

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF **P54**

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2009

I, **P54** 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 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. Robert Hamill was my brother. **E** and **F** are my first cousins and **D** is married to **E**.
3. I have never given a statement or been interviewed previously in relation to Robert's death either by the police, the Cory Inquiry or this Inquiry.
4. I was not at the scene of the assault on 26 / 27 April 1997 which led to Robert's death and I did not attend the hospital that night. I later visited my brother after he was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.
5. After Robert died, there was ill-feeling between my family and the family of **D**, **E** and **F**. **D** was withdrawn from us. He, **E** and **F** would walk away from us and would not speak to us. The whole family sort of withdrew themselves. I assumed that it was because **D** knew that I knew he had made a claim for his injuries and that he was ashamed of what he had done. I had no idea if **E** or **F** had made a claim as well.
6. It was never actually clear to us exactly what this rift was about. It was only ever mentioned once that I can remember. I saw **E** and **F**, I think it was, at the

corner of the street and they walked away. I think I said something like "Did you get your claim?" and E said "That wasn't for that." That was it. It was never discussed one to one what the row was about; the split just came between both families.

7. I was aggrieved by D's claim because I assumed that it was for mental issues and I did not believe that there was anything mentally wrong with him because he had been knocked out during the fight. I thought maybe the girls could have been distressed as a result of the assault but not D. I accept now that as a victim of an assault he was probably entitled to make his claim; but at the time I was questioning whether he was making it for stress or mental injury following the incident.
8. The rift between us led to blows at one point. I was outside in the garden and D pulled up in a car, got out and stared at me. I think he had drink on him. I do not remember what exactly was said but there was a fight in the street between me and D. Neither of us was badly injured, it was just a bust up.
9. There was no police involvement as a result of this fight and neither of us sought legal advice or action. We have never reconciled since; if I see him now I do not speak to him.
10. The feud between us was never related to any suggestion that D may have been the cause of the fight or that he did not support Robert at the scene after the fighting had started. There has never been a thought in my head that D started the fight; I have always believed what they have told us.

P54

SIGNED:

Dated:

...20/2/09.....