Loyalists urged to avoid 'trap' set by perpetrators - The Irish Times - Thu, Mar 12, 2009

Loyalists urged to avoid 'trap' set by perpetrators

Fiona Gartland in Belfast

SINN FEIN-UPRG MEETING: FOLLOWING AN historic meeting between the Sinn Féin Lord Mayor of Belfast and representatives of the Ulster Political Research Group (UPRG), loyalists were called on “not to fall in to the trap” set by those who perpetrated violence over the last few days.

Frankie Gallagher, of the UPRG, which speaks politically for the UDA, said anybody thinking of reacting to the violence should make sure their reactions were peaceful.

The meeting took place in advance of a silent vigil at City Hall in Belfast in the aftermath of the murders of two British soldiers in Antrim and a policeman in Craigavon by dissident republicans.

Mr Gallagher described his meeting with Lord Mayor Tom Hartley, Sinn Féin MLA Paul Maskey and party aide Paul Devenney as “crossing a Rubicon” for the group.

He was accompanied by UPRG members William McQuiston and Colin Halliday. It was the first time they had met with members of Sinn Féin, he said. “One of the things that came out was that though we have ideological differences, there are common issues that we need resolutions to and we can work together on all those issues of education, employment and human rights.”

He believed the loyalist community would remain stable. “There is a hope there that the leaders within the country know what they are doing. There is a hope that the police will do their jobs.”

He believed the mood had changed in the community following the political leadership shown by First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin
McGuinness, who both unequivocally condemned the killings.

This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

Latest »

- 11:12 Consumer prices down 1.7 per cent in February
- 11:11 Two dead in Kildare road crash
- 11:07 Tánaiste Board meeting to discuss funding shortfall
- 11:05 Thornton passed fit for third day of Festival
- 10:45 EU employers expect ‘wave of bankruptcies’ in 2009
- 10:43 Call for responsible St Patrick’s weekend drinking
- 10:39 AGI hails positive drug patch trial results
- 10:19 Call for €2 increase in price of cigarettes

Popular Stories

- Most Read
- Most Emailed

- 1 Five teenagers arrested after ‘brutal’ attack on couples at beauty spot
- 1 Taoiseach warns of tough measures on April 7th
- 1 O’Brien replaces Quinn as top Irish ‘Forbes’ list billionaire
- 4 United stay on track, Gunners survive penalties
- 5 Desmond firm loses EUR 12m since January in Irish banks

- 1 Universities hope merger will create 30,000 jobs
- 2 Deloitte to seek 70 voluntary job cuts
- 3 Rental revival gives tenants right to choose
- 4 Five teenagers arrested after ‘brutal’ attack on couples at beauty spot
- 5 O’Brien replaces Quinn as top Irish ‘Forbes’ list billionaire

Your Vote

- Yes
- No

Results

Do you think countries that allow their citizens the right to bear arms are correct in doing so?

Crossword Club »
Sudoku »

Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid

Inside the desert kingdom There are signs that Saudi Arabia has began to take the first tentative steps towards real reform

New age for prophet of self-interest A hymn to individualism, extreme self-interest and laissez-faire capitalism, Ayn Rand's 1957 book 'Atlas Shrugged' is attracting a new set of followers in this age of uncertainty

Rental revival gives tenants right to choose With a vast supply of newly-built apartments for rent on the market, tenants can upgrade regularly if they are prepared to shop around and haggle

66% off Failte Towers castle on 17 acres A castle run as a hotel which starred in a TV series could be within the reach of private buyers after a price cut

The night of the iguana Among those fascinated by the Galapagos Islands, which Charles Darwin made famous, is an Irish scientist who conducts research at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island

Advertisements

Homes

The Cedars, Diamond Valley, Dargle Road Price: €335,000

Bedrooms: 3

See More »

Jobs

Select your categories

Accountancy
Architecture / Design
Banking & Financial Services
Construction
Customer Service, Call Centres & Languages

Next »

Cars

Kia's got it all wrapped up - mind, body and, of course, Soul

Find »