
The Bloody Sunday Inquiry

JANUARY 2003 – FEBRUARY 2004

GENERAL UPDATE

The following is a brief timeline detailing developments at the Inquiry:

January

- Former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath gives evidence to the Inquiry over a three-week period.
- General Sir Michael Rose – former Commander of the UN Protection Force in Bosnia – gives evidence. He was a Captain in the Coldstream Guards on Bloody Sunday.
- 31st anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The Inquiry does not sit on this day.

February / March

- Soldiers A and B, the first paratroopers who fired shots on Bloody Sunday, give evidence to the Inquiry.
- The Tribunal rules that no witness is to be asked whether they have ever served in the SAS without prior permission from the Judges.
- Soldiers who were on the ground on Bloody Sunday start giving evidence.
- Colonel Derek Wilford, commander of 1 Para on Bloody Sunday, begins his evidence.

April

- Commander of British forces in Iraq, General Sir Mike Jackson, gives evidence to the Inquiry. He was Adjutant of 1 Para on Bloody Sunday.
- The Tribunal rules that a number of former Security Service officers can give their evidence to the Inquiry screened. They are also granted anonymity.
- Inquiry rises for Easter recess.

May

- Security Service/Intelligence Officers give evidence
- Tribunal issues ruling on terms of anonymity

June

- Major Loden, Commanding Officer of Support Company, gives evidence
- Inquiry hears from soldiers present in Rossville Street/Rossville Flats area

July

- More evidence from soldiers present in Rossville Street/Rossville Flats area
- Tribunal issue appeal asking those with evidence to come forward
- Tribunal rules on questioning of witnesses
- Inquiry goes into summer recess

September

- More evidence from soldiers present in Rossville Street/Rossville Flats area
- Start to take evidence from soldiers in Glenfada Park

October

- More evidence from soldiers in Glenfada Park including Soldiers F and H
- Soldiers give evidence in the matter of Gerald Donaghy
- General Sir Mike Jackson recalled
- Patrick Ward gives evidence
- Inquiry transfers back to the Guildhall, Londonderry

November

- Remaining civilian witnesses start to give evidence
- Inquiry begins to hear evidence of former paramilitary witnesses including former members of both Provisional and Official IRA.
- Martin McGuinness gives evidence

December

- Inquiry continues to hear evidence of civilian witnesses and former paramilitaries
- Hearings on allegations

January

- More evidence from former paramilitaries and remaining civilian witnesses
- Journalists from Channel 4 News recalled

February

- Inquiry hears evidence from Ivan Cooper
- Remaining former RUC officers give evidence
- Final civilian witnesses and former paramilitaries give evidence
- Oral evidence completed on 13 February with appearance of PIRA 24, the Officer Commanding of the Provisional IRA in Derry at the time of Bloody Sunday
- Tribunal rule on issues of contempt and refusal to answer questions

Closing Stages

- Written submissions to be delivered to the Tribunal and all other Interested Parties by 12 March 2004;
- Written submissions in reply to be delivered to the Tribunal and all other Interested Parties by 23 April 2004;
- Oral session at the Guildhall, Londonderry starting on 7 June 2004 (this will be an occasion at which the Tribunal will seek any necessary clarification of written submissions and is not intended to allow the repetition orally of that which is contained in those submissions);
- Closing summation at the Guildhall, Londonderry by Counsel to the Inquiry commencing 4 October 2004;
- Report submitted to Government during 2005.