



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Sinn Fein/IRA feast and dance while their victims weep and grieve



Columba McVeigh — a young Roman Catholic victim of IRA terror

**Nothing serves better to highlight the evil state of politics in this country than recent events in which the activities of Sinn Fein/ IRA featured. The party of the gun and the bomb recently organised a gathering to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the break-out from the Maze prison of 38 IRA terrorists. At the same time, another search for another body of another IRA victim, a young Roman Catholic, was drawing to a fruitless and disappointing end.**

For years now, many of the relatives of those abducted and shot by the IRA during its 30 years of terror, have sought in vain for information about the whereabouts of the bodies of their loved ones. Their requests have been met by silence or, worse still, obscure information which has led to many raised hopes as large areas of bogland have been dug over.

In most instances, the digging is called off and the mourners are left to return to their hopeless grieving. The most recent case involved that of the body of Columba McVeigh. The search for the body of this IRA murder victim was called off by the Irish police force, the Garda, while his angry mother voiced her bitterness toward her son's abductors and her giving up of all hope of him ever being found. Gardai ended their third search, near Emyvale, Co Monaghan, without success.

This latest search operation began after the IRA relayed new information about the location of Columba McVeigh's body to the authorities. Mr McVeigh, from Donaghmore, Co Tyrone, was one of the "disappeared". He was 17 when he was kidnapped in 1975. The IRA, who claimed he was a spy, finally admitted his murder four years ago.

The dead teenager's mother, Vera McVeigh, claimed those who killed him had no intention of revealing where he was buried. "They never tell the truth. I never, never had any hope that they would come on Columba," she said. She added: "If there's such a thing as hell, they are bound to be in it."

Garda inspector Pat Morrow said his officers had done their best. "We were quite optimistic that we would be successful but as the days went by, our hopes were dashed," he said. The dig concentrated on an area about the size of a football field, and was said to have been targeted more specifically than in previous searches in 1999 and 2000.



Mrs. Vera McVeigh

The latest search got under way 10 days after what are thought to be the remains of another of the disappeared, Jean McConville, were found on Shelling Hill beach in Co Louth. The mother of ten was abducted by an armed IRA gang and murdered in December 1972, after she comforted a British soldier who was shot outside her Divis Flats home in west Belfast.



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More than thirty years later, Jean McConville's remains were believed to have been finally found on a beach near Carlingford, Co Louth last month. They were discovered by accident by a member of the public who was walking by the edge of the sea and saw the remains which had been uncovered by the motion of the tide, rather than as a result of any information given by her murderers. A postmortem revealed that she had been shot in the head. Her family have invited the media to her funeral, despite an IRA warning to keep it a private affair.

DNA tests are still being carried out to confirm the remains are hers, but it is thought the funeral will take place in the next few weeks.

St Mary's Roman Catholic chapel, Belfast is where family members and friends will gather for her funeral.

While these Roman Catholic families are grieving over the loss of loved ones murdered by the IRA, it was celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Maze break-out at a Donegal Hotel.

During the break-out, leading Sinn Fein/ IRA figure, Gerry Kelly, shot a prison officer twice in the head at point blank range.

The man miraculously survived but another prison officer died of a heart attack after being stabbed in the escape. He was one of four stabbed in the break-out. Dozens of other prison officers were severely beaten by the escapers. Years later, thousands of pounds were paid out in compensation to those recaptured for the treatment they received when recaptured. These incidents serve well to epitomise the state of politics in this land.

Murder, grief and tears mark the trail of Sinn Fein's political progress. Its every political "success" is a direct result of terror and murder.

If ever there was an organisation and a people with their hands dipped in blood, Roman Catholic and Protestant blood, it is Sinn Fein/IRA.