				IN VIDEOBT WOMAN OF THE YEARGIANTS GO PAI
Telegraph	Opinion			Research + 12° Hi 12°C / Lo 10°
 PRICEWATCH The shocking costs of living in NI - send 	That's the r	eal bottom line.		
us your comments			Powering regional business flybe.com	
News				
		• Editors Viewpoint		
		o Letters		
		Columnists		
Entertainment				
Joba				
Cars				
Homes				
Other Titles				
Services				
		The digital	gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion	
lome > Opinion				
Disappeared still hau	nt the IRA		Don't Miss	
3y Brian Rowan 'hursday, 13 November 2008				
Their ghosts hang round the neck of he IRA.	Print 🗠 Email	Related Articles Forensics giving hope to familie	The fashion	
n its own way that organisation will ustify the killings — the "executions"	Search	of Disappeared	secrets behind X Factor	
- but it cannot defend the practice hat opened out the story of the	Bookmark & Share			
disappeared".	Digg It		crime	
t is a chapter from the past that still eads into the present — stories of illing, of secret burial, of biddon and	del.icio.us		• Interactive	
killing, of secret burial, of hidden and lost graves of tortured, traumatised	Facebook		Crime Map of Northern Ireland	
amilies and it is an episode that still aunts the IRA itself.	🕄 Stumbleupon		Training (
t is something in the war that just von't go away — something described s "a dark and disturbing period for nany republicans".	What are these?			
You do not hear the word "shame" — bu butside the IRA's own "moral framework			Golfing news and analysis	
Republicans don't want to talk about it.				
But for those, such as the McIlhone family, who have waited so long for some news, for information that might lead to the discovery of the remains of a loved one — there is no need for such reminders. For many years grieving families have lived in the reality of this horror.				
have written in this newspaper about a beriod — the man who spoke its words a Disappeared', and I wrote it down.			Who is to blame for credit crisis?	

The statement was about nine killings, nine secret graves and nine people, whose names were read out one

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/disappeared-still-haunt-the-ira-14059309.html (1 of 3)13/11/2008 16:03:01

Disappeared still haunt the IRA - Opinion - Belfasttelegraph.co.uk

by one — Seamus Wright, Kevin McKee, Eamon Molloy, Jean McConville, Columba McVeigh, Brendan Megraw, John McClory, Brian McKinney and Danny McIlhone.

And with each name a reason for the "execution" was offered — Jean McConville "admitted being a British Army informer", Columba McVeigh "admitted being a British Army agent directed to infiltrate the IRA", Danny McIlhone "admitted stealing weapons from an Oglaigh na hEireann dump and using the weapons in armed robberies".

It was all matter-of-fact — as cold as the secret graves, in which the disappeared were silenced, no longer able to speak their side of the story.

The IRA has not apologised for these killings - its regret is the disappearing of the bodies.

"This issue has caused incalculable pain and distress to a number of families over a period of many years," the IRA said in March 1999.

"In initiating this investigation our intention has been to do all within our power to rectify an injustice, for which we accept full responsibility, and to alleviate the suffering of the families," the statement continued.

"We are sorry that this has taken so long to resolve and for the prolonged anguish caused to the families," read the statement.

Some IRA claims were disputed .

In July 2006 the Police Ombudsman made a statement on one of the cases of the Disappeared saying there was no evidence that Jean McConville "gave information to the police, the military or the Security Service. She was not an informant".

But, within 24 hours, the IRA responded — in another meeting with another P O'Neill and in another statement read to me.

An IRA "investigation" had confirmed that Jean McConville "was working as an informer".

The story of the Disappeared is not over. There are bodies still to be found, and until all are returned, that war of decades and that war of words will not end.

Post a comment	
Limit: 500 characters	
View all comments that have been posted about this article	
	* Name (only this field displayed)
	* Email
	* Town/City
	* Country/State
Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's Terms of Use.	* Required field
Posts submitted in UPPERCASE letters will be rejected.	Remember Me
Also in this section	
• Will the New Year mean a new start for our Executive?	
Mugabe's great betrayal	
• Are dissident republicans a real threat to peace in Northern Ireland?	



JIII

Your Chance to

win a MEAL

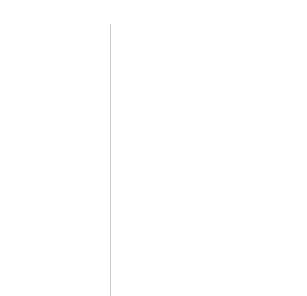
FOR TWO

1 10 1 11

WIN A

DREAM HOUSE

01



		0	-
		Ce	
•	-	P.	2

Sign up for Pick The Score Disappeared still haunt the IRA - Opinion - Belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Go Search →

©belfasttelegraph.co.uk Legal Terms & Policies | Contact Us | Sitemap | RSS Feeds | Group Websites | Daily Newsletter