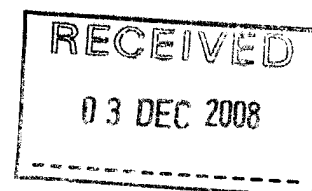


STATEMENT OF WITNESS



STATEMENT OF MARC HOBSON

DATED THIS *3rd* DAY OF *July* 2008

I, MARC HOBSON, 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 I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. The Inquiry has disclosed a number of documents to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. I was in the town centre of Portadown on the night of 26/27 April 1997 and was subsequently arrested and charged with the murder of Robert Hamill.
3. I completed a questionnaire to the Police dated the 9 May 1997 which is at pages **8143 - 8144**. It is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I made a statement to the Police dated 9 May 1997 which is at pages **562 - 563**. It is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
4. On 10 May 1997 I was arrested by the Police and interviewed under caution a copy of the transcript of that interview, provided by the RUC, is at page numbers **6701 - 6802**. It is a true transcript of the interview to the best of my knowledge and belief.
5. On 25 March 1999 I was convicted after trial at Belfast Crown Court of an offence of Affray and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. A copy of the transcript of the evidence given during my trial is at page numbers **8248 - 8752**. It is a true transcript of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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6. I later appealed against my conviction and sentence and the judgement of appeal heard by the Court of Appeal dated 25 October 1999 at page numbers **8753 – 8761**. It is a true record of the judgement to the best of my knowledge and belief.
7. In April 1997 I had lived in Portadown for about 15 years with my parents and two sisters. I knew Allister Hanvey because he had been a year behind me at school. Stacey Bridgett I used to hang around with. Dean Forbes, Davy Woods and Andrew Allen I knew through living in the town.
8. On 26 April 1997 during the evening I was down near the Bann, the area near the river. I was drinking with Jonathan Wright. We later met Allister Hanvey about 21:00 or 22:00. After we left there we went to my sister Leanne's boyfriends [Dean Johnston] house. Whilst there we drank some more and I was a bit drunk when I left there. With Allister and Jonathan we went to the Chinese in West Street I cannot remember now but my statement page **562** states "*I left the flat about 01.30 to 02.00am along with Allister HANVEY and Jonathan Wright. We all walked down to the Chinese in West Street Portadown. I got a chip and gravy.*"
9. We went into town to see who was coming back from the Coach Inn. I used to go to the Coach sometimes. Allister walked on and Jonathan and I stopped talking and then walked into Market Street. There was a crowd there; they could have come from the Coach. The crowd were shouting sectarian stuff and the cops were pushing them up the street towards the Church. In my statement page **562** I said "*I just sat on the wee wall just in front of the Church with Jonathan. I could see a body lying on the street in the middle of town, it was on the street.*"
10. I am aware that Jonathan Wright made a statement to the Police on 15 May 1997 and at page **568** of that statement he said, "*Marc then left me and ran down into the crowd fighting in the middle of the road.*" He's lying. My understanding why he said what he said was because he was going on holiday. The cops brought him in and he told the truth they put pressure on him and he came up with a statement because the police said he wouldn't be going


anywhere. I was told that nine years ago. I didn't find out that he had made a statement until I got my papers on remand. I have never seen him again and I never want to see him again.

11. I didn't see any fighting and I left the town centre with Jonathan Wright and I went back to Dean Johnston's flat where I spent the night. I didn't see Allister again that night.
12. The statement of Witness 'B', made on 9 May 1997, who I know to be Mr. Jameson. I knew his family sort of. I can think of no reason why he would say in his statement at page 267 "*Marc was punching this fellow in the face with his fist.....Marc knocked this fellow to the ground.*" "*Marc then started fighting with another fellow.*" The police were putting words into his mouth.
13. In 1997 I did have a nickname of 'Muck'. I knew Tracey Clarke and that she had been going out with Allister Hanvey. I know she made a statement to the police and was referred to as Witness 'A'. Tracey did know me as 'Muck' but I cannot think of any reason why she would say in a statement of 10 May 1997 at page 17328 "*I then saw them jump on the person on the ground. They jumped all over him and kicked him. I saw the persons who were doing this and I can identify them as 1. Dean Forbes 2. Allister Hanvey 3. Stacey Bridgett 4. Muck 5. Rory Robinson.*" I can think of no reason why she should say I was kicking someone on the ground. The only thing I can think is police put them under pressure putting words in their mouths.
14. Following my arrest I was advised by my solicitor not to stand on an identification parade and I took this advice. However on 10 May 1997 at Lurgan Police station Constable Neill identified me as being a person he saw involved in the fighting in his statement of 13 May 1997 [page 9671]. This officer later gave evidence at my trial and in his statement of 21 November 1997 at page 9672 he said, "*I had a clear line of vision to Hamill and Hobson and after Hobson spoke a few words to Hamill, Hobson kicked at Hamill, in the shoulder or head area.*" "*I am not certain whether he made contact with Hamill or not.*"

He says one thing the next day after the incident and then six months later he changes his statement.

15. Constable Cooke in his statement of 27 April 1997 at page **9226** refers to seeing a [REDACTED] and Rory Robinson in the crowd and then he makes a statement on 26 May 1997 at page **11063** in which he says he has made a mistake and it should have been Marc Hobson not [REDACTED]. He says he has known me for 3 or 4 years, surely if he has known the two of us for that long he's bound to know which one it was he saw.
16. The Police made up the evidence and the three civilian witnesses say one thing and a month and six months later they change what they are saying. None of the civilian witnesses gave evidence against me at my trial because what they said in their statements wasn't true.
17. Although I was in the Maze Prison with Allister Hanvey and others who were charged with the murder of Robert Hamill and we obviously did discuss the reason we were in prison I now cannot remember what was said. After I was convicted and released from prison I have not really kept in contact with the others. I do see Stacey Bridgett and we are friends but it is only occasionally at a party or something like that. Allister Hanvey I see only once in a blue moon and Dean Forbes and Rory Robinson I haven't seen in a long time.

SIGNED: 
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MARC HOBSON

DATED: 
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