the Ballymurphy Massacre have been read out in the British House of Lords during a debate on how to deal with the North's bloody past.

The Lords debate focused on the Saville Inquiry into the events of Bloody Sunday, which prompted an apology by British Prime Minister David Cameron in June. Following this apology, Mr Cameron also insisted that an alternative to lengthy, expensive inquiries must be found, after the final Saville bill was announced as £195 million.

This call was repeated in the recent Lords discussion by the North's former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Carswell, who said it was time for society in the North to "move on" from the Troubles.

However, his call was tack-

led by Shadow Lords leader Baroness Royall of Blaisdon and former Police Ombudsman Baroness Nuala O'Loan, who both referred to the 1971 slaughter in Ballymurphy in which 11 people were shot by Paratroopers over a three-day period.

Baroness O'Loan, who recently held a meeting with the Ballymurphy families, entered the lengthy debate and reminded members that the same regiment was involved in both Bloody Sunday and the West Belfast atrocity.

Addressing the House, she said: "The pain of those whose loved ones have died and who have never had the benefit of a proper investigation is an ongoing and terribly sore.

"Eleven people were killed in incidents involving the Parachute Regiment during three terrible days in Ballymurphy in 1971. It all started on the ninth of August 1971, on internment day. Over those three days 11 people were killed - Francis Quinn, Father Hugh Mullan, Joan Connolly, Daniel Teggart, Noel Phillips, Joseph Murphy, Edward Doherty, John Lavery, Joseph Corr, John McKerr and Paddy McCarthy.

"There have been no proper

inquiries into these deaths. All that happened just five months before the Bloody Sunday shootings and both events involved the same regiment."

Meanwhile, Baroness Royall referred to the recent meeting between British Secretary of State for the North Owen Paterson, and the Ballymurphy campaigners, suggesting the summit could have "raised expectation" of an inquiry.

The families have repeatedly made it clear they do not desire an expensive Saville-style inquiry, but favour an "independent, international investigation" into the horrific events.

Baroness Royall said: "So what now of the inquiry into the death of Pat Finucane? What about the deaths of the 11 civilians at Ballymurphy in 1971, an incident where some of the soldiers on duty on the day were the same service personnel who were to be in Londonderry six months later? What about an inquiry into the

"Eleven people were killed in incidents involving the Parachute Regiment..."



NAMING THE NAMES: Nuala O'Loan

Omagh bombing?

"To focus on the Ballymurphy case, in the context of the announcement that this is the end of the line for public inquiries, will the families find it slightly confusing that the Secretary of State recently met those who lost their loved ones at Ballymurphy?

"Perhaps it raised expectations of success in their call for just such an inquiry," she added.