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WEDNESDAY
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13:28:31

MPs to investigate NI killings

A committee of MPs is to investigate the RUC's failure to properly investigate six Northern

Ireland security force killings, a spokeswoman has revealed.

The Westminster human rights grouping's intervention follows a European Court ruling that the UK was in breach of its obligation to carry out a proper inquiry.

It has received petitions from lobby groups including British/Irish Rights Watch.

Director Jane Winter said: "This failure not only denies families their right to the truth about how their loved ones died, but undermines the UK's domestic and international standing when it comes to human rights."

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2001 that eight IRA men shot dead by soldiers of an undercover SAS unit at Loughgall, County Armagh, in 1987, and two IRA men killed by RUC officers had their human rights violated.

Judges considered four separate cases between 1982 and 1992 in which 14 people were killed.

The killings included:

:: Patrick Kelly and the seven others who died in the worst single loss of life for the IRA at Loughgall - argued in the human rights court that excessive force was used.

The IRA men were killed along with a passer-by, Anthony Hughes, when soldiers of an undercover SAS unit ambushed them during an IRA attack on a police station.

:: The 1992 shooting dead of IRA man Pearse Jordan, 23, at a security force checkpoint in west Belfast.

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:: Gervaise McKerr, 31, who died with two other IRA members at the hands of a special RUC unit in Lurgan, Co Armagh, 1982.

:: Sinn Fein member Patrick Shanaghan, 31, who was ambushed and shot dead behind the wheel of his van by the Ulster Defence Association, allegedly in collusion with the RUC, as he drove to work.

A representative of the Joint Committee on Human Rights said: "We periodically review the cases and the committee has received submissions which it will be considering."

Ms Winter said the UK should implement the Strasbourg court`s judgment.

"We have asked the committee to try to use their influence to speed this up," she added.

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