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Debate commitment

WEDNESDAY  
30/01/2008  
08:21:14

### Troubles debate for Dail

Victims of collusion-linked atrocities during Northern Ireland's "Troubles" will today be granted a long-awaited debate in the Dail

parliament in Dublin.

Government and Opposition politicians will deliver statements on the attacks while families of victims listen in the public gallery of Leinster House.

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern gave a commitment to hold the debate following recommendations in a 2006 report by an all-party parliamentary inquiry. Up to a dozen shootings and bombings from the 1970s will be discussed for more than four hours during the two Dail sessions today and tomorrow.

Present with survivors and victims` families will be senior members of the Consultative Group on the Past in Northern Ireland, which is led by former Archbishop of Armagh Lord Eames and nationalist mediator Denis Bradley.

The Dail`s Justice Committee said in November 2006 that a parliamentary debate was necessary "to highlight the fact that collusion occurred, the facts of its scale and to identify measures to bring closure to the victims".

Victims` groups hope the Dublin event will mount further pressure on the British Government to hand over official documents relating to atrocities that occurred in the Republic and in Northern Ireland during the Troubles.

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STARRING: Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren

DETAILS: USA / 124mins (PG)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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