ARKIV et al

‘PATTERN ASSESSMENTS’

By CILLIAN McGRATTAN

DECEMBER 2013

There is demand for determining whether individual acts were carried out pursuant to standing policies and strategies. For many victims and their families, knowing the details of their individual case is not sufficient. They also wish to know the larger context of the events that affected them – the policies, strategies, and broad goals of those who committed violence – in order to better understand the reasons behind their suffering. Society, too, has an interest in learning about these overarching patterns or themes. They are what tie individual events or actions together into a comprehensible and meaningful history of those years. They also provide a vehicle for facilitating acknowledgments by perpetrators of violence, as they permit a broader level of accountability than do individual cases. For all these reasons, we agree that examining such themes is a vital step towards contending with the legacy of the past.

Therefore, in addition to its core mission of addressing individual requests for or offers of information, the Independent Commission for Information Retrieval (ICIR) will also establish an internal unit to analyse patterns or themes. This will not be an investigative unit. It will not have the power to pursue leads, subpoena files or testimony, or conduct any other kind of formal investigation. Rather, it will analyse evidence from extant HET file [e.g. Cadwallader], new HIU files and public records such as inquiry files and court records and, in time, the information provided through ICIR’s other work, to draw conclusions about the themes and patterns it addresses. In light of the protections and assurances given to those who provide information through ICIR, we expect that it will over time become the largest and most detailed repository of information about the conflict. Its director and staff will be well placed to utilise that repository, in conjunction with other resources, to assess the policies and strategies, if any, of the participants in the conflict.

This process should be conducted with sensitivity, balance, and rigorous intellectual integrity. Its purpose is to understand context and contribute to public awareness of history. It is not to settle scores or pursue narrow interests. As such, the manner in which themes are identified is crucial to both the perception and reality of the unit’s fairness and honesty. There are two avenues through which themes can be selected. First, the ICIR theme unit can, in the course of its study, identify themes through their assessment of the body of information before them. Second, civic society, through the Implementation and Reconciliation Group can suggest for consideration their agreed hypotheses for the ICIR theme unit to analyse. The unit would investigate ideas from either source rigorously, on the strict basis of the evidence in front of them, and without political influence from within or outside the unit.

The thematic unit, with the oversight of the head of the ICIR, will determine when it has sufficient evidence to support rigorous conclusions about the issues it is analysing. At that time, it will publish a report outlining its assessments on that theme or themes and describing (without breaching the protections offered to those providing information or any legal protections on its other information sources), the evidence it used to support those assessments. If further evidence comes to light at a future date on that topic, the report should be updated.

Charter for Innocent Victims of Terrorism

[**Charterfor Innocent VictimsofTerrorism**](https://www.facebook.com/charterfor.innocentvictims) **shared a** [**link**](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.essex.police.uk%2Fnews_features%2Ffeatures_archive%2F2013%2Fjanuary%2Fcold_case_investigation_team.aspx&h=KAQGf4PhWAQErYkvMlriqTLwU4Q7v55eWlxb0159hsZxgUQ&enc=AZMt0fnFzfLoncAJ5d6hm5jJ8uo62ZCzPK6U6T6GcKrzZv3CwYp9s1-NXQEJnexPX24zLrcqhxXNfGXt6fCKbFFW&s=1)**.**

[10 hours ago](https://www.facebook.com/charterfor.innocentvictims/posts/188935871308521) · [Edited](https://www.facebook.com/charterfor.innocentvictims)

The key to destroying our history & truth is in the new all encompassing processes around truth & justice being peddled in the Haass document.

This is fundamental & the key area.

Through this engineered process the aim is to "alter the past" not "deal with the past" make no mistake.

We have attached a link which shows how another part of the UK deals with historical murder & also very importantly the language the UK police force who rightly investigate it use.

This is only one force every force in the UK operates this system including the largest the Metropolitan Police Force.

Even more interesting is that virtually every police force in the modern democratic world operates this system.

On the basis of this we would like to ask those negotiating on our behalf why should our historical investigation process on murder be any different? Numbers of murders are no excuse. Please tell us!!?

If we accept this different or universal process then we are saying it's a different kind of murder in other parts of the UK or with special circumstances, political perhaps, freedom fighters even thereby tearing the very fabric out of our country.

We must stay concretely firm on this we cannot separate ourselves or differentiate ourselves from murders that have taken place in other parts of the UK whether by a terrorist or whatever.

Murder is murder the statue book does not categorise it so why would we unless for an alternative motive!

If the judicial and investigative system is no good here then it has to be wiped across the board. We cannot be separated from the rest of the UK in order that others can manipulate this new system to destroy our state.

We can never accept that there are special circumstances around murder here, something terrorists have always claimed and which will give them the very chink of light they crave.

Justice and the investigation process for those 18 soldiers blown up at Narrow Water, an RUC or Prison Officer, a UDR soldier or innocent civilians murdered by these criminals in Tyrone, Fermanagh or S Armagh should be no different than the system used to deal with the terrorists who butchered Lee Rigby in London.

On the official Government Home Office list of terrorist organisations there is no difference attributed between terrorists whether Irish or Foreign so why should we accept that there is?

This is our bottom line position & we will be communicating this to those negotiating our very future & history.

Republicans can not rewrite history through the current judicial process that is the key it can't deliver on allegations on collusion as they don't have the evidence a court will accept that is the bottom line.

They can produce all the books they wish, documentaries and press reports but none of it will stand the test of what is recognised as one of the best justice system in the world.

Most key of all is that currently over 40 inquest cases are listed with the coroner to be re investigated 95% of these are cases that challenge the state and many who were terrorists killed on terrorist actions. These new cases will be straight into this new system giving an outcome which even a blind man can see.

Most crucially the outcome under the new system will be entirely different than what it will be under our fair, current and robust justice system.

Now ask yourself is the timing of the proposal for this new system just coincidental or lucky in that it happens to be when Republicans have all their state cases backed up in the system?

So on this basis why then would we want to jeopardise this all just because certain politicians & those terrorists who were engaged in murder say so?

Why would we give them a process to destroy our very state & history.

If we accept that our current judicial system & investigative process is not right then we are tearing the very fabric out of our country.

We are saying that both the judiciary & the security services are unfit for purpose both currently & historically thereby betraying all those who have been murdered in both to protect liberty & freedom what an irony in itself.

This will be the first step towards amnesty as the very systems used to put criminal terrorists behind bars will be questioned & attacked in this new process.

No unionist politician can guarantee where this process will go we have seen that with the Belfast Agreement they are liars if they say they can.

Give us one good reason why we should accept what is proposed & what will give innocent victims nothing except more pain.

All we have is our dignity & we are damned if we are going to hand it over or allow our politicians to hand it away.

Forget about the truth in this process despite that carrot being dangled, it will become like a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, seen vaguely in the distance but the closer you seem to get to it the further it seems to be away.

Terrorism is terrorism, terrorists are terrorists not "actors" or non governmental bodies.

We cannot allow anything to be developed in this process through a vague document that has the detail hidden.

While we will be scrapping for the crumbs off the table the Republicans will be feasting at the top table, dining on our pain & our suffering.

Noone will be able to control this process once it is given the green light.

Republican communities in border areas like S Armagh have already given this process the green light, with such speed, absolutely giving SFIRA the mandate to do the deal they say!

The key question those honest brokers investigating on our behalf need to ask themselves is!

"Do you seriously and honestly believe that the IRA in S Armagh the key and vital cog in accepting any peace deal in the past had no advance warning or input ahead of any unionist & took time to deliberate on what was and wasn't going to be in this document and ensuring what it will eventually lead to"

We rest our case.

<http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/features_archive/2013/january/cold_case_investigation_team.aspx>