Robinson calls for matter to be left with police - The Irish Times - Mon, Mar 09, 2009

Robinson calls for matter to be left with police

Northern First Minister Peter Robinson said the matter must be left to the police

In this section »

- People join in prayer for slain soldiers
- Political response of parties to killings must be tough and uncompromising Northern Editor
- Brown vows murderers will not be allowed to derail peace process
- Professionalism of soldiers who gave first aid praised
- Taoiseach says tiny, evil group will not undermine peace
- McGuinness stands by criticism of Orde's decision to deploy British special forces

DAN KEENAN

NORTHERN REACTION: REACTION WITHIN Northern Ireland to the murders from heads of government, politicians and police representatives was emphatic.

Chief constable Sir Hugh Orde, who warned last Thursday about the substantial threat posed by dissident republicans, said: “We have all the resources we need to . . . find the people responsible for this, who not only deliberately and determinedly drove an attack home on the British military establishment, but who were also equally determined to try and kill ordinary members of the community at the same time. People should reflect on that.”

He added: “A tiny number of people are determined to drag us back to where nobody wants to be.”

First Minister Peter Robinson, who was among the first political representatives to visit the scene on Saturday night, said: “Can I urge all of those who may be angry within
the unionist community . . . this is a matter to be left entirely with the police and the authorities to deal with.

“They are capable of dealing with it and they shall deal with it and we must give them our full support.”

His DUP colleague and South Antrim MP Rev William McCrea said: “There’s nothing but murder in the hearts of these people, but one thing I can guarantee: they will not defeat us, they will not win, but we will see them defeated.”

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams said the killings were “wrong and counter-productive”.

“There should be an end to actions like the one in Antrim last night,” he said. “The popular will is for peaceful and democratic change. Sinn Féin has a responsibility to be consistent. The logic of this is that we support the police in the apprehension of those involved in last night’s attack.

“The police also have a responsibility to give leadership and to behave at all times in a transparent and accountable manner. The British government has a duty to uphold the new political arrangement and the peace process. We will not be deflected from our republican and democratic objectives.”

SDLP leader Mark Durkan said: “Such terrorism achieves nothing but grief and injury for victims and shock and disgust across the community. So-called dissident republicans are not proving anything that we don’t know.

“We know they are opposed to peace and we know their capacity to attack, threaten, disrupt and even to kill. They need to understand this is not an attack on British army but the Irish people who have voted for and value above all else peaceful politics and democratic accommodation.”

Ulster Unionist leader Sir Reg Empey asked: “Why can’t these so-called dissidents accept the democratically expressed views of people, parties and governments on both sides of the Border and allow us to build peace and new opportunities? We must not allow a minuscule terrorist faction to set a new and utterly ruthless agenda.”

Alliance leader and Assembly member for South Antrim David Ford said: “This attack highlights the real need for an intelligence-based approach to tackling the threat of terrorism. These individuals need to be caught as quickly as possible.

“Northern Ireland cannot and must not be pushed back towards the precipice.”

The killings were also strongly condemned by the Police Federation which represents most PSNI officers, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and church representatives in the area.

This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

Latest »

- 15:47 Wedding planner 'Franc' among tax defaulters
- 15:07 Ireland get off to a winning double
- 15:04 Iran has no weapons-grade uranium, Congress told
- 14:33 MEPs back cheaper roaming rates proposal
- 14:18 Man held over £7m raid released on bail
- 14:14 Police raid houses after Continuity IRA murder
- 14:12 Iseq lower despite positive results from Fyffes
- 13:50 Dissidents behind attacks are traitors, says McGuinness

Popular Stories

- Most Read
- Most Emailed

- FitzPatrick borrowed EUR 228m from Nationwide
- Continuity IRA says it killed PSNI officer in Craigavon
- 'Shakespeare' portrait hung for years in Irish big house
- Ireland and Italy least competitive of EU states
- U2 say tour will reinvent playing in the round
- Dissidents behind attacks are traitors, says McGuinness

Your Vote
Do you think the North's political institutions are strong enough to withstand the latest upsurge in violence?

Crossword Club ▶

Today's Interactive Irish Times Crosaire and Simplex crosswords, plus 10 years of crossword archive.

Sudoku ▶

Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid

- Pawns in the economic game: Pawnbrokers, once seen as relics of tenement Dublin, are booming in these hard times.
- Inside the desert kingdom: There are signs that Saudi Arabia, long bound by rigid social norms and an austere interpretation of Islam, has begun to take the first tentative steps towards real reform, writes Mary Fitzgerald.
- U2 to reinvent playing in the round: A sort of homecoming: U2 to play Croke Park in July, with tickets from just €30
- Too Cool for School: HEALTH: DAVID COLEMAN on what to do when it sticks out a mile that a Leaving Certificate student is not stuck in
- Stepping outside The Frames: ARTS: It has taken Colm Mac Con Iomaire of The Frames two decades to step into the spotlight on his own. But having discovered the joys of creative freedom, it won't be so long next time

Homes

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

• Jobs

Select your categories

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

Next »

• Cars

Find »

Take a pinch of SUV, a dash of estate and a slice of saloon car handling

• Dating

I am a Man Looking for a Woman Located All Only with photos: Next »

© 2009 irishtimes.com

Company information
Privacy policy
Help
Contact us
Advertise
Terms & Conditions