

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF FIONA HAMILL

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2009

I, FIONA HAMILL, 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 my first statement made in connection with the Robert Hamill incident. No documents have been produced and shown to me.
2. Robert Hamill was my brother. I was not at the scene of the assault. When I found out that he had been attacked I went to the hospital. I saw Dermot McNeice, I knew that he had been with Robert that night.
3. I was told that a crowd had come from Robert's right side, from Thomas Street and that he was attacked and that he was on the middle of the road. When you're going from St. Patrick's Hall and you are crossing that junction, you are only going to one place. You're going to a catholic street that takes you to catholic areas. He was most definitely attacked because he was a catholic.
4. Robert's friends, D and E and F were on their route home and they had seen what had happened and had tried to help him.
5. I was told that the police were at the scene of the attack in a Land Rover. I remember F telling me that Robert was lying on the ground and she ran over to the Land Rover and banged on the side of it and asked them to get out and nobody answered them or responded inside of the Land Rover.

6. I did not see a police officer on the night of the assault, nobody spoke to me. Also present at the hospital were; my husband [REDACTED], my sister [REDACTED] and my brother [REDACTED]. I do not believe any of us were spoken to by the police for any reason. We were not told anything about the investigation or what was happening. Nothing happened until we took it upon ourselves to go up to the police station.
7. At a very early stage after the assault I went to Portadown Police Station with my sister Diane to speak to the police officers investigating the incident. We spoke to Detective Inspector P79 and Detective Sergeant P64. We knew that Portadown town centre had a lot of surveillance cameras. We were aware that there were plenty of them in town and there was no reason why there wouldn't be something on from the whole of that street. There had to be something.
8. I remember questioning what was happening and why nobody had been arrested and what they were doing. P79 was very negative regarding the video evidence. He said that it was insignificant. There was nothing on it. I asked him, "is the Land Rover on the video?" He said, "Yes, it is." That was enough for me.
9. After that meeting, we were not given any further information in relation to the investigation. They never spoke to us when we went to court appearances. The attitude of the investigating officers towards me and my family was that we were a hindrance to them. We were never appointed a family liaison officer nor did we have anyone with us at any of the court hearings.
10. I was hopeful that people would be convicted. I couldn't understand why they couldn't be. The police were there, I was told that they had arrested people on the night. When I found out that the charges had been dropped against these people, I was devastated. I didn't understand why.
11. The only time I can remember any contact with the Police was when P79 came to the house to say that a few of them were being released the next day.

He told me they were being released because there was no evidence on them. This was no great surprise. I believed they would get away with it because they were Protestants. The police would have been on their side from the start.

12. I heard through a part-time policeman who worked with my brother in law that there had been a conversation between another police officer and [REDACTED], which he overheard at the police station. During this conversation the police officer told [REDACTED] he was going to let these ones go, one by one but just let them out slowly really just to keep us at ease.

13. I attended some meetings at the DPP's office and spoke to someone called Kitson. It was my understanding that they would consider prosecuting if there was evidence there. His attitude towards me was all right. He gave me the explanation that the cases had been dropped because there was no evidence and the witnesses had pulled out because they were being intimidated, I suppose. I know that Alistair Hanvey's girlfriend was one of these witnesses. I couldn't argue with the DPP but I felt there was evidence against these people.

14. I was told that an inquest was not going to be held because the witnesses weren't going to come forward.

15. I heard that a police officer had been charged in relation to a telephone call to Alistair Hanvey telling him to get rid of his clothes.

SIGNED:

FIONA HAMILL

DATED: