ARDOYNE:
THE UNTOLD TRUTH

Ardoyne Commemoration Project
Ardoyne is a small working class nationalist community in North Belfast. Its people have witnessed some of the worst of the violence of the last thirty years, much of it perpetrated by British state forces. Ninety-nine people of Ardoyne were killed as a result of the conflict between 1969 and 1998.

With the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, the Ardoyne Commemoration Project began interviewing relatives, friends and eye-witnesses about all those who had been killed. It looked for photographs of the dead. It researched the circumstances of every killing and explored the broader political context prevailing at the time. Over three hundred interviews were completed. This book is the result.

The book commemorates the dead through the voices of those who knew them best and those who witnessed the terrible events which Ardoyne experienced during the various phases of the conflict. It is a remarkable, and at times painful, record of a much maligned and marginalised community.

As Seamus Deane writes in the preface, the book is a tribute to the resilience of the living. It is what truth sounds like – difficult to listen to and, for many, impossible to hear. ‘What this book does is to increase the pressure for further inquiry, to ask the state, before the world to justify its behaviour in Ardoyne. Or even to tell the truth.’