

## What is needed?

The horrific catalogue of events in Ballymurphy between 9th and 11th August 1971 have remained hidden from public knowledge and focus for over 30 years.

With the holding of the public inquiry into Bloody Sunday it has become clear that, had the Parachute Regiment been held to account for the murders in Belfast they could not have gone on to murder 14 more civilians with impunity six months later. These families have survived without public recognition or legal redress for all of this time. With a process of transition from conflict to peace now underway they demand:

- **Independent international investigation examining all of the circumstances surrounding all of the deaths.**
- **The British government to issue a statement of innocence and a public apology**

## What can I do?

**Organise** an information session in your local area or with your group. The campaign is seeking to hold information sessions with all interested people to inform them of what occurred.

**Sign up** to the families' demand for a statement of innocence and apology from the British Government.

**Raise** this issue with your elected representative.

**Write** to Gordon Brown MP outlining your concern and the need to meet the families' requests for history to be put to rights and the families to be recognised.

## Contact

**The 1971 Ballymurphy Massacre Committee**

C/O Relatives for Justice  
235A Falls Road  
Belfast  
BT12 4PE

Tel: + 44 028 9022 0100

Fax: + 44 028 9022 0101

Email: andree.murphy@relativesforjustice.com

www.relativesforjustice.com

## Relatives Campaign



### Campaigning for Justice

Family members of all those killed are pictured at Clonard Monastery.

## Sponsors

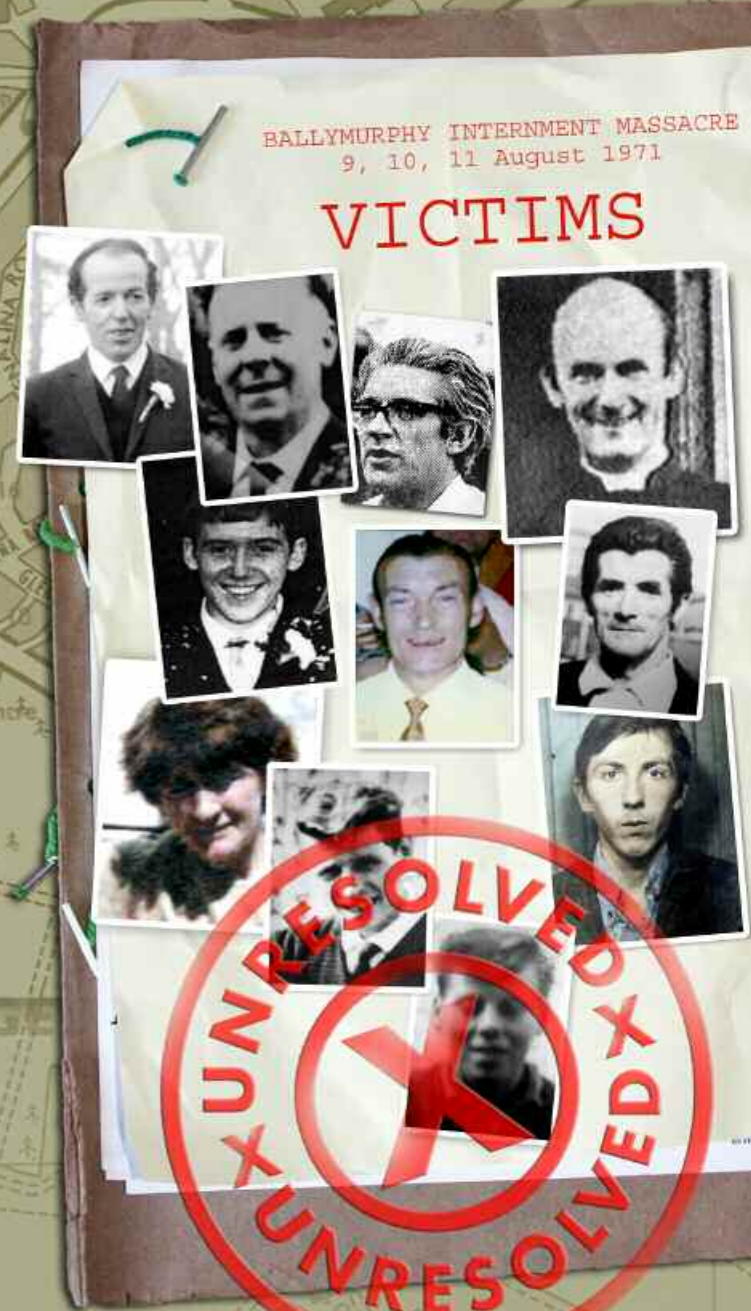
Publication of this leaflet was made possible by the kind sponsorship of the following:

- **ABLE TAXIS**  
Tel: 9024 1999
- **COSGROVE'S BAR, King Street**
- **DALE CABS, Stewartstown Road**  
Tel: 9062 2222
- **INISFREE NEWSAGENTS, Castle Street**
- **MCKEES SHOP, Ballymurphy**



# Ballymurphy Internment Massacre

9, 10, 11 August 1971



SUPPORTED BY

RELATIVES FOR  
**JUSTICE**



# Background

On Monday 9th of August 1971 Interment without Trial was introduced by the British Government. This policy was directed and implemented by the British Army with the stated aim - "shock and stun the civilian population".

Between 9th and 11th August eleven people were killed in the Ballymurphy area of West Belfast. All eleven were killed by the British Army's Parachute Regiment. All eleven were unarmed civilians. One of the dead was a parish priest, another a mother of eight children. Forty seven children were left without a parent. There was no proper criminal investigation. The Royal Military Police were assigned as sole investigators. Not one member of the British Army was held to account. It is believed that had justice been administered and those held to account charged, the events of Bloody Sunday would not have happened.

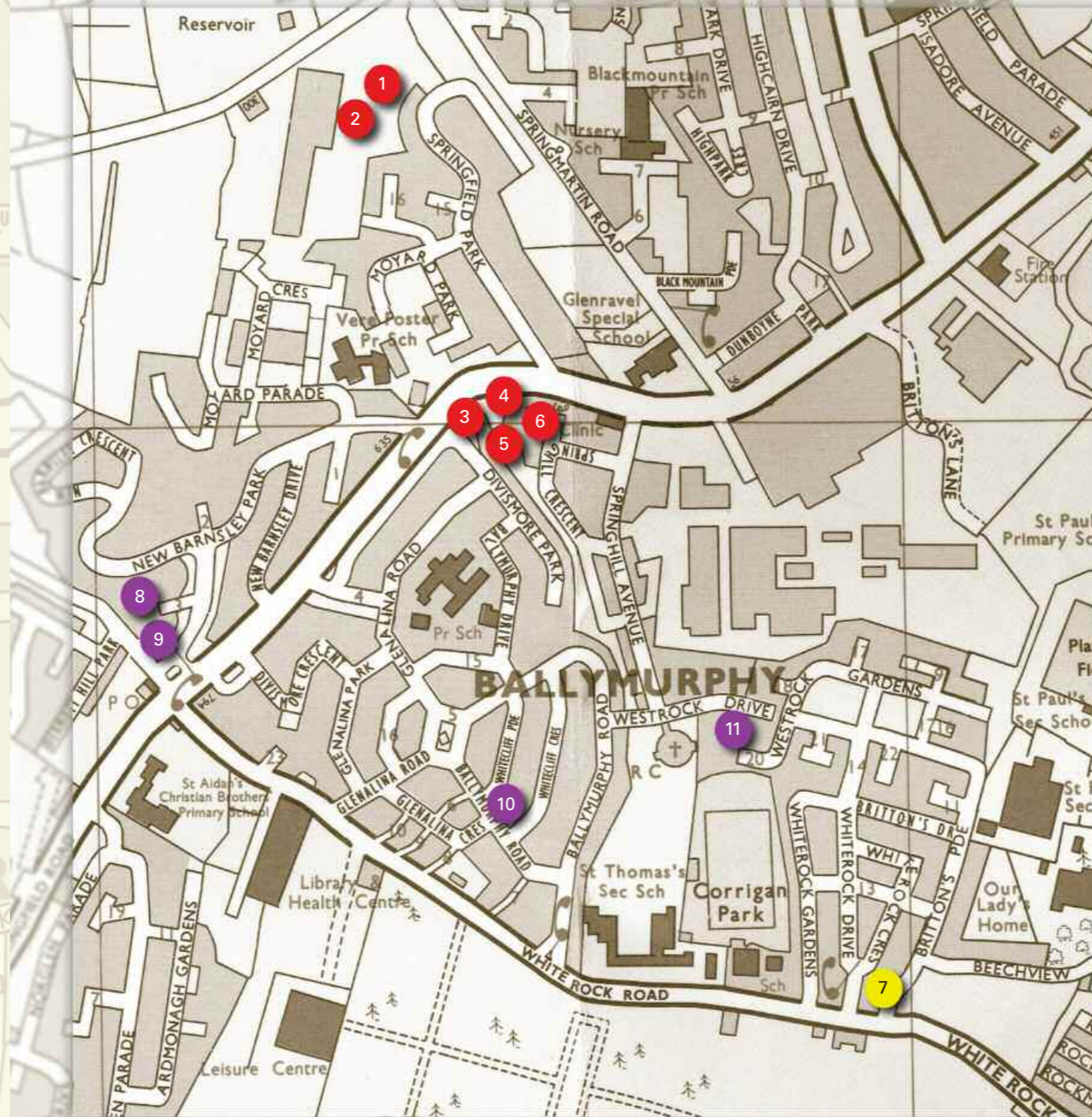
The terrible events in Ballymurphy for too long have remained in the shadows. Here we put the spotlight on how eleven innocent people met their deaths over a three day period in August 1971.

# Chronology

**AUG 9** On the 9th August the first of the killings took place in Springfield Park. A local man was trying to lift children to safety when he was shot and wounded. People tried to help, but were pinned down by British Army gunfire. The parish priest, **Father Hugh Mullan**, **1** took out a white cloth and tried to reach the wounded man, as he knelt over him, anointing him, he was shot. Another young man, **Frank Quinn**, **2** on witnessing this came out of his position of safety to help Father Mullan, he too was murdered. The bodies lay until local people could reach them and remained in neighbours houses until the next morning.

200 yards away at exactly the same time, local people were standing on waste ground at the top of Ballymurphy when the British army opened fire. **Noel Phillips**, **3** a young man of 19 was shot and wounded. As he lay crying for help, a mother of eight children **Joan Connolly**, **4** went to his aid, she was heard to say "It's alright son I'm coming to you". Joan was shot in the face and as she lay on the ground other local men tried to get to her which resulted in them also being shot. When

Map of Ballymurphy area illustrating location where victims were shot



this atrocity was over **Daniel Teggart**, **5** a father of 13 children; was shot 14 times and Joan Connolly lay dead. **Joseph Murphy**, **6** who was shot in the leg and Noel Phillips, also suffering from a wound, did not receive any medical attention. When a British Army Saracen pulled into the field, Noel Phillips received a summary execution, witnessed by many people. The Army began to throw the bodies; dead and wounded into the Saracen, including Joseph Murphy. Mr Murphy was taken to the Henry Taggart Army Barracks where he was severely beaten, he died 3 weeks later. His family said if he had received medical attention he would have lived. They believe that he was beaten to death. Others wounded were also severely beaten, all receiving no medical attention.

**AUG 10** **Eddie Doherty**, **7** was making his way home along the Whiterock Road on the 10th August when a British Army digger and Saracen moved in to dismantle a barricade that had been erected. From the digger, a member of the Parachute Regiment shot Eddie in the back, he did not receive any medical attention and died of his wounds.

**AUG 11** On the early morning of 11th August, **John Laverty**, **8** aged 20 was shot dead by soldiers. **Joseph Corr**, **9** a father of 7, was also shot and died on 27th August as a result. The Parachute Regiment's account is that both men were firing at the Army. Neither men were armed. All ballistic and forensic evidence disproved this testimony with no residue of arms being found. The British Army version of events remains the 'official' version.

**Paddy McCarthy**, **10** a community worker was shot in the hand while attempting to leave the local community centre to distribute milk and bread. A few hours later, he decided to continue with his deliveries. He was stopped by soldiers and beaten. Paddy suffered a massive heart attack and died as result of the ordeal.

**John McKerr**, **11** was opening Corpus Christi chapel for people attending a funeral later that morning when a British Army sniper shot him. Despite the harassment of British Army soldiers local residents went to his aid and remained at his side until an ambulance arrived. He died of his wounds on the 20th August.

