



Families of “The Lost Boys” launch legal action

We act on behalf of the families of 3 young boys killed during the early years of the Troubles. The bodies of two of the boys, David Leckey and Jonathan Aven, have never been found after they went missing in 1969.

The dismembered remains of a third boy, Brian McDermott, were recovered in Sept 1973.

The recent release of a powerful ground breaking documentary, “The Lost Boys”, exposed the full extent of the investigative failures on these and two other cases of missing boys from the same era. Legal action is now planned against The State over a cover up which went right to the top of the Political Establishment.

Speaking today, Owen Winters of KRW LAW Historic Abuse Redress Dept said,

“It was a poignant moment when the families met for the first time in our offices to discuss all the complex legal issues arising from these incredibly sad narratives. It’s always a difficult undertaking when families try to turn the clock back and seek some long overdue justice for the loss of loved ones. That task is made all the more difficult when obstacles are placed in the way to try and prevent that happening.

The documentary makes it glaringly obvious there was no attempt to link up all the cases in one themed investigation. We say that omission was deliberate and calculated to make sure there would never be a proper inquiry into what happened.

We are making applications to the Coroner for a conjoined inquest on all the cases. We will also file complaints with PONI over the systemic failures by police to investigate these missing body cases treated as connected murder inquiries. In addition we are issuing high court civil proceedings against the State for misfeasance, negligence and conspiracy over the cover up.

Over and above this we say there is now clearly a case for PSNI to start a thematic investigation into all the cases. As a starting point police would do well to engage immediately with the makers of the programme. There’s something inherently wrong with a justice system that places over reliance on the far-reaching work of investigative journalists before a meaningful inquiry can look at why suspects were protected from prosecution.

Even though all the main suspect perpetrators are dead that doesn’t mean work shouldn’t start immediately. The passage of time ought not to prohibit a full-scale inquiry into the institutional failings which occurred here. That includes looking at links between the cases and the notorious Boys Home at Kincora. State agencies including M15 were alleged to have prevented the full truth about Kincora historic abuse of boys during the 1970s all of which happened in the same geographical area and time span as these missing boy cases.

Mi5 were never compelled to attend nor provide information to the Hart Inquiry into historic institutional abuse in the jurisdiction. We now want to try and address that failure by calling on



the Secretary of State to authorize an independent inquiry into “The Lost Boys” with full powers to access hitherto concealed documents. The families of the missing boys and Brian McDermott

are long overdue some semblance of justice. We call on all engaged State agencies to do the right thing and help them to get just that.” ENDS

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