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Rt Hon Marjorie Mowlam MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

3rd July 1997

Dear Mo,

COLIN DUFFY

I am taking the unusual step of writing to you about someone whose bail hearing takes place in Northern Ireland tomorrow.

Normally we would not seek political intervention in such circumstances. However, in this case we are very concerned that Colin Duffy, who has been arrested and charged with the two RUC officers brutally murdered in Lurgan recently, is facing the nightmare of a second miscarriage of justice.

I enclose a submission we have today made to the United Nations on his behalf, which I hope you will study carefully. The only documents I have not included are copies of the witness statements, as they may form part of legal proceedings if this case comes to court. However, I have myself studied the statements and enclose a true summary of the salient points.

One of the worst aspects of the many miscarriages of justice that have arisen in recent years has been the length of time it has taken to put matters right. In this case, it would be better for all concerned to nip things in the bud. The very worst aspect of miscarriages of justice, in our experience, is that not only are the innocent victimised, but the true perpetrators remain at large and no one, including the family of the deceased, gets justice. On both counts, I hope that you will do all in your power to have this matter scrutinised at the highest level, and that you will let us know the outcome.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Winter
Director.