# Former British Soldier Soldier F Appears in Belfast Court for Bloody Sunday Charges



A former British soldier, identified only as Soldier F, appeared in Belfast Crown Court for the first time on Friday since being charged with two murders and five attempted murders during the Bloody Sunday incident in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in January 1972. Thirteen civil rights protesters were shot dead by the Parachute Regiment on that day.

During the pre-trial hearing, Soldier F's legal team, led by Mark Mulholland KC, argued for the case to be dismissed due to an "insufficiency of evidence." Mulholland highlighted contradictions in contemporaneous statements from other soldiers involved, claiming they rendered the prosecution's case as lacking a "coherent evidential basis."

Prosecution barrister Louis Mably KC countered the defense's arguments, asserting that the soldiers involved intended to kill the unarmed civilians they allegedly fired upon.

The court also considered extending anonymity and screening provisions for Soldier F. His defense cited potential risks to his safety from dissident republicans, supported by expert testimony from former Police Service of Northern Ireland assistant chief constable Alan McQuillan.

The judge, Mr. Justice Fowler, maintained the interim anonymity measures and acknowledged the prosecution's neutral stance on the matter. A ruling on the defense's application to dismiss the case will be made at a later date, and a trial date has yet to be scheduled.

Bloody Sunday remains a significant event in the history of the Northern Ireland Troubles, with subsequent legal and political repercussions.