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THURSDAY
31/01/2008
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Victims to take legal action

Victims Commissioners Victims of some of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) worst atrocities are to take legal action against the appointment of the four Victims Commissioners in Northern Ireland.

They claim the description of one of the commissioner's brother as 'an IRA volunteer killed on active service' has thrown into question their credibility.

The problem is a statement released by the Department of the First and Deputy First Minister in which Patricia MacBride's brother is described as an 'IRA volunteer killed on active service'.

So enraged are victims of IRA violence that they have decided to take legal action against the appointment of all four commissioners.

It is understood at least a dozen victims groups have given their support to the move.

It is expected legal proceedings will be taken by one victim - thought to be Michelle Williamson whose parents were killed in the Shankill Bomb.

In response the Victims Commission has issued a statement in which it says it would be disappointed if a legal challenge delays victims and survivors receiving the support they believe they can offer.

However, they say they fully respect the right of any individual or group to seek a judicial review of their appointment.

It is believed the legal proceedings will be launched next week.

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On 1 Feb at 08:51 - sam millar from belfast said:

You don't hear nationalists' victims of RUC terrorism complaining about Bertha McDougall being on the Commission. Seems that some people are so full of hatred there will never be any pleasing them.

On 1 Feb at 10:31 - William from Londonderry said:

I look forward to Michelle's Judicial Review of the appointments being successful and likewise any legal action taken by Raymond McCord and that McBride gets the sack in the same way that David Burrows was forced to resign from the Parades Commission.

On 1 Feb at 12:36 - J McCullough from Newtownards said:

sam millar, would that be the same nationalists who took a court case to stop the appointment of Mrs McDougall you are talking about? Or the nationalists who went to court to get Orangemen removed from the Parades Commission? Same people, same hatred, as you say.

On 1 Feb at 15:56 - laif from Northern Ireland & New York City said:

Sam would that be the same Hatred that was shown towards innocent fellow citizens by Republican Terrorists when they were murdering them and even to this day continue to disrupt and destroy their ways of life and culture at every given opportunity ???

On 1 Feb at 16:19 - Bernie from Antrim said:

Are nationalist going to seek a judicial review over the appointment of Bertha McDougall? I think not - most people have moved on. Give the commissioners a chance to see what they can do. Commissioners can not be held accountable for what happened in the past.

On 1 Feb at 17:05 - Citizen from Crumlin said:

Bernie, these nationalists that have allegedly "moved on", aren't they the same ones who have already had Bertha McDougalls appointment to a previous post dragged through the courts because her dead husband was an RUC officer who was Murdered by Nationalist / Republican Terrorists. And if these same people have moved on then why are we still hearing calls for more enquiries, removals of statues, pictures, mugs, paperweights etc. Not to mention the bloody Sunday enquiry and the recent debate in the Irish Parliament regarding Nationalist victims of the Northern Ireland "troubles". Does this really spell out to the rest of us that they have moved on ???? I'm afraid not.

On 1 Feb at 17:14 - Citizen from Crumlin said:

Sam, we have already heard nationalists complaining about having Bertha McDougall, we've even had a court case from them regarding her. And to your point about the RUC your comment, the RUC was a Police force with sinister elements who i agree should be brought to justice but that doesn't mean that every RUC officer carried out any Brutal injustices, but the IRA was and is a Terrorist Organisation who purposely set out to destroy and Murder, that's the difference!!!!!!

On 1 Feb at 18:21 - Molly from nyc said:

I don't understand, Northern Ireland obviously belongs to the rest of Ireland and to the Irish people. Why is that confusing? Why don't these people get a life?

On 2 Feb at 10:15 - ruc widow from limavady said:

i support the victim's legal action.when the term killed in active service is usually a soldier. fighting for his country. but we have a terrorist who was terrorising his country described as like a solder on active service does that not mean that all the victims were legitimate targets.for the sake of all the good people who were victims no terrorist should be described so.

On 2 Feb at 10:16 - Tom from Limavady said:

To Molly - That is the main problem, you people in NYC and the rest of America don't understand, a terrorist here is as bad as a terrorist in America or the rest of the world and I bet you would back your President hunting down and jailing the people who terrorise America maybe you should look to your own back yard, get your head around that and see N Ireland in the same light.

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