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UUP Leader Sir Reg Empey has voiced his utter revulsion at the murderous attack on Massereene Barracks.

"Unfortunately my condemnation will bring little comfort to those who have been personally affected by tonight's tragedy.

"But I do wish to express my condolences to the families of those brave Security Force personnel who were killed while performing their duty. My thoughts and prayers are also with those who have been injured. And I would also extend the

thanks of my party to all those people connected with the security forces who have continued to do a magnificent job for all of us in Northern Ireland.

"Today is a sad day for Northern Ireland as cowardly terrorists have tried to take us back to our troubled past.

"No-one in Northern Ireland wants this. Indeed, both sides have been working and cooperating together for years to steer us towards a new and brighter future. Compromises have been made by both sides and those compromises have been overwhelmingly endorsed at referenda and Assembly elections since 1998. Why can't these so-called dissidents accept the democratically expressed views of people, parties and governments on both sides of the UK/RoI Border and allow us to build peace and new opportunities?

"I therefore urge members of the public, from all sides of the community, to come forward with information to the PSNI. We must not allow ourselves to be dragged back to a bitter and bloody past. We must not allow the gains we have made in the last decade to be squandered. We must not allow a miniscule terrorist faction to set a new and utterly ruthless agenda.

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