



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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### Martin McGuinness sparked 'Bloody Sunday' shooting — *Claim*



Sinn Fein MP, Martin McGuinness admitted he was the IRA gunman who sparked 'Bloody Sunday' with a single shot, according to an informer, the Saville inquiry has been told. Christopher Clarke QC, counsel for the inquiry into the 1972 killings by the British Army, during a riot in Londonderry following an anti-internment march, revealed three security force documents detailing an informer's claims about Martin McGuinness's role in Londonderry at the time, and pleaded with him to give evidence at the inquiry. He has so far refused to offer a statement.

Mr McGuinness, Minister for Education in the short-lived, power-sharing executive at Stormont, labelled the informer's allegations "a pathetic fabrication", a British military ploy to divert attention from the Parachute Regiment's killing of 14 civilians.

Mr Clarke, on the eighth day of his opening statement, disclosed a confidential document on the debriefing of an IRA informer, code-named Infliction. It was dated April 6, 1984. The crucial passage read: "Martin McGuinness had admitted to Infliction that he personally fired the shot from a Thompson sub-machine gun from Rossville Flats that precipitated the Bloody Sunday episode."

A classified message of May 15, 1984, sent to the RUC, the Northern Ireland Office and the British embassy in Dublin, read: "Speaking in confidence, a leading member of the Provisional IRA, who no longer has access to the organisation, commented that Martin McGuinness personally fired the shot (from a Thompson machine gun on 'single shot') from Rossville flats in Bogside that precipitated the Bloody Sunday episode."

Another document said: "At the time of Bloody Sunday, 30 January 1972, McGuinness was a senior member if not OC (officer commanding) of Londonderry PIRA. Although we have no collateral for the above report (Infliction's claim) there is intelligence that McGuinness was actively involved in PIRA attacks in the city shortly after Bloody Sunday."

**While knowing this of McGuinness, the government still pushed for him to be accepted by the Unionist people of Northern Ireland as a Minister in the recent power-sharing Executive.**