

Monday 27 October 2008

**NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY**



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- Home
- News Archive
- Your Representatives
- Manifesto 2007
- Downloads
- Election Results 2007
- Election Results 2005
- Election Results 2003
- Email Updates
- Text Message Updates
- Policy Documents
- DUP Advice Centres
- Give Us Your Views
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- Join the Party
- Links

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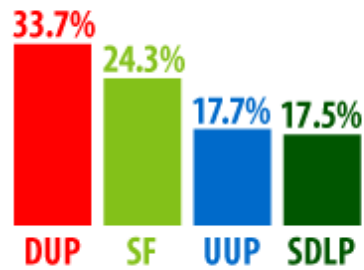
**DODDS SECURES PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON LIBYAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM**

Nigel Dodds, DUP Deputy Leader and MP for North Belfast has secured a parliamentary debate on the involvement of Libya in supporting terrorism in Northern Ireland during the troubles. The debate will take place tomorrow. The MP has demanded that the government take appropriate measures to ensure that the Libyan government of Colonel Ghadaffi is made to pay compensation for the suffering they had a direct hand in creating in Northern Ireland. Speaking today the DUP MP said:



*“The Libyans have admitted their guilt in supporting terrorism. The very fact that they have established a \$2.7billion fund to compensate American victims of terrorist acts they supported is to my mind an admission of guilt. If the Americans can apply pressure to guarantee compensation for victims, why is our own government selling short victims from all corners of the United Kingdom who suffered at the hands of the terrorists Ghadaffi bank-rolled?”*

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*In recent times there has been a thawing in diplomatic relations between the Libyan government and our own. Perhaps because our government is so desperate to make friends in the greater Middle East they fell it is acceptable to embrace Ghadaffi and his criminal regime. I know that many people in Northern Ireland were disgusted by the site of our previous Prime Minister Tony Blair publically embracing Ghadaffi.*

*The links between the Ghadaffi regime and terrorist groups are well-documented. As part of his campaign of terror against the west during the 1970s and 1980s Ghadaffi's regime funded terrorist groups around the world. The Libyans also provided training and arms to illegal terrorist organisations. In a Northern Ireland context, it is no exaggeration to say that the Provisional IRA could not have waged the campaign they did against the people of this country on anything like the scale we witnessed without the help and assistance of Colonel Ghadaffi.*

*As the government rushes to embrace this man and his regime they need to realise and remember that Ghadaffi was directly responsible and complicit in the death of many people in the United Kingdom. There should be no thawing in our attitude towards the Libyan regime until they compensate UK citizens who suffered at the hands of the terrorists that they armed and bank-rolled."*

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