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The fallout from Sinn Fein's Belfast parade

13 August 2007

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

“I am today raising with the Parades Commission and the Chief Constable the display of replica weapons and IRA insignia at yesterday’s Sinn Fein sponsored “Truth” march in Belfast.

When dealing with Orange parades the Parades Commission is robust in imposing and enforcing a plethora of conditions, so, I want to know what conditions they imposed on this coat-trailing exercise and whether the carrying of replica weapons infringed same, and what action they propose. I am asking the Chief Constable whether the carrying of replica weapons and IRA insignia is now lawful, acceptable to the police and compatible with public order obligations.

I believe most law-abiding citizens will be appalled by these overt displays of affinity with and glorification of terrorism. Moreover, since they demonstrate that little has changed with Sinn Fein, I will write to the First Minister to enquire whether he believes the carrying of replica weapons and IRA insignia was compatible with Sinn Fein’s supposed commitment to the rule of law and his expectations arising from the faith which he has placed in those commitments? The issue for the First Minister is whether such behaviour is acceptable to him from a partner Party in government?

If not, what action does he intend?

In regard to the truth about the past, it would be an excellent start if the Deputy first Minister and the Sinn Fein President began by telling the truth about their involvement in the insurrection and terrorism which inflicted so much savagery on our Province?"

NI political discussions

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