

**Hume, John.** (1977). 'Provisional violence condemned by Hume', (statement by John Hume, about the IRA campaign which targeted civilian contractors working for the security forces). *The Irish Times*, (8 March 1977): ... [23757] - [Newspaper Article]

Never in the long history of Ireland had any organisation claiming to represent basic nationalist aspirations reduced itself to the level of the recent Provisional IRA campaign against a section of the Irish people.

The leadership of the Provisional IRA have decided to murder people purely and simply because of the way they work for their living - because they are in business. Is there no one left in the ranks of the Provisional IRA who have even a spark of idealism and who has the courage to stand up to his colleagues and shout "stop",

Is there no one who will look back over the past seven years and ask himself: after 1,500 dead and 17,000 injured, after over more than 500 bombs, what has been achieved?

It is no excuse to point to the atrocities of others. The Provisional IRA are responsible for their own actions and for the suffering they have brought on their own people. And what has the leadership of the Provisional IRA given in return to the thousands of young people who have idealistically joined their ranks and who now find themselves in graves or in jail?

In our city anyone who looks back over the past seven troubled years will recognise at once that anything that has been achieved has been achieved by purely non-violent and political means.

Derry Corporation has disappeared and been replaced by a democratically elected council. The last few years have seen a great improvement in Derry's housing situation. On the employment front we have attracted massive new industry. Can anyone doubt but for the violence we would have attracted more?