**Richard Fallon**

**3rd April 1970**

SEFF remembers Richard Fallon who was a Garda Officer murdered on 3rd April 1970 by a terrorist gang operating under the name Saor Éire, (who latterly morphed into the INLA).

Richard Fallon was from Moneen, Kilroosky, Co. Roscommon and was married with 5 children. He joined the Garda Siochonna in 1947, he was the first member of the force to receive the Scott Medal posthumously.

In April 1970 Garda Richard Fallon was murdered while on duty in Dublin City centre by a terrorist gang robbing a bank. Immediately after his death allegations, including those made in the Irish Parliament (the Dáil), suggested that elements of the Fianna Fáil government of the day knew about or we're involved in collusion with the gang, Saor Éire.

After a long wait the family of Garda Fallon had hoped that the 30-year release of papers might shed some light on the events of 1970. However, little or no mention of the murder was made in the released files which continues to cause the Fallon family great distress given the public reaction to the death and that it was the first murder of a policeman in the Republic of Ireland since 1942. In 2005 after a meeting with the Minister for Justice McDowell the government refused to hold an inquiry despite the minister saying that the collusion allegation "was not an impossible theory".

In 2010 Finian Fallon (Richard's son) approached the Serious Crimes Review Team (SCRT) which and been established by the Irish government to review unresolved cases. Though the case was theoretically out of time for the SCRT review protocols it was accepted for review. The review involves a file review rather than a full re- investigation. The investigation file was unlocated for the first 6 months of the review. It transpires that the physical evidence used in the unsuccessful trials of three individuals has mostly been lost (evidence related to a capital offence with no statute of limitations) including a motor vehicle. All that remains is a few bullet casings.

As part of the review a retired Irish police officer has given a statement to the SCRT confirming he had identified a picture taken in London in the late 60s of the late Jock Haughey, brother of the late Charles Haughey, the late John Kelly of the Provisional IRA in addition to a member of Saor Éire who is still alive, presumably in London to make arrangements in respect of materiel which was later to become relevant to the Arms Trial which began in May 1970, just after Garda Fallon's murder.

Still the government refuses to launch an inquiry. In the meantime, Deirdre Fallon died aged 56 and two of her children Joe and Damien both died prematurely in their early forties leaving their devastated children behind for another generation to deal with the aftermath.

Our thoughts are with the Fallon family as yet another Anniversary passes without justice, truth and accountability being served.