

Ballymurphy relatives in justice plea

STORMONT MESSAGE

Briege Voyle, John Kelly and Gerry Adams launch the families' appeal for an inquiry



▲ MP
Supporter
Gerry Adams

FAMILIES whose loved ones were killed by British troops on Bloody Sunday backed calls yesterday for an investigation into similar deaths in Belfast.

The Catholic Church has already supported demands to re-examine the events of the Ballymurphy Massacre when 11 people in the West Belfast district were shot dead by troops from the Parachute Regiment in August 1971. Catholic priest Fr Hugh

Mullan was among those killed and campaigners will press their call for an independent investigation when they meet

VICTIMS

The Ballymurphy Massacre claimed 11 lives over three days of protests over the internment policy

PRIEST

Father Hugh Mullan was among those shot with witnesses claiming he waved a white hankie

Secretary of State Owen Paterson next month.

Earlier this year the Government apologised for the conduct of Parachute Regiment troops after a damning inquiry into their conduct on Bloody Sunday when they killed 14 civil rights marchers in Derry in 1972.

Yesterday John Kelly, whose 17-year-old brother Michael was killed in the Derry shootings, said he

shared the belief of the Ballymurphy families that there are links between the events.

He added: "The Ballymurphy massacre happened six months before Bloody Sunday.

"It and many other murders by the British Army around that time, helped set the precedent that British soldiers were immune from prosecution and knew that they could, would and did get away with murder.

"We know that the agencies of the British State, from the

Government down through the prosecution services, helped to promote and encourage this culture of immunity."

Yesterday bereaved relatives went to Stormont where Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams gave them his backing.

He said: "The demand of the families is very clear. They want truth.

"They want an independent investigation into the 11 deaths and an apology from the British Government."