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Operation Banner review call

(Seamus McKinney, Irish News)

There have been calls for a complete review of the British army's analysis of its 38-year role in Northern Ireland published in the Operation Banner report.

The calls follow news that the army's internal analysis is to be changed to note that a Derry teenager shot by soldiers on the morning of Operation Motorman in 1972 was not a "terrorist".

Daniel Hegarty (15) was shot dead near his Creggan home when he went to see British army tanks roll in to clear no-go areas.

In the official British army analysis of Operation Banner, the teenager was listed as a "terrorist".

But following complaints by his family and the Pat Finucane Centre, the Ministry of Defence apologised and agreed to change the passage.

SDLP leader Mark Durkan last night (Friday) demanded that the entire document, which is riddled with inaccuracies, be reviewed and changed.

Welcoming the change to the entry on Daniel Hegarty, Mr Durkan said he was concerned that the Operation Banner document was to be re-issued.

"There are unfortunately a number of other families whose tragedies and travesties have been misrepresented by this document, including the Bloody Sunday families," he said.

"I will be pursuing this matter further with the British government in order to see that they will have their burdens eased by the removal of additional injustices in the guise of this document."

Sinn Féin assembly member Martina Anderson called for a full inquiry into Daniel Hegarty's 1972 death.

September 3, 2007

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