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November____, 2018

Sir Kim Darroch
British Ambassador to the United States
3100 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20008

Your Excellency,

We are writing to express the concerns of some of our constituents about the ongoing inquest into ten killings in Ballymurphy, Belfast, between August 9th-11th 1971, and that inquest's implications for justice on legacy issues arising from the conflict in the north of Ireland. Recently Carmel Quinn, of Relatives for Justice ,whose brother John Lavery was one of those killed, visited the United States and spoke to some Members regarding this issue.

This inquest has been described to us as a fundamental test of legacy justice in cases where British state forces are involved. There is a concern that if justice is not seen to be done, where there are ten killings including a Catholic priest and a mother of eight children, hundreds of families who had loved ones killed during the conflict will conclude that nationalists cannot get justice in any case where British state forces are involved.

Clearly such feelings would be an obstacle to reconciliation and efforts to restore the Stormont Assembly.

There is also a growing concern among the Ballymurphy families, expressed to us by Ms. Quinn, that the Ministry of Defense is deliberately withholding crucial documents and disclosure items. Further, recent public calls for an amnesty in the form of a new Statute of Limitations for British military and constabulary, which label legacy investigations of British military as "witch-hunts", may also taint the atmosphere in which the inquest is being conducted.

These views are shared by a growing number of our constituents who attended public meetings addressed by Ms. Quinn.

As Members who have a continuing interest in Northern Ireland, we wish to convey these concerns about this important issue to you, and would welcome any response you might wish to make.

We also want to convey our ongoing interest in this issue.

Sincerely