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23rd February 2009

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**Victims' Association meeting**

Speaking at a Victims Association meeting in Pomeroy Ulster Unionist MLA Tom Elliott took the opportunity to raise his continued concerns over the recent publication of the Eames Bradley report which dominated discussion at the meeting.

Speaking afterwards Mr Elliott said; "One of the worst aspects of the report is the fact that it fails to distinguish between victims of the troubles. The current definition of a victim is totally unsatisfactory. A person who was killed planting a

bomb which murdered indiscriminately is nothing more than a murderer of the worst kind. However under the current definition those people planting the bomb are regarded in the same light as the victims of the Omagh bomb for example."

"Any suggestion that those who were perpetrators of violence in Northern Ireland could be given equal treatment to the real victims who have suffered in this province is appalling. It is wrong, fundamentally wrong, to equate the victims of terrorism with the terrorists who carried out the attacks.

**"It is also wrong, fundamentally wrong, to offer any sum of money - irrespective of the amount involved to the families of killers, bombers and torturers. These people attempted to destroy our country and our people."**

Looking at an article in one of the local papers he also raised his concerns over the continued threat posed by dissidents.

"In the Belfast Telegraph today the new Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris also warned of the threat that dissident republicans continue to pose in our society. This is of grave concern to everyone in Northern Ireland and it also highlights the need for right-minded, law-abiding people in our Province to come forward with the message that republicans will not win in this way."

"Over recent months there has been an increasingly sinister and active dissident republican presence on the streets of Northern Ireland and this needs to be dealt with immediately. I would therefore urge members of the public to come forward with any information. Those trying to create chaos within our community must be stopped."

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