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# Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill Campaign

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Dear Mr Boateng

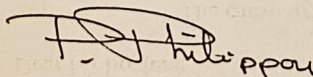
The campaign has been informed by Gareth Pierce, the solicitor acting for the O'Neill family, that you are considering a request made by the Hammersmith coroner that the killing of Diarmuid O'Neill be looked at by a public inquiry rather than at an inquest. It is such an inquiry that the campaign - a campaign set up by the family and friends of Diarmuid O'Neill - have been advocating and requesting for three years. I write therefore to add our names and those of our supporters listed in this letter who also argue for a public inquiry to that of the coroner.

The killing of Diarmuid O'Neill is a highly contentious issue that raises many questions and requires a full investigation, not only to ensure that justice is done but also that it is seen to be done. A public inquiry would be part of this process. Some of the main issues relating to the shooting that have caused disquiet amongst many members of the public that have become aware of Diarmuid's death are listed below.

- Diarmuid O'Neill was unarmed and could be seen to be unarmed
- No weapons or explosives were found in the house
- The only shots fired were those by the police
- Diarmuid O'Neill had been shot a total of six times
- The most potent form of CS gas available to police was fired in massive quantities into the room in which Diarmuid O'Neill was sleeping
- As Diarmuid O'Neill lay bleeding a police officer stood on his head
- With blood pouring from him Diarmuid O'Neill was dragged down the steps of the house to the street
- Diarmuid O'Neill was then denied immediate medical treatment for 25 minutes
- Just before Diarmuid was fatally shot by police officer 'Kilo' another police officer was heard to shout, "Shoot the fucker" and then "Dead as a fucking rat"
- The official transcript of the raid clearly shows that Diarmuid O'Neill complied with all police requests to open the door to the room and to show his hands
- Diarmuid was attempting to open this door which had been damaged by the police when he was first shot
- As Diarmuid begun to fall, his spine penetrated by bullets, officer 'Kilo' continued firing
- After the shooting the media reported that there had been a gun battle - this was a untrue
- Within two days of Diarmuid's shooting the matter was referred to the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) who appointed the Metropolitan Police to investigate - the same police force responsible for the shooting. It took them two years to complete their report.
- The police officer who shot Diarmuid was not interviewed for 23 months after the incident.
- The report spent six months with the Crown Prosecution Services who despite all the evidence deemed in April 1999 that no police officer need be charged with any offence.

Could I also make a request to you that your office set up a meeting between yourself and the campaign. If I can help you with any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. The campaign can be written to at the address and at [justicedoneill@btinternet.com](mailto:justicedoneill@btinternet.com) or contacted on 0411 784 110 and 0181 749 2588.

Yours faithfully



P. Philippou  
Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill campaign  
(with the support of the O'Neill family)

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