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SF to hold collusion conference

Sinn Féin is to hold a conference on collusion to step up political pressure on the British government to establish public inquiries, it emerged today.

Details of the one-day event, which will provide a forum for campaign groups and victims' relatives, were announced following today's Sinn Féin ard chomhairle meeting in Dublin.

Last week's report by Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan found collusion between RUC and Special Branch officers and loyalist paramilitaries in at least 15 murders.

A Sinn Féin delegation led by party leader Gerry Adams raised the issue during a face-to-face meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Downing Street last week.

The February 10th conference will be addressed by the Justice for the Forgotten and Relatives for Justice campaign groups.

Relatives of murder victims participating in the event include Amanda Fullerton, daughter of murdered Co Donegal Sinn Fein representative Eddie Fullerton; John Finucane, son of slain Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane and relatives of Dundalk forestry worker Seamus Ludlow.

Sinn Féin TD and party justice spokesman, Aengus O Snodaigh said: "The conference next weekend is part of a wider campaign to step up pressure on the British government.

"It will also be putting pressure on the Irish Government. They have known for many years about collusion but have yet to support full independent inquiries to establish the real truth about what happened in this city and elsewhere.

"The families of those who were killed as a result of British-run death squads deserve the truth.

"And this should happen whether it was those killed in the early 1970s in Dundalk, Dublin or Monaghan or those who were killed by British agents in recent years."

PA

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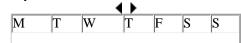
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