

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

**STATEMENT OF JOHN MARK CURRIE**

**DATED THIS**

**DAY OF**

**2008**

I, JOHN MARK CURRIE, 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. The Inquiry has disclosed a document to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. I confirm that the document is a statement which I made to the Police concerning the events of 26/27 April 1997 dated 14 May 1997, pages **9163** to **9164**. I confirm the contents of that statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I remember making the statement because the police officer came to my place of employment.
3. In April 1997 I was living with my parents in Portadown.
4. On the evening of 26 April 1997 I had gone to the Portadown Rugby Club to socialise and have a drink. I walked into the town centre from the Rugby Club in Portadown at about 01:15. I usually stop at the Chinese in Bridge Street but cannot remember if I did so. I do recall that a taxi had just left Z Cabs so I decided to walk home.
5. When I was near Meadow Lane I saw a police car drive into Edward Street. As I continued up the street the same police car turn out of Edward Street into High Street with its blue lights on.

6. I remember seeing a Police Land Rover parked somewhere between Thomas Street and Woodhouse Street and at least one police car. There were 5 or 6 police officers in the street pushing a crowd of about 10 people back towards the church.
7. Two or three people had fallen on the ground and there were two or three people standing around them. One of the people on the ground was lying down and not moving. I walked within about six feet of the person on the ground. I did not see any fighting.
8. I recall seeing the Police pushing the crowd back towards the church. Some people in the crowd were shouting abuse at the Police but I do not now recall what was being shouted. In my statement [Page 9164] I said *“There were one or two sectarian remarks, ‘what have you got against us Catholics’ somebody replied ‘Fuck off you Fenian bastards.’*” I told people to get offside, to go home, before they were arrested. I recognised some faces in the crowd from bars around town but did not know their names. I have not subsequently found out who they were, nor was I asked by Police to identify those people from photographs or the like.
9. It was when the Police started to get heavy handed that the crowd started to move away towards the church. I later saw an ambulance arrive and I was still at the scene when it left. In my statement [Page 9163] I said *“About ten minutes later or so the ambulance arrived and the police started to move people back.”*
10. When I came across the scene that night I was not surprised to see fighting as it was coming up to the ‘marching season’ and fighting broke out every year at that time. I did not immediately know the fighting was sectarian but, when I found out who the fellow was, I put two and two together. I knew the junction between High Street and Thomas Street to be a flashpoint for sectarian fighting involving Catholics leaving St Patrick’s Hall who would then walk up High Street to go home.

11. In May 1997, the police came to see me at the factory where I worked and asked me to give a statement. Had the Police not approached me to do so, I would not have contacted the Police myself as I wasn't involved, and believe it had nothing to do with me. Although I had seen faces in the crowd who I recognised from bars in town, I did not know their names.
  
12. At the time I knew Allister Hanvey, Marc Hobson, and Dean Forbes vaguely but I knew Stacey Bridgett as a friend. I did not see my brother Paul Currie in town that night.

**SIGNED:** .....  
**JOHN MARK CURRIE**

**DATED:** .....