

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 219

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman SEAN T. KEAN

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Urges United Kingdom to conduct full public inquiry into Pat. Finucane's murder.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2021)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United Kingdom to conduct
2 a full public inquiry into the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane.
3

4 **WHEREAS**, For centuries, the issue of who should govern Ireland has
5 generated conflict for the people of that region, and although the
6 British government attempted to settle this conflict in 1920 by
7 dividing Ireland, and granting independence to the southern 26
8 counties of Ireland, while keeping the northern six counties within
9 the purview of Great Britain, the conflict remained and worsened
10 through the years; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The conflict between the nationalists who supported full
12 independence from the United Kingdom and the loyalists who
13 wished to remain a part of the United Kingdom resulted in years of
14 sustained violence in Northern Ireland; and

15 **WHEREAS**, On February 12, 1989, Pat Finucane, a well-known
16 defense attorney who represented both loyalists and nationalist
17 clients, including prominent members of the Irish Republican
18 Army, was shot 14 times in his Belfast home in front of his wife,
19 who was also injured, and three children; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Although arrests did follow Mr. Finucane's murder the
21 police investigation was later found to be ineffective and
22 incomplete; and

23 **WHEREAS**, For more than 30 years, the Finucane family has sought to
24 uncover the truth surrounding the circumstances of the brutal death
25 of their beloved father and husband; and

26 **WHEREAS**, In 1989, a metropolitan police commissioner was
27 appointed to investigate numerous killings and claims of collusion
28 between British security forces and loyalist paramilitaries related to
29 those deaths, that investigation lasted 14 years, and ultimately
30 found evidence of collusion related to the murder of Mr. Finucane,
31 and

32 **WHEREAS**, In 2001, the British government agreed to hold a public
33 inquiry of the case if a review by an independent Canadian Judge
34 determined that a public inquiry was necessary, but despite the
35 judge finding that a public inquiry was warranted, the British
36 government reneged on the promise; and

37 **WHEREAS**, Following years of delay, a second independent review
38 was conducted by a former United Nations war crimes prosecutor
39 which prompted then Prime Minister David Cameron to apologize
40 to the Finucane family for "shocking levels of collusion," but still
41 did not lead to the public inquiry sought by the Finucane family;
42 and

43 **WHEREAS**, The Finucane family has sought redress from the British
44 courts and asserts that a public inquiry is the only way to uncover
45 the truth regarding the circumstances surrounding Pat Finucane's
46 death; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The public interest in ascertaining the truth of the
10 circumstances surrounding the heinous murder of Pat Finucane is
11 of great importance and public concern; now, therefore,

20 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
21 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
22 Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom's
23 Ambassador to the United States and every member of the United
24 States Congress from the State of New Jersey.

40 This heinous crime prompted former Prime Minister David
41 Cameron to apologize to the Finucane family for shocking levels of
42 collusion. It is of the utmost importance, not only to the Finucane
43 family, but to the international community as well, that the truth
44 surrounding the circumstances of Mr. Finucane's murder be known.