

I, William L. Rukeyser, a United States citizen, declare that I was a freelance reporter and photographer working in Northern Ireland for U.S. news media from September, 1971 until February, 1972. On Sunday, January 30, 1972 I was reporting from Derry for UPI Audio, the radio news service of United Press International. I was a witness to some of the events which became known as Bloody Sunday.

In the Summer of 1971 I decided to pursue my reporting career in the area of Europe and consulted with a number of American newsmen whom I knew in various news bureaus in London. The consensus of their advice was that there were only two places where I could earn a living as a freelance newsman: Ireland and Israel. (A freelancer usually sells to a regular customer or customers, but is not an employee.)

I decided to work in Belfast for a variety of reasons: language, proximity, and, as an American Jew, I was able to approach the story with a level of journalistic neutrality which I could not achieve covering an Arab-Jewish conflict. During the nearly six months I was in Northern Ireland, I met very few reporters who were neither British nor Irish, neither Protestant nor Catholic.

During the period when I lived in Belfast and covered Northern Ireland my major customers were CBS TV News (at that time, one of the three US television networks) for which I took 16mm news film, and United Press International (one of two US news services) for which I took color news photos (stills) and reported for its radio news service known as UPI Audio.

Of my major customers, CBS was the most lucrative and I took news film whenever possible. Prior to the NICRA march scheduled in Derry for January 30, I discussed CBS's needs with its London bureau. I was told that the network would be sending a staff crew from London (because it expected this to be a major civil rights march) and that my services would not be needed by CBS that Sunday. Because of this, I covered the march for UPI and went to Derry with an audio recorder and a 35mm camera.

I left my home on Fitzroy Avenue in Belfast on Sunday morning and drove to Derry. The trip took longer than I expected. This was partially because of an army roadblock at which all westbound vehicles were stopped and searched. At this roadblock one of the soldiers who inspected under my car told me that one of my front tires was badly worn. He said I should replace it or I might get hurt, a remark I found ironic in light of the events of the next few hours.

Because of that delay and the heavier than expected traffic, I arrived in Derry later than I had planned. I drove to the downtown area and located the point of confrontation where youths were facing the soldiers. I stationed myself behind the British Army lines and began to take still photographs and record "wild sound" on my tape recorder. (Wild sound is natural audio which can provide a sense of atmosphere in a news report.)

(I did not need to make note of the precise time at which events occurred and therefore report them in the order which I remember with confirmation provided by the audio recording and photographs which have been in my possession since 1972. Because I do not know Derry streets by name and am not consulting other sources which might influence my memory, I cannot be as specific about my locations as I would be otherwise. However, my photos clearly indicate my various locations and the edge numbering on the film indicates the sequence of my movements.)

Standing behind the British troops, close enough to take pictures (one of which was on the cover of the *Economist* magazine), but back far enough to avoid thrown



stones, I was able to observe the confrontation between the two sides. It was at this location that I heard the first shots. At this time I did not feel that I was in any danger from incoming fire, nor did anyone I saw among the soldiers show any sign of anxiety regarding for hostile fire.

The intensity of the fire was more than I had heard in my five months in Northern Ireland. It was quite clear to me that a major news story was occurring and that it was outside of my line of sight. It was also clear that I could not get to the action by moving straight ahead. I turned around and walked to where I had parked my car. I skirted the army lines and was able to enter the Bogside area by first driving and then walking. As I met civilians I began to hear rumors that people had been shot or people had been killed. I dismissed this as hyperbole, but saw and photographed a couple of dead or wounded victims. I did not photograph one obviously dead body which had a massive head wound and had lost large amounts of blood. I refrained from taking that picture either out of respect for the deceased or because of the sensibilities of the family.

During the time that I was photographing in this area it was mostly quiet (in terms of firing.) When I was near a modern style building (apparently apartments) surrounded by a concrete patio area, heavy shooting suddenly started. I did not hear any isolated shots before the volleys occurred.

The sound made it quite clear that the shooting was coming from the British side. I, like everyone around me, either crouched by the concrete building which, I believe, sheltered me from the source of the firing or got down on the ground to avoid the bullets. Clearly, the unanimous and instant judgment of everyone in the area was that the fire was incoming.

The people around me were obviously scared and perplexed as to the cause of the shooting. During the time that I was in the Bogside area I did not see any civilians with firearms nor did I hear any firing which sounded as if it were occurring in my immediate vicinity.

In my reports of that day, I assembled the facts as I had witnessed them, hearsay evidence (which I judged to be credible) from people in the area and official statements regardless of the credibility I gave them. This is typical of reporting by a neutral journalist in a conflict situation.

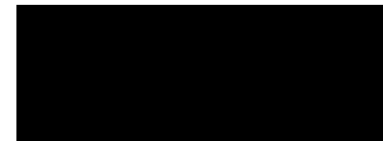
My audio and photographic evidence has been in my possession constantly since 1972, with the exception of brief periods when they have been in the hands of major US news media or American photo laboratories.

I affirm that the above is a true and full account of what I saw and heard in Derry on January 30, 1972.

Attested to on August 1, 1998 at Woodland, California USA



William L. Rukeyser  
DCA Communications



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I, William L. Rukeyser, a United States citizen, declare that I was a freelance reporter and photographer working in Northern Ireland for U.S. news media, as a freelancer, from September, 1971 until February, 1972. On Sunday, January 30, 1972 I was reporting from Derry for UPI Audio, the radio news service of United Press International. I was a witness to some of the events which became known as Bloody Sunday.

I affirm that the reports attached to this statement are my reportage and were typed by me in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. The strikeouts and other edits are contemporaneous and were done for the sake of clarity or brevity.

The original document is in my possession and may be examined for its authenticity.

As with all news reporting done in extreme circumstances, these reports are combinations of first hand, eyewitness, information, second hand information from sources which the reporter (myself) considered reliable and official claims which needed to be reported regardless of the reporter's opinion as to their reliability.

Attested to on August 1, 1998 at Woodland, California USA



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Edward Daily

More than a dozen civilians have been killed by British paratroopers in the worst day of violence in the modern history of Londonderry. The shooting came after a civil rights <sup>march</sup> which was attended by about ~~20,000~~ 20,000 people. They had marched in defiance of the Northern Irish governments ban on parades and were stopped by a British army barricade near the center of town. Most marchers turned back, but some stayed and the troops used tear gas, rubber bullets and a water cannon spraying red dye. Most of the protesters, led by members of parliament including Bernadette Devlin had gathered in the Cregan estate, a Catholic housing development. The British troops advanced to the edges of the development and then opened fire. The British commander here says it was in reply to sniper fire. But no independent observers have reported any sniper fire until about ten minutes after the British Army started firing. And indeed ~~in fact~~ on the basis of what I saw and heard I believe there is no doubt that the army initiated the firing and fired an overwhelming majority of the shots. The shooting continued for more than twenty minutes during which time ambulances came into the area to evacuate the dead and wounded. At one point paratroopers opened up in the direction of an ambulance and a priest beside it who was waving a white flag.

Catholic and civil rights leaders have compared the massacre today to the one at Sharpeville in South Africa. They have demanded an impartial investigation of today's ~~events~~ events and Bernadette Devlin has called for a general strike. The Roman Catholic Archbishop has asked his community here to remain calm.

There can be no doubt that the events today will further embitter the Catholics here and will strengthen the IRA who the Catholics believe is the only force which can defend their community.

The death toll from the shooting in Londonderry has past the dozen mark. All the dead were civilians killed by the British army after a civil rights march. Catholic and civil rights leaders ~~are~~ ~~comparing the deaths in Londonderry to the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa and many people have called for an independent investigation.~~ Bernadette Devlin has called for a general strike. And the Archbishop of Ireland has appealed to Roman Catholics here to remain calm. The Provisional IRA in Londonderry has said it will avenge the deaths. ~~It~~ <sup>The IRA</sup> also says that it had moved its arms out of the affected area ~~and~~ and that the British troops initiated the shooting. Despite army statements, the IRA's claims are substantiated by independent witnesses who say sniper fire did not begin for about ten minutes after the British started shooting.

EDR

I, William L. Rukeyser, a United States citizen, declare that I was a freelance reporter and photographer working in Northern Ireland for U.S. news media, as a freelancer, from September, 1971 until February, 1972. On Sunday, January 30, 1972 I was reporting from Derry for UPI Audio, the radio news service of United Press International. I was a witness to some of the events which became known as Bloody Sunday.

I affirm that the transcript below is a full and accurate record of a recorded audio report which I filed with UPI Audio. I have transcribed the report myself from an audio cassette which I used in 1972. This cassette is in my possession and may be examined for its authenticity.

#### TRANSCRIPTION

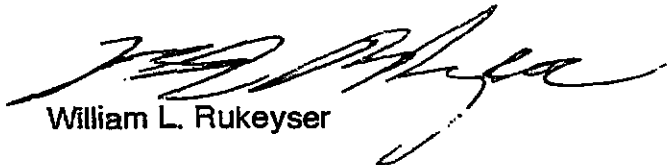
"A number of civilians have been killed by the British Army during this city's worst day of violence.

The day started with a peaceful, but illegal, civil rights march in which about 20,000 people took part. When the march reached an army barricade, near the city center, troops used tear gas and a water cannon.

The shooting started while the marchers were retreating. The army claims snipers started the shooting, but army fire was far heavier and was directed at civilians. Besides those killed, many more people were injured.  
William L. Rukeyser, Londonderry, Northern Ireland"

As with all news reporting done in extreme circumstances, this report is a combination of eyewitness information, second hand information from sources which the reporter (myself) considered reliable and official claims which needed to be reported regardless of the reporter's opinion as to their reliability.

Attested to on August 1, 1998 at Woodland, California USA



William L. Rukeyser

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This is the statement of me William L Rukeyser and I make these comments further to my two statements dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 1998.

1. My earlier statements cover the main points.
2. I have been asked about other American reporters who covered the march. I recall David Green, a cameraman and I saw him and John Lawrence several times. CBS took footage on the day but I have no idea how much. I ran into a number of foreign reporters. Typically they would come over for a few days at a time. I was in fairly constant contact with the CBS bureau in London. There were a couple of Belfast residents who were shooting film for ABC – I think the name was Fox. I know that John Scali who was the ABC political editor came over and I ran into him in 1971 but I don't know if he was here in January 1972. It is very likely that NBC had a crew in Derry because there was a lot of publicity before the march. I have no idea who the NBC people would have been at that time. I cannot remember any photographers from America who would have been covering the march. At that time there were very few foreign news people living in the north and I don't know who might have just flown in for the day. The reason that I did so much work for UPI was that there were very few people doing colour news photography.
3. I have been asked whether I produced to the Inquiry all the photographs I took on the march. Generally news organizations are not good at keeping archives for example I know there are between 6 and 12 of my photographs which UPI had but I don't know what happened to them and where they are now. UPI returned most of my original photos to me in 1972, but did not formally account for the others. From the edge numbering it is obvious that there were some photos of mine whose whereabouts are impossible to know.
4. I have been asked about my knowledge of the IRA at the time. I had not had any contact with the IRA and I would not have known the names of any of the IRA leaders. I didn't need that level of detail for my work. To put it in context this was happening during the time of the Vietnam war. So I would rely on 'the man on the street' type interviews and the official spokesman for each side. I came to Derry several times to get a feel for the area. The job for me would be to prepare roughly 45 seconds to 1½ minute broadcasts.
5. I had not heard anything about the paratroopers before the march. I only had to keep straight in my mind was who were the British army, RUC, UDR and various paramilitaries and even that was probably more subtlety than any of my clients needed. It was not until that evening after the march that I heard anybody saying anything about the paratroopers.
6. I have looked through my previous statements and where I said that the trip to Derry took longer than I expected I wish to explain that my experience of that time lead me to form the view that there was a deliberate attempt to delay people getting to Derry that day.

7. I have taken a look at some low resolution photographs to track my route on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1972 but before Bloody Sunday I had only been to Derry a couple of times so I did not know the city well.
8. When I arrived in Derry I was initially behind the British soldiers in William Street at barrier 14 and as I recall I was able to drive to within two blocks of the scene where I took the first photographs. There did not seem to be a state of high anxiety on the side that I was situated and when I got close to where the soldiers were I did not feel in danger and nor did I sense that they felt in danger. Certainly I had experienced the sense of danger in Belfast so I was very familiar with what was typical for the army to do when they were in a situation of high danger. From a sense of self-preservation I was listening and looking carefully and at the initial stages I would say that everyone had been acting if was a routine matter.
9. I felt that I was not going to be able to get past the soldiers so I stayed where I was to see what happened next. There was a sudden rush of soldiers forward from my right to my left followed almost immediately as they got out of my sight by the sound of shooting. That was the first shooting I heard on that day. I heard no sound of nail bombs. I was very familiar with the sound of all kinds of bombs from my time in Belfast.
10. I knew that I had to take a circuitous route in order to get the photos and news I needed. I came to a vacant lot where rubble had been left which enabled me to get into the Bogside and that is when I started running into people who were moving in the opposite direction to me. At this point I cannot recall whether there was any shooting but it was dramatically less than what I had heard in the initial minutes after the soldiers had moved out of my sight.
11. I recall there were 2 periods of intense shooting i.e. the initial shooting when the soldiers moved forward from my right to my left and then later when I was near the highrise building.
12. I think one of the first bodies that I saw was Mr McGuigan who I saw very soon after I got to the Bogside. I have referred to this in my earlier statement. I think he had only just been killed when I saw him. It was not a situation where people had already gathered round when I got there and no covering had been put over him. I did not see anything like a weapon lying near him. There was just a body on the ground. That was it.
13. I do not have a good recall of timescale but it was not long when I then moved on towards the highrise building. This is when I heard the second volley of intense shooting.
14. From the position where I was the shooting sounded as if it came from my right. That burst of a high volume of firing in quick succession sounded like it was all the same type of weapon and as if it came from the same direction. It did not appear to be crossfire. I recall that when I was

crouching down the wall was behind me, there were small concrete blocks were in front of me.

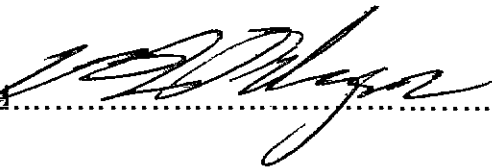
15. I can only estimate how many bodies that I saw – I would say roughly eight sightings. I saw a couple of shot people on the ground, some may have been badly wounded or dead but I was not able to tell which as I was taking photographs. I think I probably saw 3 or 4 before the second volley of intense shooting.
16. The photos of the ambulance were the last shots that I took after that the light was too poor for any more. They have a reddish tinge because the film was quite low speed and the light was fading and therefore I had to ask the laboratory to “push” the pictures. The interview with Father Daly was after I took those photographs.
17. I have been asked how many photographs I took on the day. I shot some pictures on the road to Derry and then changed film as soon as I arrived in Derry. I shot 20 pictures on that roll and then on the next roll (i.e. the third roll on that day) I may have taken 1 or 2 more after the ambulance which have been lost but I do recall that the lights was becoming too poor. My guess is that on the last roll I took 5 but not more than 7 or 8 photos.
18. I have previously produced to the Inquiry an audio tape and that contains everything that I recorded that day. I am not sure if the tape that I have in California is the original or a dub but when I dubbed I would copy the whole tape without interruption. The starts and stops heard on the tape represent the tape recorder in Derry starting and stopping.
19. In the days following Bloody Sunday when I was in Derry I did not hear any rumours about IRA activity on the day or that the army regretted what had happened. I kept my ears open for what had started it. What I heard from the Catholic side reflected what I had seen and what I heard from the Orange side and the army was what one would have expected to hear.
20. Looking at photos 9A and 11A I do remember having to get into position to take the photos as the soldiers and the arrestees were moving and I remember getting into the road at that point unhindered. I also remember that the body language of the soldiers was that they were not expecting any trouble and therefore from the position I was in behind them I was not worried at that time – I think this is well reflected in photograph 11A. In comparison I was shaking when I took some of my other photographs. I was using a long lens and that would have exaggerated the shakes – see for example photograph 16A.
21. I did keep my distance a bit so that is why I used a slightly telephoto lens. This was because of my experiences of being hassled during my time in Northern Ireland. As a foreign reporter I was not made to feel welcome by any of the sides. On Bloody Sunday I was concerned for the safety of my film so I made a point not to provoke anybody.



22. I did not see any of the arrestees being abused but I only followed them up to a point and I would have been very surprised to see them abused in public view.

23. I was obviously keeping my eyes open for everything and in a dangerous situation foreign reporters have no friends so I was on the look out for dangers from any source. I was just as aware of the dangers from paramilitary groups as from the army so during the circuitous route that I took between the two bouts of heavy shooting I was scanning the area for news and photographs but obviously I did not want to be caught in crossfire. Therefore when I stated that the only persons I saw with guns were the soldiers this was not a casual remark – I had been keeping a close eye. I would say that because of the work I was trying to do and the path that I took I probably had a different view of the incidents from the other people. For example as I was snaking into the Bogside everyone around me were going in the opposite direction from me.

Signed



Dated

Jan 26 2001