

In the Name of the Father: the Defence

At the start of this trial I shook Gerry Conlon's hand.

Subsequently, I was deeply shocked when a member of the legal profession came to me and asked me if I was now going to wash my hand. In my long legal career, I cannot remember a case where emotions have been so charged.

It falls to me now to appeal to you, the members of the jury, not to get caught up in this tide of mass hysteria. Inspector Dixon admits there are scores of inconsistencies in the confessions.

My clients contend that they were forced to confess through brutality and intimidation.

Now, they may be foolish petty thieves, even drug abusers, but they are not the ruthless bombers who have terrorized Britain for months.

You should find these young people... not guilty.