

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF MARK BLACK

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, MARK BLACK, declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence at the Inquiry, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. This is the first witness statement that I have made in connection with the Robert Hamill incident. No documents have been produced and shown to me in connection with this statement.
2. On the night of 26 April 1997, I went by bus to the Coach Inn in Banbridge with my brother Joe Black, and Shelley Liggett. I did not notice any trouble at the Coach Inn that night. After leaving the Coach Inn, Joe, Shelley and I got off the bus near the top of Thomas Street. From there we proceeded to walk up West Street to St Mark's Church where we sat on seats nearby.
3. From that location, I noticed a bit of a ruckus or fight. I was not sure if it was Catholics or Protestants, or people who were on the bus together who had had a falling out, as this was not uncommon when people had been drinking. I could not tell if the fighting was sectarian, but I think there were over 20 people involved.
4. It looked like a free-for-all with people also gathering around to watch the fight. My main concern was that my brother, Joe, was not involved and, apart from that, I was not all that interested. We headed home not long after it started. I did not notice any police presence in town that night or see the Police break up the fight.