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LOCAL NEWS



New newspaper campaign

Tuesday 09 December 2008 09:02

New Disappeared campaign

The families of the so-called Disappeared have launched a new campaign to locate the remains of their loved ones.

For the first time they have sent a letter to every newspaper in Ireland and also to the Irish press in America and England urging those with information to speak to the Commission for the Location of Victims Remains.

Television actor Jimmy Nesbitt is also supporting the appeal.

The Co Antrim born actor is lending his support to the relatives` long running quest for information on the whereabouts of their loved ones.

The fresh appeal comes after remains believed to be those of missing teenager Danny McIlhone were discovered on a remote hillside about 50 miles south of Dublin last month.

The 19-year-old vanished from west Belfast in 1981 and forensic DNA tests are being carried out to confirm whether the body is his.

Eight other people abducted, murdered and secretly buried by republican paramilitaries in the 1970s and 1980s remain unfound.

Four bodies have been discovered and returned to their families for burial since 1999.

Anna McShane, the daughter of Charlie Armstrong who disappeared in August 1981, said that the families cannot move on until their loved ones are recovered.

"The families of the Disappeared will continue to look for the remains of their loved ones until they are found," she said.

"It will continue down through the generations of the families, if that is what it takes.

"We are living with a perpetual longing to have the remains returned so that we can give our loved ones a Christian burial and have a grave to visit. We will not give up until we achieve that."

The families` joint letter states: "Whilst Northern Ireland has moved on and is at peace, we remain the forgotten victims of the Troubles.

"So to those who can help, we have a very simple message this Christmas. For God sake, end our suffering."

Meanwhile Mr Nesbitt said the families had suffered enough and deserved closure.

"I have nothing but admiration and respect for the families of the Disappeared," he said ahead of a meeting with relatives in Belfast on Tuesday.

The commission can be contacted confidentially on 00800-55585500 or by writing to ICLVR, PO BOX, 10827, Dublin 2.



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1 comment(s)



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On 9 Dec at 10:36 - Billy for the Truth from belfast said:

Find it extremely disquieting when actors suddenly start voicing their opinion on such sensitive and horrendous issues as the Disappeared.

