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Payouts over Troubles to be scrapped

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The Guardian, Thursday 26 February 2009

Relatives of some of the victims of [Northern Ireland's Troubles](#) have welcomed a government decision yesterday to scrap a controversial proposal to grant £12,000 to the families of those killed in the conflict, including paramilitaries.

The government announced it was ruling out the payment hours before the scheme's proposers were to face a Westminster committee. The former Church of Ireland primate Lord Eames and the former Northern Ireland policing board chairman Denis Bradley defended their suggestion at the House of Commons.

Eames said the idea of a "recognition payment" would return in the future, despite widespread hostility at present. He said other societies that had emerged from conflict, such as Rwanda, had made similar payments.

He added: "I don't think the figure is the important thing here, it is the recognition. There will be a case years down the line about people talking again about some tangible recognition."

However, the Northern Ireland secretary, Shaun Woodward, said it was clear the "time is not right for such a recognition payment".

The proposal was made by the Consultative Group on the Past, an independent group set up to deal with the legacy of Northern Ireland's Troubles, during which more than 3,000 people died.

It was proposed that the families of paramilitary victims, members of the security forces and civilians who were killed would be entitled to the same amount. This angered some victims' groups, which argued that politically uninvolved civilians and members of the security forces should not be put on a par with terrorists, whether loyalist or republican.

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