

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF

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AGE OF WITNESS[If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall 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.

Dated this 27 day of April 1997

JOHN MCDOWELL  
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

F  
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

by whom statement was recorded or received

On Saturday 26 April 1997 about 9 30 pm myself, my brother-in-law, D and my sister E arrived at St Patrick's Hall, Thomas Street where a dance was taking place. About 10 or 15 minutes later Robert Hamill arrived and joined us. We all remained in the hall until about 1 25 am on Sunday 27 April 1997 when we left to go home. The four of us walked down Thomas Street towards the Woodhouse Street area. We were walking on the Credit Union side of Thomas Street. When we reached the bottom of the street where it joins High Street I noticed two people standing at the corner. As we started to cross the road to get to Woodhouse Street a crowd of about thirty people, the vast majority of them males, jumped on us as if out of nowhere. The next thing I saw was a lot of fellows kicking and punching Robert. He fell to the ground. I saw one or two of them jumping on his head, but I couldn't say how many times. A number of the other people who attacked Robert kicked him in the back. The assailants then moved back a bit and I looked to my left and saw my sister E on her knees. She was beside D her husband and squealing, "Get ambulance, get ambulance." There was a crowd of five or six standing a few yards away from them. I then took my cream

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jacket off and put it underneath Robert's head. He was having difficulty getting his breath at this stage. There was blood around his mouth and at the back of his head. Also, I noticed a big graze mark on the right side of his head, just behind his ear. He was lying on his left side with his head resting on his left arm. Robert's body was positioned with his feet pointing towards Thomas Street and his head in the opposite direction, towards Woodhouse Street. D [REDACTED] was lying flat on his back with his head pointed in the Market Street direction and his feet in the opposite direction (towards High Street). I ran over to a Police landrover parked at the entrance to Woodhouse Street and asked them to get help. The next thing I heard was a wee small Policeman shout, "There's an ambulance on its way." A few minutes later an ambulance arrived. Both Robert and D [REDACTED] were placed in it. E [REDACTED] and myself got into the ambulance as well, and we were all taken to Craigavon Area Hospital. We remained there until about five or six o'clock this morning and then Robert was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital. D [REDACTED] was detained in Craigavon Area Hospital and E [REDACTED] and myself went home. I never received any treatment and just stayed in the waiting area. The only thing I remember about the people who attacked us was a guy wearing a black leather or dark coloured jacket of some sort. I can't remember anything else about this man and can't describe any of the other attackers, as it all happened so fast and I was down on my knees trying to help Robert. I didn't see any weapons of any type. When Robert was lying on the ground unconscious I heard someone shout, "Die you bastard, die you bastard." I just kept my head down then. Apart

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from my cream jacket I wore cream Levi fine corded trousers and a cream top. Robert wore a black leather jacket, blue denim jeans and a check shirt. D [REDACTED] was dressed in a pair of jeans and a striped short sleeved top, possibly navy coloured. E [REDACTED] wore black satin trousers and a blue denim shirt. Nothing was said or done by any of us to provoke the attack by these people. I have been very upset by what happened ever since.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

F [REDACTED]

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED :

