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Journalist's killers named?

THE HUNT for the killers of Martin O'Hagan, the journalist shot dead in Lurgan, Northern Ireland, on 28 September 2001, may finally be ending. On 3 February one Neil Hyde, among those publicly accused of the killing, was sentenced to three years' jail for 48 admitted offences

concerning the "Loyalist Volunteer Force" (LVF).

Judge Patrick Lynch QC told Hyde that if he had not agreed to identify the alleged culprits in Martin O'Hagan's murder and give evidence about the activities of the outlawed LVF, he would have been jailed for 18

years. Martin O'Hagan's work for the *Sunday World* included many exposés of the LVF and similar groups and, as Secretary of NUJ Belfast Branch, he was on his way home from a Branch meeting when shot.

• More story at www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1202moh.html

Defending sources – again

NUJ MEMBERS Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre were in court in Boston, Massachusetts on 24 January to defend their right to protect their sources. The NUJ National Executive has voted to support them.

Ed was director of The Belfast Project, and Anthony was a researcher for interviews with participants in Northern Ireland's "Troubles". The Project promised interviewees that the tapes would not be released while they live. The tapes were deposited at Boston College.

In March 2010 Ed published *Voices from the Grave*, drawing on interviews with former IRA (Irish Republican Army) leader Brendan Hughes and David Ervine of the Loyalist UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force), who had both died. In March 2011 the UK government contacted the US Department of Justice, asking it to pursue a court order to hand over the archive – initially under the banner of the Police

Service of Northern Ireland investigation into the "disappeared", those presumed killed by the IRA.

In December 2011 Judge William G. Young ruled against both Boston College's motions to quash the subpoenas, and Ed and Anthony's to intervene. He ordered the College to hand the interviews over to the court. Boston College did not appeal. The 24 January hearing confirmed that ruling, but Ed and Anthony were hopeful of succeeding at appeal.

This is not only a matter of defending journalists' sources. It also raises troubling questions about academic research and archiving ethics.

And this is not Ed Moloney's first brush with the authorities over documentation of the Troubles. In October 1999 the High Court in Belfast overturned an order which would have required Ed to hand over confidential interview notes.

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The "Media and the Riots" conference at the London College of Communication in December was organised by LFB member Marc Wadsworth. Community activist Professor Gus John challenged the view that the riots were "suddenly visited on an orderly society". He said policing of, and reporting on the black community has changed little in thirty years. Media were criticised for making little attempt to question the official line – including the assumption that most of the rioters were gang members and that single parents, absent fathers, criminality and "broken Britain" were somehow to blame. More: www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1201riot.html

Photo © Matt Salusbury

Objectionable byelaws

The GREATER London Assembly (GLA) wants to introduce new byelaws for Trafalgar and Parliament Squares, which would make expensive permits required for commercial photography and filming. Photographers doing news and PR shoots in Trafalgar Square report

sporadic hassle by English Heritage "wardens" – to whom enforcement of the existing byelaws seems to have been devolved. Wardens seem to go for shoots involving models or equipment such as lighting rigs and tripods. People who look like tourists are left alone.

The NUJ received assurances from then Mayor of London Ken Livingstone that news photographers would be allowed to go about their business, but the proposed new byelaws are unclear on the distinction between newsgatherers and crews shooting feature films or advertising. Freelance Organiser John Toner is taking up the matter with the GLA.

The byelaws are not yet "confirmed" by the Department of Culture. Objections are invited to the restrictions on newsgatherers before **29 February**: see squaresconsult.notlong.com. Members attending any hustings ahead of May's London mayoral elections may wish to question candidates.

Meanwhile in Bristol, the NUJ reports a meeting with the city council's Bristol Film Office (BFO) about paid-for permits which it is demanding from photographers on all PR photoshoots in the city. While the BFO officer does not make the final decision, she seemed positive. The *Freelance* would be interested to hear of any other issues around permits required by councils for photography.

For women re-entering film/TV

Creative industries body Skillset is offering workshops for women entering or re-entering the TV and film industry, including advice on how to get into areas where women are under-represented – special effects, crew and film financing. They cost £40 and are on **10 February** at MediaCity, Salford, **27 February** at BBC Bristol, and on **7 March** at Skillset's HQ in London. Details: Veronica Benson at v.benson@theukrc.org or on 0118 3784 791.

More online...

Check soon at www.londonfreelance.org/fi for more stories:

- Copyright not evil, and enforcement laws not making the sky fall in!
- Join the international earnings survey!
- Flipper: email network for freelancers at Penguin and Dorling Kindersley
- Rhinegold gets star for improved contracts
- More on Leveson

Pressweiler ahoy!



A press ombudsperson to regulate the Press and enforce better ethics among members of Her Majesty's Press are among the proposals before the current Leveson Inquiry into the ethics, practices and regulation of the Press. But the *Freelance* has heard of a disturbing new development – the arrival of "pressweilers" in the UK.

In early January, the *Daily Record*

reported breeders selling "deadly" pressweiler "superdogs" (artist's impression above) in Scotland. The pressweiler is a cross between a Rottweiler bitch and a Presa Canario dog – the latter banned in New Zealand and Australia. Our thanks to Freelance Organiser John Toner for drawing this to our attention.