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Eirigi distances itself from Duffy

By Allison Morris

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Eirigi yesterday distanced itself from a former IRA prisoner being quizzed over the murder of two British army soldiers.

The republican pressure group claimed Colin Duffy (41) had left the organisation weeks before the killing.

On Saturday Duffy was arrested in connection with the murder of two soldiers at Massereene British army barracks in Antrim.

The 41-year-old had been a former Eirigi spokesman and had been prominent at its demonstrations.

A spokesman for the organisation, which denies links to dissident republicans, said yesterday: "No member of our group is currently under arrest".

On Saturday Eirigi demonstrated at the gates of the British embassy in Dublin.

The group's main spokesman, Brian Leeson, said it would continue to oppose a British presence in the north but made no reference to either the recent killings or the arrest of his former colleague.

Last week another prominent Eirigi member, Breandan Mac Cionnaith, said the group had no connection to dissident republicans.


"Eirigi is an open, independent, democratic political party which is not aligned to, or supportive of, any armed organisation," he said.

"While supporting the right of any people to defend themselves from imperial aggression, Eirigi does not believe that the conditions exist at this time for a successful armed struggle against the British occupation.

"As can be seen from the recent attacks on Britain's armed forces it is clear that not all republicans agree on how the British occupation should be resisted at this time."

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