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LOCAL NEWS



Minister Micheal Martin

Thursday 29 January 2009 08:16

Victims` families to meet minister

Family representatives of 11 people killed by British soldiers in west Belfast almost 40 years ago will meet with the Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Micheal Martin on Thursday.

The Ballymurphy shootings took place during the early days of internment in August 1971.

During his visit to Belfast Mr Martin will also hold talks with the family of Damien Walsh, who was gunned down by loyalists in the city in 1993.

Cross-community groups will also sit down with the Minister, including representatives from 174 Trust, the Ballybeen Improvement Group, and Youth Action Northern Ireland.

Mr Martin said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to meet with community and youth groups in Belfast.

"The work of these groups at grassroots level plays a vital role in overcoming sectarianism and in promoting respect and tolerance."

Mr Martin said the Irish government was committed to providing support to reconciliation projects in Northern Ireland.

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On 30 Jan at 16:00 - ruc widow from north west said:

This is so unfair, others get ministers involved and as for my husband there is nothing. i got a letter recently from the H E T to say they were still dealing with murders back in 1970 's and it would be some time before they would get around to the time he was murdered. We are the bottom of every list and feel less imporant. Why should we be made so low. My husband's life was the RUC and we lost family life because he was married to the job. It came first, pity he doesn't. This is why i say one enquiry for all, or none at all, and no innocent victim is above another.

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