

# ***Killings by the security forces***

*An information pack  
for Families of Victims*



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# 1. How can this pack help you?

**T**his pack contains basic simple information about your rights in relation to access to the body of your loved one, his/her possessions, forensics, medical reports, solicitors, how to deal with the press and legal proceedings. We understand that all these are very complicated and we just want you to know that you are not alone, there are organisations and individuals who feel very deeply for you and what you are going through.

We recommend that if you have not got a solicitor already, you should get one. You will have a lot of dealings with your solicitor over the next few months so it is very important that you have confidence and trust in him/her. Remember if you are on income support or unemployment benefit you are entitled to free legal aid. If not you may have to make a contribution. Also remember that a solicitor is a professional. He/she is being paid for the work they are doing and you are entitled to the services they provide. If you do not have a solicitor or your solicitor would like to be put in contact with a solicitor who has experience of incidents such as these please contact CAJ for advice. We will do whatever we can to help you.

Some families have told us that they experience harassment by the army or RUC after a shooting incident. This does not happen in all cases but if it should occur with your family, go to your solicitor immediately, document it and if it is ongoing and persistent it should be publicised in the media. No one has the right to harass your family no matter what the circumstances.

Also included in this pack is a list of addresses of officials whom you may have to contact at various stages in the process of investigation and court hearings. An explanation of various technical terms is given at the end of this pack.

We include a list of groups and individuals that have worked on similar cases. Many of these groups have a lot of first hand experience. They understand in a very real way what you are going through and will help you. Especially in the weeks and months afterwards it is often good to meet with people who have suffered in the same way. If you feel it would be helpful to be put in contact with other families, let us know.

We hope you find this pack helpful. If we can do anything further to help, please contact us.

## 2. Your rights regarding access to the body of your relative

- **The Body**

You are entitled to the body of your relative immediately after the post mortem is finished. In certain circumstances you may have to wait until the RUC have finished forensic tests. If you are denied access contact your solicitor immediately.

- **Post Mortem**

A post mortem is a medical examination of the body to determine the nature and cause of death. It will usually be held within 24 hours of the death. You are not entitled to attend the post mortem. However contact your doctor as he/she may attend the post mortem if the family wish. A written report will be produced. It can take up to 6 months before this report is available, and then the coroner will sometimes refuse to let you have a copy. Because of this, some families have arranged to have an independent post mortem carried out. This will give you information much sooner but it would have to be arranged within about 48 hours or so. If you wish to talk about this, contact CAJ about getting an independent pathologist.

- **Possessions**

You will not receive possessions (car, clothes, etc) until after the police investigation is completed and any criminal and civil proceedings are finished. Generally the police investigations can take a long time. You are entitled to attend while the police make a list of the deceased's clothing and possessions so you should ask your solicitor to contact the police for this purpose. Furthermore, an application should be made by your solicitor to the court for access to them as soon as possible, as important evidence may be gathered from an inspection of them. This should be done despite the fact that it is unlikely the application will be granted.

- **Inquests**

An inquest is usually held and you are entitled to be present at it. It may take at least a year and sometimes much longer before the inquest is opened. In most cases it is the only public opportunity to explore what has happened. See section on inquests for more details.

In some cases friends or family members may be injured in the same incident. They may be in hospital. If the RUC want to interview these people, make sure someone contacts your solicitor so that s/he is present at the interviews.

### **3. What official procedures are likely to happen?**

**T**he official procedures which occur after an incident of a disputed killing can be very confusing and often no one will explain to you what is happening. Below is a brief summary of what may happen. If you are confused or in doubt ask the officials involved. If they do not tell you or you cannot understand contact your solicitor or CAJ; we will do our best to help.

Immediately after a shooting the "area" is usually sealed off. The RUC may be collecting evidence, taking photographs, interviewing witnesses etc. The RUC take the body to a mortuary where a post mortem will be held. The post mortem report is sent to the coroner who will decide whether or not to hold an inquest. If an inquest is held it may be delayed for a long time. An inquest is usually delayed until after the question of criminal proceedings has been settled. Often, when there has been a prosecution, no inquest will take place.

A death certificate will be issued after any inquest is held. Should you need official notification of the death prior to the inquest being held, the coroner's office will supply an 'evidence of death' form.

Meanwhile it is likely the police investigation will continue. When the police investigation is completed a report will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) who will then decide if there is to be a prosecution.

If the DPP decides there should be a prosecution someone will be charged and tried.

While the police are investigating and the DPP is deliberating you may initiate civil proceedings but these are not usually heard until after any criminal proceedings have been completed.

For more detail on this see section 5 on legal proceedings.

# Official Addresses & Phones

- Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Sir Patrick Mayhew, NIO, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT5. Ph: 763255
- Director of Public Prosecutions  
Alisdair Macleod Fraser, Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester St, Belfast  
BT1. Ph: 235111
- RUC  
Sir Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable, 'Brooklyn', RUC Headquarters, Knock Road,  
Belfast BT5.
- British Army  
General Officer Commanding, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co Antrim.
- Coroners
  1. John Leckey, **Coroner for Greater Belfast**, Coroner's Office, Crumlin Road  
Courthouse, Crumlin Road, Belfast. Ph: (0232) 743040
  2. R. O'Docherty, **Coroner for Derry**, 12-14 Castle Street, Derry, BT48 6HQ.  
Ph: (0504) 264626
  3. R. Hastings, **Coroner for North Antrim**, 14 Charlotte Street, Ballymoney,  
BT 53 6AY. Ph: (02656) 63033
  4. J McLernon, **Coroner for East Tyrone and Magherafelt**, 72 Rainey Street,  
Magherafelt, BT45 5AH. Ph: (0648) 32533
  5. A Colhoun, **Coroner for Fermanagh and Omagh**, 21 Market Street, Omagh,  
BT78 1EE. (0662) 421367
  6. J Rodgers, **Coroner for Armagh**, 15 Church Street, Portadown, BT62 3LN.  
Ph: (0762) 337211
  7. J Thompson, **Coroner for South Down**, 74 Church Street, Portadown,  
BT62 3EU. Ph: (0762) 350227
- Court Listings Office  
Ph: Belfast (0232) 235111 or 754741
- Independent Commission for Police Complaints  
Chamber of Commerce House, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7LT.  
Ph: (0232) 244821

## 4. What needs to be done immediately?

- **Contact your doctor.**

You or your solicitor should notify the coroner letting him/her know the name of the deceased's doctor. Your GP should be asked to contact the coroner to say that s/he wants to attend the post mortem immediately after the death if the family wish. You should also ask for a copy of the autopsy report when it becomes available. This can take up to six months. Some coroners refuse to make these available. If this happens, the deceased's GP is entitled to receive a summary.

- **Contact an independent pathologist.**

Because of the length of time it takes to get any information from official sources, some families have felt the need to arrange for an independent post mortem. There have also been occasions when the findings of official pathologists have been questioned. An independent post mortem can give you information quickly about some of the circumstances of the death. If you are considering this, contact CAJ for information.

- **Eyewitness statements.**

The RUC will be taking statements. However some people do not make statements unless they are approached. Others prefer not to give an account of what they have seen or heard because they are afraid that they may be subject to harassment by members of the security forces afterwards. Sometimes there has been evidence that the RUC is less than rigorous in, for example, conducting house to house enquiries near the scene of the incident. For all these reasons, it is sensible to try and arrange that as many statements as are available be taken as soon as possible. Ideally your solicitor should be involved. If s/he is unable to attend, an independent witness should sign the statements. These should be lodged with your solicitor. If the witnesses agree copies should also be sent to the RUC. Details that may seem irrelevant at the time can have a crucial bearing at a later date. It is important that such things as weather conditions, light, sounds, distances and skidmarks, if vehicles were involved, be included. Do not be concerned if inconsistencies appear from these statements. This is normal as people see, hear and remember things slightly differently. The important thing is to get all relevant information as quickly as possible. Relevant information may not be simply what took place when the death occurred. Information about security force behaviour before and after may be useful at a later date. If your solicitor needs assistance in taking these statements, contact CAJ and we will assist.

- **Photographs.**

Someone should take photographs of the scene as soon as possible. It may be difficult because access may be denied by the RUC. However, after they have gone it would be worth doing so. The person taking the photographs may have to give evidence at a later date confirming they took the photographs and that they have not been tampered with. You should, therefore, consider engaging a professional photographer for the purpose.

- **The media.**

The press will more than likely phone your house or arrive at your door. Be prepared for this. If you do not feel like talking to them you do not have to. If you do make sure there is someone with you to support you. It may be helpful to write down a few points you wish to make. Ask the reporter what questions s/he is going to ask during the course of any interview on radio or TV. It is worth remembering that the press may work for you or against you. If you are vulnerable you may say things you regret later. And if you do not speak to them it may look like you have something to hide. Having said that it is important that you do what you want to do. You are under enough pressure at the moment and if you feel talking to the press would put you under too much stress do not talk to them. If you are having any problems in this regard contact CAJ for advice.

- **Harassment.**

Families have sometimes claimed in the past that the RUC and Army have harassed people. They have no right to do this no matter what the circumstances are. If you or any members of your family or witnesses are being harassed keep a careful record including dates, times, location and a summary of what took place. You should also go to your solicitor so that s/he has a record. You may also be advised to take legal action. Ask your solicitor whether you should lodge a formal complaint to the police or army. You may also wish to take legal action as well as making a complaint. Your solicitor can advise you on how best to deal with your particular situation. It may also be worthwhile to contact journalists to let them know that this is happening.

- **Forensic evidence.**

Any forensic factors should be noted e.g. measurements, marks and other relevant details. If possible a surveyor would be worth contacting to do this. You may also wish to contact a forensic expert as soon as possible. Your solicitor should ask permission for the expert to attend any forensic examinations carried out by the authorities. The failure by the authorities to release forensic reports in other incidents should not prevent families or solicitors asking the RUC to provide them. Refusals should also be recorded.

- **Scenes of Crimes procedures.**

The quality of the RUC scenes of crimes procedures should be noted. There may be an assumption on the part of the authorities that there is a difference between a killing by a soldier or policeman and a killing by any other person, despite the fact that the law is the same for both types of incident. Experience has suggested therefore that the quality of the police investigation is sometimes less thorough than in other cases. Note should be taken of anything which suggests that the proper procedures are not being followed or if the investigation is being pursued with a lack of rigour. The kinds of questions you should bear in mind are: Do they contact as many witnesses as possible? Are house to house enquiries conducted? Are the bodies or items of evidence such as bullet casings removed from the scene or moved before they are noted/photographed?



## 5. What legal proceedings may take place?

**T**here is a variety of legal proceedings which may arise as a result of the shooting of your relative or friend. Some of these will be initiated by you and your solicitor, some may be started by the State through the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecution (D.P.P.) or the Coroner.

Proceedings which may arise can deal with different aspects of the case and take place in different legal settings. We have listed the most common types of proceedings below and given a brief explanation as to what is involved, who is usually responsible for initiating the proceedings, when they are likely to happen and your possible role. Often these legal proceedings are long, complicated and confusing. Your solicitor should keep you informed as to exactly what is happening and why. Over the next three pages we will examine the following:

- (a) Inquests
- (b) Criminal Proceedings
- (c) Civil Proceedings

## □ Criminal Proceedings

**C**riminal proceedings happen when someone is prosecuted in respect of the killing. A prosecution may be brought by the state through the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). In the case of disputed killings involving the security forces and arising out of the conflict in the Northern Ireland, this has happened very rarely. Only 31 soldiers and policemen have been prosecuted in relation to some 350 killings since the start of the Troubles and 11 of these have been charged in the last eighteen months. In the limited number of cases where a prosecution for murder has been brought there has been only one conviction and that soldier only served just over two years of a life sentence.

The RUC investigation into the killing generally takes around three months. When it is complete, a report which may include a recommendation whether or not to prosecute, is handed to the DPP. The DPP considers this report and decides if a prosecution should be brought, who should be charged and with what. The DPP may ask for further reports from the RUC. This process can take many months. In some cases it has taken over a year before there is a decision whether or not to prosecute. When a decision is finally taken, the DPP will tell the RUC who will inform you if there is to be a prosecution. In order to find out what stage the investigation is at, you can write to the DPP at Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester St, Belfast BT1, or phone Belfast 235111 and ask for the DPP's office.

You do not have any legal role to play in a prosecution brought by the DPP. You are not entitled to be legally represented and unless you were a witness to the killing or events leading up to it you are unlikely to be called as a witness. You are not even legally entitled to be informed as to when the hearing is taking place. You can have a lawyer present to observe the proceedings, but there would be no financial assistance for this. You can of course attend the trial and sit in the public gallery.

If the DPP decides not to prosecute it may be possible for relatives of the deceased to bring a private prosecution. This is very expensive and legal aid may not be available. Added to this the Attorney General has power to take over and drop any private prosecution. No-one in Northern Ireland has yet attempted to take a private prosecution in these kinds of cases.

If a prosecution is brought it may take about two years before it reaches court. There will be preliminary hearings, bail hearings and an arraignment before the trial itself takes place. Once proceedings have started, the best way to find out when the trial itself will happen is by phoning the Court Listings Office on Belfast 235111 or 754741.

## □ Civil Proceedings

**C**ivil proceedings are initiated by you, the relatives, through your solicitor. They are a claim for damages or compensation to be paid to you for the loss and suffering you have experienced by the killing. If the police were involved in the killing, you will be suing the RUC; if it was the army, you will be suing the Ministry of Defence. Often damages will be paid out even when there has been no prosecution or where there has been an acquittal.

Civil proceedings may be started relatively soon after a killing but can take several years to come to court. If there has been a prosecution, civil cases will usually be heard after the criminal proceedings have ended. It is often in your interest to wait until after the inquest has taken place as this may be the first opportunity you have to find out information concerning the incident.

These civil cases are often settled "out of court" that is without being heard in public before a judge. "Out of Court" settlements are usually made without any admission of responsibility by the authorities. This can be very difficult for relatives whose main concern is justice and not compensation.

The above is only a brief summary of the main legal proceedings which may arise out of a disputed killing. If there is anything you do not understand or want to know more about ask your solicitor or contact CAJ.

We would be very happy to help.

## □ Inquests

In Northern Ireland the family of the deceased have no automatic right to an inquest. The Coroner, who presides over inquests, decides whether an inquest is to be held or not. A killing in disputed circumstances is one of the instances in which an inquest can be held but even in these cases coroners have sometimes decided not to hold an inquest. This is particularly so when there has been a prosecution.

Although an inquest should be held 'without delay' in practice they are often delayed for months or even years. The coroner may sit with or without a jury. The coroner can decide whether to call witnesses or not and which witnesses to call.

Families of the deceased may be legally represented at an inquest but legal aid is only available to those eligible to 'prepare' for the inquest, not for legal representation during the inquest. If you wish to be represented at the inquest you will either need to pay for a lawyer or find one who will represent you free.

The findings of inquests are very limited. There is no verdict and the jury can only make findings as to who the deceased was and how, when and where s/he died. The coroner usually gives the jury a draft finding which the jury amend as they think fit. If you have lawyers representing you, you should ask them to prepare a similar draft for the jury.

In the event of there being no prosecution an inquest may be the only public forum where the circumstances of a disputed killing are aired.

One of the difficulties for families is the lack of any information. The authorities are very reluctant to hand over any documentation. Documentation such as witness statements, forensic reports, autopsy reports etc are only handed to family representatives as the relevant witnesses take the stand at the inquest.

Despite the problems with the system, important information can come out during the inquest as this is often the only public airing the incident will have. For this reason, if the coroner decides not to hold an inquest, you should seek legal advice as to whether a judicial review of the decision should be sought.

CAJ has produced a pamphlet on the inquest system which explains the procedures and the problems in detail.

## 6. Does international law apply?

### European Convention on Human Rights

**T**he European Convention is a body of law accepted by the UK government. It is possible for cases to be taken to the European Court if victims feel that the courts in Northern Ireland and England have not dealt with their cases fairly. In the case of killings by the security forces, there is a good argument that the law and practice here may violate rights protected by the Convention.

Before a case can be taken to Europe, two things must be fulfilled. Firstly, there is a 6 month time limit that has to be taken into account. Secondly, a case should be heard at local level and as far as the House of Lords before being taken on to Europe. In other words, you can only go to Europe if you have failed to get satisfaction through the legal procedures at Northern Ireland and UK level. Specialist legal advice is necessary if you wish to pursue this course of action.

It would be worth considering whether you wish to send a preliminary notification to the European Commission of Human Rights informing them that you may at some future stage take a full case to Europe. This would have the merit of placing your case within the 6 month time limit that is kept to fairly rigorously by the European bodies. Findings of the Court are binding on the British government in most circumstances.

### The United Nations

**T**here is a number of human rights institutions attached to the United Nations. One in particular may be of relevance to your case. The Special Rapporteur on Summary and Arbitrary Executions has an interest in killings and death threats.

You should summarise your case and send details to the Special Rapporteur's office at the Human Rights Centre, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland. His name is Mr Bacre Waly Ndiaye.

If the Special Rapporteur decides that the case falls within his/her remit, s/he will contact the UK government asking for information. He may also mention the case in his annual report to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. This will raise the question of killings by the security forces in Northern Ireland at an international level.

## 7. What social security benefits are available?

- **Funeral Grant**

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit or Housing Benefit and you have to pay for the funeral of your relative or friend, you can get a grant for essential funeral expenses such as: • a coffin and flowers; • a car to transport the coffin and bearers; • a car for mourners; and • the undertakers fees, church fees and death certificate.

If you have any savings over £500 the grant will be reduced (but if you have received the £1,000 widow's payment this is not counted as savings). The grant will be reduced if any friends, relatives or charities give you any money towards the cost of the funeral. Also, if the deceased person leaves any money or property, the DHSS will try to recover the grant from this. To claim the Funeral Grant ask for form SF200 at your local Social Security Office.

- **Income Support**

You can claim Income Support if: • you are at least 16 years old and you do not work, or you work less than 16 hours per week; • you have less than £8,000 savings; and • you have less than a certain amount of income which varies from family to family depending on circumstances.

Income Support is a "top-up" benefit. This means that the DHSS will "top up" any income you already have to a basic minimum they consider is enough to live on. The DHSS will calculate what your basic level should be, according to your circumstances, i.e. the number of children you have, their ages and the condition of their and your health. They will then examine how much money you have available each week. If your income is less than what they think you need to live on then they will top up your income by awarding you Income Support. But, if your income is the same as, or more than, your needs, you will not get Income Support. Amounts awarded in relation to needs are reviewed each April by the Government.

- **One Parent Child Benefit**

If you have been widowed and are not entitled to a Widow's Benefit you may be entitled to claim One Parent Child Benefit. This is an additional amount paid on top of Standard Child Benefit. However, if you are in receipt of Income Support, any additional income you receive through One Parent Child Benefit will be deducted pound for pound from your Income Support award.

- **Widows Benefits**

Entitlement to all Widow's Benefits depends on the deceased husband having satisfied the National Insurance Contribution conditions. The benefits are available only to women and only where the woman has been legally married to her partner. There are three types of Widow's Benefit.

- **Widow's payment** is a lump sum payment of £1,000. A widow qualifies for this payment if:
  - the husband satisfied the National Insurance Contribution conditions, i.e. that in any tax year before his death he paid the required minimum amount of National Insurance Contribution; and
  - she was under 60 years when her husband died. A claim should be made within 12 months of the death.

- **Widowed Mother's Allowance** is a weekly benefit payed to widows who have dependent children or are pregnant. As long as the husband satisfied the National Insurance Contribution conditions (the same as those outlined for widow's payment above) the allowance is paid immediately and for as long as there are children under 19 years old living in the house. The Allowance ceases if the widow re-marries and is suspended during any period in which she is co-habiting. She may however become entitled to Widow's Pension after Widowed Mother's Allowance ceases.

- **Widow's pension** is a weekly benefit payed to widows who are aged at least 45 when their husband died or their Widowed Mother's Allowance has ceased. The same contribution qualifications for widow's payment and widowed mother's allowance apply to this pension. It can be paid immediately to a widow with no dependent children. It is also available to women who no longer qualify for Widowed Mother's Allowance. There is a standard rate per week. However, additional payments may be available depending on the late husband's earnings. Widow's Pension is paid for as long as the conditions of entitlement are satisfied, but cease if the widow re-marries. It too is suspended if she lives with a man as his wife.

- **Where to get more help**

For further advice & help on all these benefits contact:

- **Gingerbread NI**, 169 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HR  
Tel: (0232) 234568

Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

- **Belfast Law Centre**, 7 University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NA  
Tel: (0232) 321307

This organisation provides advice and assistance. You would normally need to make an appointment through local a Citizen's Advice Bureau and other local advice centres.

## 8. Can campaigning help?

**M**any families have found themselves completely dissatisfied by the response of the authorities to killings by members of the security forces. For this reason many have turned to campaigns of various natures to highlight the injustice they feel they have suffered.

It is important to try and make contacts with local and international networks who may be willing to write to the authorities about the case. It may also be that the more campaigning that is done the more careful the security forces will be in using firearms.

There is a list of addresses of interested organisations on the other side of this sheet.

## 9. Where can you get help or information?

**I**t is important at this time that there is someone you can trust who has experience in these tragic matters and who can advise you what to do. This may be a solicitor; a support group; or a human rights group working on similar cases. Many lessons have been learnt from cases arising out of disputed killings over the years. It is important this information is made available to you as quickly as possible.

You may wish to use your family solicitor who may have known the deceased or who may have been involved in documenting incidents of harassment prior to the killing. Alternatively you may wish to be put in contact with a solicitor who has had experience of similar cases. In these circumstances you may wish to contact CAJ.

A number of local and international groups have been involved in cases of disputed killings over the years. They have helped document evidence, sent observers to court proceedings, lobbied official bodies, lodged complaints etc. They may be a help to you now or over the next few months. On the other side of this sheet is a list of the main organisations which may be able to help you. It is not an exhaustive list. If you wish to find out about any of these organisations or any other similar organisations please contact CAJ. They may also be able to organise for you to meet with representatives of these groups.



# Addresses

- **Committee on the Administration of Justice** is a Belfast based group working on human rights issues in Northern Ireland. CAJ produced this information pack. The address is 45/47 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG (Ph: 0232 232394).
- **Amnesty International** is an organisation which monitors human rights abuses. You should contact the International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ (Ph: 071 413 5500).
- **Liberty** is a British based organisation which monitors and campaigns on civil liberty issues. Their address is 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 6BP (Ph: 071 403 3888).
- **Relatives for Justice** is a group of relatives of victims of disputed killings campaigning for justice in respect of their loved ones. They can be contacted at: 1 Westend Park, Derry, BT48 9JF (Ph: 0504 268846).
- **Justice for All** is an organisation seeking to raise issues of human rights that affect members of the protestant community. You can contact them at 252 Shankill Road, Belfast.
- **Pat Finucane Centre** is an organisation working on a variety of human rights issues in the Derry area. They can be contacted at 1 Westend Park, Derry, BT48 9JF (Ph:0504 268846).
- **The Cullyhanna Justice Group** is a South Armagh based group campaigning for justice in respect of the murder of Fergal Caraher and the wounding of his brother Míceal. They can be contacted c/o 58 Kiltybane Road, Cullyhanna, Co Armagh or 57 Rathview Park, Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh.
- **British Irish Rights Watch** is a British based organisation monitoring human rights abuses arising out of the conflict in Ireland. You can contact them at 95 Hillbrook Road, London SW17 8SF (Ph: 071 436 0964 or 081 767 2355 out of office hours).
- **United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets** is a group of relatives of victims of rubber and plastic bullets committed to campaigning for justice on this issue. You can contact them at 195 Whiterock Road, Belfast BT11.

# 10. Definitions

<b>Attorney General</b>	the chief legal officer of the United Kingdom. This is a cabinet position.
<b>autopsy</b>	a medical examination to determine cause of death.
<b>barrister</b>	this person will represent you during any legal proceedings in court.
<b>civil proceedings</b>	a claim for damages or compensation,
<b>coroner</b>	a government appointed official who orders a post mortem and is in charge of the inquest procedure.
<b>compensation</b>	a payment of money in recognition of suffering or injury.
<b>criminal proceedings</b>	a prosecution which arises from the circumstances of the death.
<b>DPP</b>	the Director of Public Prosecutions is a government-appointed legal officer who decides, on the basis of the police investigation, whether the soldier or policeman who caused the death should be prosecuted.
<b>forensic examination</b>	an examination of clothing, vehicles, and area of incident which uses chemical, ballistics and other techniques to establish relevant facts.
<b>harassment</b>	unreasonable attention from the police/army.
<b>inquest</b>	a formal court inquiry into sudden, unexplained, violent or unnatural death.
<b>judicial review</b>	a legal procedure whereby a decision by a public official may be challenged in court.
<b>legal aid</b>	public means-tested financial assistance for representation during legal proceedings. It is not available for representation at inquests.
<b>mortuary</b>	the place where the body is taken after its removal from the scene of the incident.
<b>out-of-court settlement</b>	the authorities may seek to pay compensation without fighting the claim for damages in court. This is usually accompanied by a statement that the government does not accept responsibility for the death.
<b>pathologist</b>	the person who carries out the autopsy/post mortem.
<b>post mortem</b>	same as autopsy (see above).
<b>solicitor</b>	advises you on legal matters concerning the death of your relative and instructs any barrister who is representing you in court. The solicitor receives his/her instructions from you.
<b>statement</b>	a written account from anyone who has information and/or opinion which may be relevant to the death of your relative.

# CAJ

is affiliated to the Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme

The Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), founded in 1981, is an independent organisation which:

- Monitors Civil Liberties issues
- Publishes a monthly bulletin JUST NEWS
- Provides information to the public
- Has published pamphlets on policing, prisons, emergency legislation, Bill of Rights etc.
- Campaigns for adequate safeguards to protect civil liberties
- Has published a comprehensive handbook on civil liberties in Northern Ireland

Civil Liberties are under attack. By joining CAJ you can help defend them.

For more information contact CAJ,  
45 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG.

Tel: (0232) 232394 Fax: (0232) 333522