



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Mother of IRA murder victim dies of a 'broken heart'



Mrs Maureen Kearney

According to relatives of Mrs Maureen McKearney, 65, she died of a broken heart, following the murder of her son by the IRA last year. Mrs. McKearney passed away at the end of August. She had suffered severe stress after her son, Andrew, bled to death after he was shot in the legs. Andrew Kearney, 33, had been asleep on his sofa, with his daughter on his chest, when gunmen broke in, shot him, ripped out the telephone line and jammed the lift to his flat to stop him seeking help. Nobody has yet been charged with the killing, believed to stem from a fight between Mr Kearney and members of the IRA. Mrs Kearney campaigned to have people arrested and charged for her son's murder. She said that everybody knew who was responsible. Her sister, Faye McAllister, said: "She fought a hard campaign to bring those to justice who murdered Andrew but in the end she just died of a broken heart."

Mrs Kearney's death took place in Belfast, just days after Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, ruled that the IRA ceasefire was intact, despite the IRA's involvement in murder

and gun-running.

On the first anniversary of her son's murder last month, Mrs Kearney said: "It just feels like I am slowly dying. I feel very, very angry. The people who did this are known to the police, ourselves, everybody. They've been interrogated but said nothing. I blame the structure of the IRA and I blame them because they allowed these people to get away with it. They should have handed him over to the law."

Forced exile and punishment beatings have long been used by republicans and loyalists trying to exert control over their areas.

At the time of Mrs. McKearney's death, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Bureau said that almost 800 people had been forced out of the Province since the Good Friday Agreement - 374 of whom are victims of the IRA. In addition, the IRA has murdered five people since the agreement was signed - the first of whom was Mr Kearney. They have shot 61 other people and beaten 153 more with baseball bats and nailed sticks. Loyalists have killed at least three people, shot 72 and beaten 173.

A court granted leave to Michelle Williamson to seek a judicial review of Secretary of State, Mo Mowlam's decision to consider the IRA ceasefire intact, despite the murders and beatings that the police have publicly attributed to Republican and Loyalist organisations. Michelle Williamson's mother and father were murdered by the IRA in the infamous "Shankill bomb" in 1993. Nine people in all, including two children, were murdered in the blast. One man was convicted of the atrocity, Sean Kelly. He was given nine life sentences. He is due for release next year under the terms of the so-called "Peace Agreement." The judicial review holds out the prospect of Mo Mowlam being called to justify her decision and Sir

## The Burning Bush—Online article archive



Michelle Williamson, both parents murdered by IRA bomber

Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, could be called to give evidence on intelligence reports about the IRA.

On the day that the court's ruling took place, UVF posters were put up in the Dooagh and Ballyclare areas of Co. Antrim, warning that beatings would be carried out against any considered guilty of anti-social behaviour. The UVF political entity is the Progressive Unionist Party, headed by the garrulous David Ervine. Norman Lavery, chairman of the Progressive Unionist Party in Ballyclare, claimed that pensioners were

being terrorised by youths on a nightly basis. "I fully back what the poster says," he told The Times reporter on September 20th.

This is something more for Mo to swallow as not constituting a breach of the ceasefire!