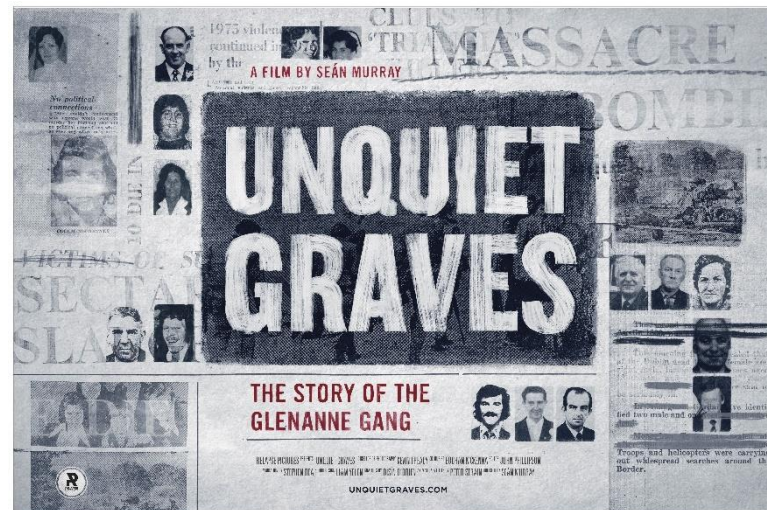


**Media coverage report for “*Unquiet Graves: The Story of the Glenanne Gang*”**  
**February 2019**



WEDNESDAY 20.02.2019 DAILY MIRROR 7

SPOTLIGHT  
Sean Murray  
made the  
documentary

# 'Ex RUC man in the Glennane Gang claimed spooks wanted to stage attack on a school.'

Stunning accusation in documentary

**"Collusion has left a dark & terrible stain here, the pain that's been caused is huge"**  
SEAN MURRAY  
WITH ACCESS TO UNQUIET GRAVES

**OPENING FIRE** Image from Unquiet Graves

**HISTORY IN FOCUS**  
Dramatisation of sieged events

**SEAN MURRAY**  
AN ex-police officer said British intelligence was behind a plot to attack a Catholic primary school during the Troubles, a documentary is set to reveal.

The starring claim was made to Sean Murray who has directed a feature-length film about the Glennane Gang which operated in Co Louth in the 70s. It has been blamed for a series of killings in collusion with rogue members of the security forces.

The story, narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Stephen Rea, focused on a self-confessed member of the group in Unquiet Graves: The Story Of The Glennane Gang.

Gunsmen from the UVF ultimately refused to carry out the attack on the school in Belleek as the programme makers said.

Mr Murray added: "By far the most chilling part of creating this documentary was speaking to John Weir in South Africa.

As a former member of the RUC who admitted to being in the Glennane Gang, his claim British military intelligence tried to arrange for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school is shocking."

He added Mr Weir was a loyalist who was imprisoned for killing an innocent Catholic, called William Strathmore.

He claimed two gunmen involved in the murder were police agents who did not serve a day in prison.

Mr Weir described alleged plans for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school in retaliation for the Kingsmill massacre of 10 Protestant workmen in Co Armagh by republicans.

He told the filmmaker the source of the plan was British military spooks hoping to cause the situation in Northern Ireland to "spiral out of control".

Mr Murray said: "Collusion has left a dark and terrible stain on the North of Ireland, the pain that's been caused to thousands of people here is incredible. If there is ever going to be a healing process on this island, if we're ever going to move forward in reconciliation, people need to be able to tell their stories, but more importantly we need truth from the State about their role in the conflict."

Mr Murray's work was part of a "mosaic" of truth-telling about the violent past.

He added: "This is another square in that mosaic, the Glennane story."

"There is a school of thought in transitional justice that you should work from below, it should be victim-centred and my work situates itself in that."

The film will premiere in Belfast tomorrow.

**NARRATOR**  
Stephen Rea

**UNQUIET GRAVES**

**THE STORY OF THE GLENNANE GANG**

**THE FILM WILL PREMIERE IN BELFAST TOMORROW.**

**THE FILM WILL PREMIERE IN BELFAST TOMORROW.**

**THE FILM WILL PREMIERE IN BELFAST TOMORROW.**

## Belfast Telegraph 20.2.2019 <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/british-intelligence-plotted-a-massacre-at-catholic-school-glenanne-gang-man-tells-film-37833358.html>

(Front page, page 6 and Digital)



## Belfast Telegraph Video 20.2.19

(<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/video-news/video-filmmaker-behind-story-of-glenanne-gang-37835612.html>)

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### Video: Filmmaker behind story of Glenanne Gang

February 20 2019



A former RUC officer has made shocking claims that British military intelligence initiated a plan to carry out a massacre at a Catholic primary school in Co Armagh in the 1970s. Filmmaker Sean Murray spent four years working on the documentary.

**CLAIM BY FORMER POLICE OFFICER**

## British intelligence 'plotted attack on Catholic school'

A former police officer claimed British intelligence was behind a plot to attack a Catholic primary school during the Troubles, a new documentary reveals.

Sean Murray directed a programme about the Glenanne Gang which operated in Co Armagh in the 1970s and has been blamed for a series of killings in collusion with rogue members of the security forces.

The story focused on a self-confessed member of the murder gang in the feature-length *Unquiet Graves: The Story Of The Glenanne Gang*.

Gunmen from the UVF ultimately refused to carry out the attack on the school in Belleeks in Co Armagh, the programme makers said.

Mr Murray said: "By far, the most chilling part of creating this documentary was speaking to John Weir in South Africa.

"As a former member of the



**Sean Murray**

RUC who admitted to being in the Glenanne Gang, his claim that the British military intelligence tried to arrange for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school is shocking."

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## British intelligence 'plotted attack on Catholic primary school'

Published: 06:00  
Wednesday 20 February 2019

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Mr Murray said: "By far, the most chilling part of creating this documentary was speaking to John Weir in South Africa.

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# Former RUC officer claims British intelligence was planning catholic school attack

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Wednesday, February 20th, 2019 7:30am  
By David Hunter

By Michael McHugh

A former police officer claimed British intelligence was behind a plot to attack a Catholic primary school during the Troubles, a new documentary revealed.

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Mr Murray said: "By far, the most chilling part of creating this documentary was speaking to John Weir in South Africa.

"As a former member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) who admitted to being in the Glenanne gang, his claim that the British military intelligence tried to arrange for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school is shocking."

Mr Murray said Weir was a loyalist who was imprisoned for killing an innocent Catholic called William Strathearn.

He claimed two gunmen involved in the killing were police agents who did not serve a day in prison.

Weir described alleged plans for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school in retaliation for the Kingsmill massacre of 10 Protestant workmen in Co Armagh by republicans.



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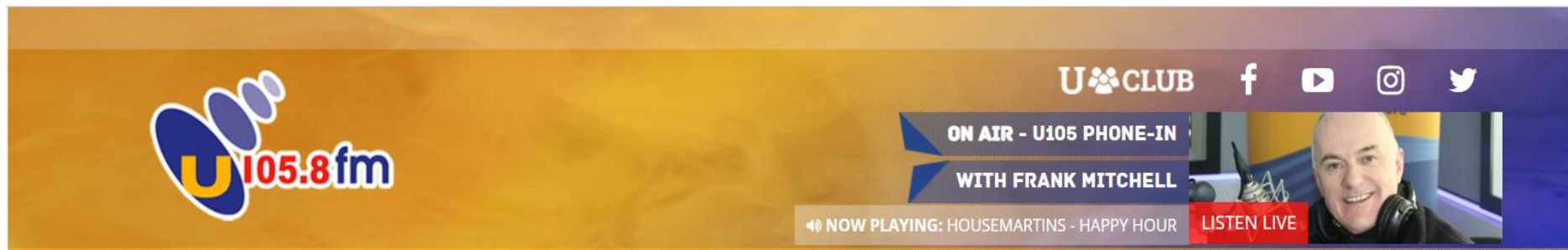
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## Express and Star 20.2.2019 <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2019/02/20/former-police-officer-claimed-british-behind-plot-to-attack-catholic-school/>

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### Former police officer claimed British behind plot to attack Catholic school

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Sean Murray directed a documentary about the Glenanne Gang which operated in Co Armagh in the 1970s.

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Sean Murray

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Sean Murray

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**BBC News NI Papers Review 20.2.2019** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47302767>

## 'School attack planned'

In its inside pages the Daily Mirror focuses on other collusion claims.

Sean Murray, the maker of a documentary on the so-called Glenanne Gang, says that former member John Weir - who was also a ex-police officer - told him he believes elements of British intelligence were behind plans for an attack on a Catholic school as retaliation for the IRA Kingsmills massacre.

The UVF leadership is said to have refused to carry out the attack.

The story is also carried in the Belfast Telegraph and News Letter.

## Leader Live 20.2.2019

<https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/national/17444597.former-police-officer-claimed-british-behind-plot-to-attack-catholic-school/>

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### Former police officer claimed British behind plot to attack Catholic school

By Press Association 2019



Sean Murray

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**A former police officer claimed British intelligence was behind a plot to attack a Catholic primary school during the Troubles, a new documentary revealed.**

Sean Murray directed a programme about the Glenanne Gang which operated in Co Armagh in the 1970s and has been blamed for a series of killings in collusion with rogue members of the security forces.

The story focused on a self-confessed member of the murder gang in the feature-length Unquiet Graves: The Story Of The Glenanne Gang.

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(<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/british-intelligence-tried-to-get-uvf-to-shoot-up-a-school-documentary-claims-1.3800302>)

**THE IRISH TIMES**  
Wed, Feb 20, 2019  
Dublin 13°C

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### British intelligence tried to get UVF to 'shoot up a school', documentary claims

Former RUC officer tells film-maker military behind plot to attack Catholic school in Co Armagh

about 2 hours ago Updated: about an hour ago

Gerry Mortarty



Seán Murray, who directed 'Unquiet Graves: the Story of the Glenanne Gang', with actor Stephen Rea who narrates the documentary about the loyalist paramilitary group believed responsible for more than 120 killings in the early to mid 1970s.

A former RUC officer has alleged that British intelligence tried to persuade the Ulster Volunteer Force to attack a Catholic primary school in Co Armagh in retaliation for the Kingsmill massacre, in a new documentary to be premiered in Belfast on Thursday.

In the feature length documentary, *Unquiet Graves: The Story of the Glenanne Gang*, ex-RUC officer John Weir claims that British military intelligence was behind a plot to attack the primary school at Belleeks in Co Armagh and to kill children and teachers.

Weir, a self-confessed member of the Glenanne Gang, who was convicted of the 1977 murder of Catholic man William Strathearn, said the UVF was urged to carry out the attack in retaliation for the 1976 Kingsmill massacre in which the IRA singled out and killed 10 Protestant workmen.

"The plan that was decided on was to shoot up a school in Belleeks," said Weir, who added that the targets would be "children and teachers".

Long since released and now living in South Africa, Weir told the director of the film Seán Murray that the alleged plan by British military intelligence was to cause the situation in Northern Ireland to "spiral out of control".

Mr Murray, who comes from a west Belfast republican family, said from his conversations with Weir in South Africa the alleged British military intelligence plot was to foment a "civil war".

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Scannain 20.2.2019 (<https://scannain.com/irish/unquiet-graves-premiere-belfast/>)



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### #IrishFilm: Sean Murray's gripping documentary Unquiet Graves to premiere in Belfast on February 21st


▲ [Niall Murphy](#) ● February 20th, 2019 ● Irish Film

Northern Irish filmmaker Sean Murray's new feature documentary *Unquiet Graves: The Story of the Glenanne Gang* will have its pre-release premiere in Belfast on February 21st at the *Moviehouse, Dublin Road*.

The film tells of the shocking plot to attack primary school during Troubles. A former RUC officer has claimed that British intelligence was behind a plot to attack a Roman Catholic primary school at the height of the troubles. The claim, made by former RUC officer and self-confessed member of the Glenanne gang John Weir is detailed in the feature length documentary.

In the chilling scene, Weir describes plans for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school in retaliation for the Kingsmill massacre. Weir tells the filmmakers that the source of the plot was in fact British military intelligence hoping to cause the situation in Northern Ireland to 'spiral out of control'. The attack was not carried out and in the end as members of the UDR refused to carry out the attack on the school in Belahy in County Armagh.

The film, directed by documentarian Sean Murray and narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Stephen Rea, tells the story of the Glenanne Gang, the group of soldiers who campaigned through Counties Tyrone and Armagh and across into the Irish Republic in a campaign that lasted from July 1972 to the end of 1978.







The Glenanne gang included members of the RUC and the UDR and carried out most of its fatal attacks in an area which is now known as the 'murder triangle'. Through interviews with the families of victims and those directly impacted, Murray tells the shocking story of the 'significant number' of state security forces in the murder of innocent civilians including the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

The film also includes a harrowing account from Margaret Campbell, the widow of Pat Campbell, who was gunned down at his home in 1973. Mrs Campbell recounts how she was brought by members of the RUC to a police station where she was asked to identify her husband's murderer, by placing her hand on him in an identity line-up. Mrs Campbell alleged that her one of her husband's murderers was Robert Jackson, a former UDR soldier thought to have been behind some of the worst atrocities of the Troubles. In 2014, Mrs Campbell brought civil proceedings against the Chief Constable and the Ministry of Defence alleging the state security forces had protected her husband's murderers.

The UDR has been identified as the single largest source of modern weapons flowing to the loyalist paramilitaries during the Troubles. One gun, stolen from the UDR and used by the Glenanne Gang, has been directly linked to the murder of eleven people.

**Unquiet Graves: The Story of the Glenanne Gang** has its Belfast premiere this Thursday prior to its release across Northern Ireland with plans for an international release later this year.

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#Writing Script Development Workshops in Belfast with John Berg on March 28th and April 8th  
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**Black 47**  
Out: September 19th

Irish Central 21.2.2019 (<https://www.irishcentral.com/news/british-plot-shoot-up-school-the-troubles-revealed>)

## MI5 plot to "shoot up" a Catholic grade school during The Troubles revealed

IrishCentral Staff @IrishCentral | Feb 21, 2019

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The new documentary "Unquiet Graves: The Story of the Glennane Gang" premieres this week

A new documentary claims that British intelligence attempted to persuade the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) to attack a Catholic primary school in Co Armagh in the 1970s.

## The Irish News 21.2.19 (<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2019/02/21/news/former-police-officer-claimed-british-behind-plot-to-attack-catholic-school-1556152/>)

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## Former police officer claimed British behind plot to attack Catholic school



Documentary film maker Sean Murray who has directed a new documentary, *Unquiet Graves - the Story of the Glenanne Gang*

21 February, 2019 01:00

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THE IRISH NEWS  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21 2019

## Ex-officer claimed British intelligence behind Catholic school attack plot

**A** FORMER police officer claimed British intelligence was behind a plot to attack a Catholic primary school during the Troubles.

Sean Murray directed a documentary about the Glenanne Gang which operated in Co Armagh in the 1970s and has been blamed for a series of killings in collusion with rogue members of the security forces.

The story focused on a self-confessed member of the murder gang in the feature-length *Unquiet Graves: The Story Of The Glenanne Gang*.

Gunmen from the UVF ultimately refused to carry out the attack on the school in Belleek in Co Armagh, the programme makers said.

Details of the planned school attack were previously revealed last summer.

Mr Murray said: "By far, the most chilling part of creating this documentary was speaking to John Weir in South Africa.

"As a former member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary [RUC] who admitted to being in the Glenanne gang, his claim that the British military intelligence tried to arrange for loyalist paramilitaries to attack a primary school is shocking."

Mr Murray said Weir was a loyalist who was imprisoned for killing an innocent Catholic called William Strathearn.

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He told the filmmaker the source of the plan was British military intelligence hoping to cause the situation in Northern Ireland to "spiral out of control".

"Collusion has left a dark and terrible stain on the north of Ireland, the pain that's been caused to thousands of people here is incredible," Mr Murray, below, said.

"If there is ever going to be a healing process on this island, if we're ever going to move forward in reconciliation, people need to be able to tell their stories, but more importantly we need truth from the state about their role in the conflict."

His work was part of a "mosaic" of truth-telling about the violent past.

"This is another square in that mosaic, the Glenanne story," he said.

"There is a school of thought in transitional justice that you should work from below, it should be victim-centred and my work sits itself in that."



■ 'CHILLING': Former RUC man and self-confessed Glenanne Gang member John Weir



UTV Live 21.2.2019 (<https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2016-05-24/catch-up-with-the-latest-editions-of-utv-live-and-utv-live-tonight/>)



BBC Newsline 21.2.2019 (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0c3b9kp>)



**SEAN MURRAY**  
Director "Unquiet Graves"

**BBC NEWSLINE**

[bbc.co.uk/newsni](https://bbc.co.uk/newsni)

Belfast Telegraph 22.2.2019



Sean Murray, who wrote and directed Unquiet Graves

## Packed house for premiere of Glenanne Gang documentary

BY STAFF REPORTER

THE Belfast premiere of the documentary *Unquiet Graves: The Story of the Glenanne Gang* packed out the Movie House cinema on the city's Dublin Road last night.

Four years in the making, the film investigates allegations of involvement by the Government in the murder of more than 120 civilians in counties Armagh and Tyrone at the height of the Troubles, from July 1972 to 1978.

The feature-length documentary was written and directed by Sean Murray, and is narrated by the Oscar-nominated actor Stephen Rea.

"I think films like this are the only viable option for some semblance of the truth for victims, particularly against State violence," Mr Murray told the Belfast Telegraph in the run-up to last night's premiere.

*Unquiet Graves* is scheduled to go on international release this year.

## BBC Good Morning Ulster 22.2.2019



Wake up to Good Morning Ulster and get all the news and analysis from home and abroad.

Irish News 22.2.2019 (<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2019/02/22/news/story-of-glenanne-gang-premiers-in-belfast-1557630/>)



**DOCUMENTARY:** Investigative reporter Barry McCaffrey with film director Sean Murray at the Belfast premier of *Unquiet Graves*. **PICTURES:** Declan Roughan

## Glenanne Gang film premiered

A DOCUMENTARY about the loyalist Glenanne Gang – thought to have been responsible for more than 120 killings in an area of Mid Ulster once dubbed ‘murder triangle’ – premiered in Belfast yesterday.

West Belfast filmmaker Sean Murray directed the film that tells the story of a gang of loyalists, that included members of the security forces, involved in a sectarian campaign of terror from 1972 until 1978.

Speaking at an audience question and answer session after the screening Mr Murray, said there is “nothing to fear by stories being told by all sides of the community in relation to the conflict”.



**STORIES OF CONFLICT:** From left, Joe McGleenan survivor of the Rock Bar attack, investigative reporter Mandy McAulay of the BBC, film director Sean Murray and Angela McKenna whose father and uncle were killed by the Glenanne Gang.

## Story of Glenanne Gang premiers in Belfast



Investigative reporter Barry McCaffrey with film director Sean Murray at the Belfast premier of *Unquiet Graves*.

22 February, 2019 01:00

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Joe McGleenan survivor of the Rock Bar attack, investigative reporter Mandy McAulay of the BBC, film director Sean Murray and Angela McKenna whose father and uncle were Glenanne Gang victims.

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