



Crowds of people outside the Guildhall in Londonderry, Ireland, waiting for the announcement of the Saville Report on June 15. In a statement accompanying the release of the long-awaited report, British PM David Cameron stated that all the victims were innocent. OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES

UK prime minister apologizes for 'Bloody Sunday'

Lord Saville closes the book on Britain's longest inquiry in history

By DAMIAN ROBIN
Epoch Times Staff

LONDON—Prime Minister David Cameron has apologised on behalf of his country for the deaths of protesters who marched in Northern Ireland 38 years ago in what became known as the Bloody Sunday Massacre.

The apology was delivered in a statement accompanying the release of the long-awaited Saville Report into the shooting death of 14 people by British troops in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, on Jan. 30, 1972.

The PM said Lord Saville had concluded in his 10-volume, 5,000-page report that there was no provocation

for British paratroopers to fire on the demonstrators.

Cameron said in Parliament that people "cannot hide from the truth" that the "events of Bloody Sunday were in no way justified."

The 12-year report—Britain's longest and most expensive inquiry in history—also concluded that there was no premeditation or complicity on the part of senior officers or politicians, nor did the U.K. government try to cover up the incident.

The march through Londonderry on the sunny morning in 1972 was comprised of Irish Republican sympathizers at odds with the pro-union government in London, which they believed was favouring Protestant

Christians over Catholics for jobs, housing, and general policing.

The two previously warring sides now have a fragile power-sharing arrangement in Belfast, a relationship neither wants to jeopardize.

Martin McGuinness, Northern Ireland's deputy first minister, was an Irish Republican Army (IRA) commander on Bloody Sunday. He has always asserted that no IRA members on the march had weapons. However, Lord Saville surmises from nearly 1,000 eye-witness reports that McGuinness was carrying an automatic weapon, but did not use it.

A previous investigation soon after Bloody Sunday by Lord Chief Justice Lord Widgery was dismissive of the marchers. In his 550-word report, completed in a few weeks, there was no expression of sympathy or regret.

He wrote that the soldiers' training made them aggressive and quick to

react, but he did not think they would open fire if they were not fired at first. His report also stated that the shooting by some soldiers bordered on being reckless. Widgery intimated that he thought the marchers must have been armed and said civilian casualties were almost inevitable in this kind of campaign.

There is a general feeling that Bloody Sunday and the Widgery report prevented an early peace accord. Five hundred people died in Northern Ireland that year. One hundred of those were soldiers although none were killed on Bloody Sunday itself.

At the beginning of his statement, Cameron praised the modern army for their unselfish role in risking their lives on behalf of the nation. He also said that he, and many of his age, felt the events in Northern Ireland were something they had "learned about rather than lived through."

Wikileaks, transparency, and national security

A website that exposes secrets has raised the ire of the U.S. government

By JIM FOGARTY
Epoch Times Staff

"And isn't it a bad thing to be deceived about the truth, and a good thing to know what the truth is? For I assume that by knowing the truth you mean knowing things as they really are."—Plato

Words from the great Greek philosopher Plato (429–347 B.C.) reverberate across time—ancient wisdom that is a binding force for divergent cultures and peoples. Equipped with such principles, one is left with balancing modern reality with fundamental truths.

The challenges raised in achieving this delicate balance are reflected in our times, as in the recent case involving the potential exposure of sensitive classified information by a whistleblower and the U.S. government's attempts to stop the release in the name of protecting national security.

Wikileaks.org, a website that defines itself as a "public service designed to protect whistle-blowers, journalists, and activists who have sensitive materials to communicate to the public," came online in 2007.

Since then, the site has published a varied assortment of documents, multimedia files, and communiqués that apparently have been received from insiders wishing to expose sensitive information.

"We have rights under laws of different countries in the world... but we also see a longer right throughout history; that is that real, sort of, diplomacy and real politics is something derived by the flow of information itself through the population." Wikileaks founder Julian Assange stated in a Colbert Report television interview.

"Free speech is what regulates government and what regulates law," he said.

The Wikileaks servers operate out of Sweden, a country that has strong laws to protect journalists' sources and preserve anonymity.

Wikileaks made international news in November 2009 as a source for the leaked "climategate" e-mails that revealed how scientists had manipulated climate change data for political reasons.

In April, Wikileaks released a video taken by an Apache helicopter gunship operating in Iraq. The video shows the gunship opening fire on a group of individuals in a Baghdad neighbourhood.

Referred to as "Collateral Murder," the video caused quite a stir, especially with its harrowing conclusion.

As one wounded man—later identified as a Reuters staff member—attempts to crawl away, a van pulls up and two men try to help the victim into the vehicle. The helicopter fires on the vehicle and its occupants. Ground troops arriving on the scene discovered that two of the wounded occupants of the vehicle were children.

A military investigation concluded that the gunship's actions were in line with U.S. military "Rules of Engagement." Interestingly, these rules are available on

Wikileaks' website.

CLASSIFIED FOREIGN POLICY'

The U.S. government's interest in Assange, an Australian journalist and Internet activist, recently turned serious. On June 6, Wired.com ran a report saying that the source of the Apache gunship video, SPC Bradley Manning, had been arrested in Iraq by army investigators.

The 22-year-old soldier was identified after bragging on an online chat about releasing the video. Manning went further, saying that he had turned over to Wikileaks additional classified materials, including approximately 260,000 diplomatic cables that the soldier claimed exposed the State Department's "criminal political back dealings."

"Hillary Clinton, and several thousand diplomats around the world are going to have a heart attack when they wake up one morning and find an entire repository of classified foreign policy is available, in searchable format, to the public," Manning wrote in the chat, according to Wired.

"Free speech is what regulates government and what regulates law"

—Julian Assange

There is speculation that SPC Manning is also the source for a classified (SECRET/NOFORN) 32-page 2008 Army Counterintelligence Center report, which laid out a plan to "fatally marginalize" Wikileaks by undermining its practice of preserving trust and confidentiality.

It is in this context that the U.S. government officials may now be searching for Assange. Various media, including the Wall Street Journal, claim that officials from several agencies—such as the Pentagon, State Department, and Justice Department—are seeking Assange.

Assange was scheduled to attend a whistleblower conference in Las Vegas on Saturday but never showed. He was also scheduled to make an appearance with "Pentagon Papers" author Daniel Ellsberg last week but participated via Skype instead.

Ellsberg, who claims he was the target of an illegal CIA hit squad in 1972 after exposing Pentagon corruption, advised Assange to stay out of the U.S., but said that exposing the leaks was "serving our democracy and serving our rule of law" by "challenging the secrecy regulations," according to an interview with The Daily Beast.

Asked whether Assange himself was in danger, Ellsberg's answer was simple: "Absolutely."

Wikileaks.org has published an assortment of documents, multimedia files, and communiqués that apparently have been obtained by insiders wishing to expose sensitive information. (WikiLeaks.org)

Fate of Dubai's freed whale shark revealed

By STEPHEN JONES
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DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—For 18 months it swam circuitously in silent frustration in an aquarium in Dubai's most famous five-star hotel.

Named Sammy by local media, the gentle whale shark was the star attraction at the Atlantis Hotel on Dubai's man-made Palm Island.

Stuffed toys in the image of the captured fish were sold in the hotel's tourist shop by the thousands.

However, Sammy soon became a cause célèbre for local environmentalists and even former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson because of the circumstances of how it arrived at the newly opened hotel.

The infant shark, which is an endangered species, was caught off the coast of Dubai and taken to the "lost city" attraction at the hotel soon after the \$1.54 billion resort opened in 2008.

Hotel officials said the fish was in distress in UAE waters and that it had been rescued, but environmentalists rejected that suggestion.

"Holding a whale shark in a constraining artificial environment where it is unable to feed and has a limited area to move can have fatal consequences," a group of activists wrote to the hotel in a letter that was published by local media.

They said that the shark, which was 3.96 metres when caught, can grow up to 14 metres in length.

Anderson, an ardent animal activist who raised eyebrows by writing to the Dubai chain of KFC over chicken welfare, called Sammy's captivity "heartbreaking."

Despite pressure on the hotel and massive negative publicity, Atlantis refused for 18 months to release the shark.

Then suddenly, in a move that raised suspicion among environmental activists, Sammy was released back into the waters of the Persian Gulf on



The Atlantis Hotel aquarium where Sammy the whale shark was on display in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

March 18.

Some speculated that the animal may have been close to death and the release was timed to avoid negative publicity. London-based World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) raised concerns over the lack of rehabilitation of the whale shark prior to its release.

"WSPA is concerned that Sammy's chances of survival are slim," said Claire Bass, WSPA Program Manager in a statement in April.

"This was a wild animal caught and put into an unnatural environment—purely to amuse hotel guests—who has been unceremoniously dumped back into the ocean."

TRACKING SAMMY

Working with the Florida-based Mote

Marine Laboratory, Atlantis staff tagged the animal before its release. The results of that experiment were released on Tuesday, almost three months after the whale shark was freed.

It shows an astonishing pattern where the animal travelled 347.62 kilometres in a month before disappearing from the radar in the seas around Qatar.

However, Sammy's tag detached prematurely, after only 33 days. The device was intended to stay attached for 100 days.

Steve Kaiser, vice president of Marine Science and Engineering at Atlantis, said the early detachment was not unusual.

Dr. Robert Hueter, director of Mote's Center for Shark Research and

leader of the tracking project, said that the team was able to put together a detailed account of the animal's movements despite the loss of the tag.

"After Atlantis staff tagged and released her off Dubai, the whale shark took a mostly westward path through the Arabian Gulf, travelling south of Iran and then curving southward to waters off the coast of Qatar, ending up about 348 kilometres west of her starting point," he said.

Local environmentalists are pleased with Sammy's success and have invited Atlantis and Mote to give a presentation on the data at a workshop in December.

The gesture was unthinkable just six months ago when the hotel was considered to be the ultimate in the exploitation of endangered species.

Unions plan massive strike across Europe

UNIONS CONTINUED FROM P1

President Zapatero, now in his sixth year in office, is so far the first president in Spain's 30 years of democracy not to face a general strike. Until now, he has enjoyed unconditional support from the country's main unions, despite their having questioned certain social policy decisions.

But the romance ended after Zapatero proposed labour reform measures that unions consider damaging to the rights of workers as well

as regressive, and useless in terms of fixing Spain's labour market woes.

The chief of Europe's trade union chiefs, John Monks, said that individual strikes and protests that have been happening in different countries will be coordinated together on Sept. 29, which could make Spain's big unions just the first of several calling for a general strike.

Hungary, Romania, Greece and Italy are some other EU countries that are seeing public protests over austerity plans.