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August 24, 2019

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IRISH NEWS  
113-117 Donegal Street  
Belfast, Northern Ireland  
BTI 2GE

Claire Simpson: Gregory Campbell's call for  
'accurate picture' of the Troubles a pipe-dream(Aug 19)

## **INQUESTS REWRITING HISTORY WITH TRUTH**

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Better 47 years late than never, the Coroner's Court ruled British troopers had no justification for shooting unarmed Derry teen Seamus Bradley, then watching him die without medical treatment. Gregory Campbell loudly complained court rulings using law and evidence, are unfair to British crown forces and their state narrative. It seems that British legacy killings are indefensible, unless facts and law are buried under mythology.

Campbell is regurgitating the policy which created this legacy impasse. Nine months before Seamus Bradley's murder, Brigadier General Frank Kitson suggested "law should be used as another weapon in the government's arsenal... little more than a propaganda cover for disposal of unwanted members of the public."

Behind this propaganda cover, the crown legally rubberstamped the 'disposal' of Seamus Bradley, Ballymurphy Massacre victims, Springhill-Westrock victims and so many others. Meanwhile they lauded British troops and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, for using "minimum force" only "within the rule of law" to "uphold

law and order". They then said British forces were responsible for only 10% of the north's killings, washing their hands of collusion with loyalists in murders.

The DUP and Westminster Tories seem to think that twenty-five thousand suspected Republicans inside British prisons was not enough, but the handful of British troopers charged for murder were too many for victims' relative to look for more.

British officials, however, did not calculate that relatives might overcome decades of British delays, denials and waiting for family members to die or lose heart. As the truth emerges in courtrooms, British officials resort to pious words about "rewriting history" or "pernicious counter narratives." In plainer English, they fear that proceedings like the Bradley or Ballymurphy inquests are rewriting lies with truth and destroying British fairytale myths about their dirty war in Ireland.

The Bradley inquest held that British troopers opened fire on an unarmed Derry teen, then concocted a cover story about firing a machine gun. It may make out crimes of murder and perjury. The Ballymurphy Massacre victims were ruled guilty of crimes which justified killing them. Should we not expect those findings to be rewritten with facts that destroy the British version? Meanwhile evidence mounts that Britain's crown forces were complicit in murders carried out by loyalist agents.

We will either see an amnesty or banners going up for more so-called heroes like "Soldier F."

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