



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Irish Republicans Murder 28 in Omagh



The full horror of the IRA's 30 years of murder by bomb and bullet, almost exclusively directed against the Protestant people in Northern Ireland, has been brought home to the Roman Catholic nationalist community by the horrific bombing in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, on Saturday 15th August.

Of the 28 men, women and children brutally murdered, 16 were Roman Catholics, 11 were Protestants and 1 was a Mormon. One Roman Catholic woman who was murdered was expecting twins. They too perished in the massacre. Many of the Roman Catholic victims were from prominent republican families around Omagh. Never before has the Roman Catholic community suffered such a loss, at the hands of terrorists from their own community. It has left that community stunned.

The statements by grieving Roman Catholic husbands, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters were heart-breaking to witness. The relatives of the dead were angry at the madness and pointlessness of the bombing. Full coverage of their views was given in the press, and Government ministers joined in the forthright condemnation of the bombers, in a fashion rarely witnessed during Northern Ireland's thirty years of terror.

Consequence

Another consequence of the religion of the majority of the victims was the condemnation of the bombing by Sinn Fein leaders, Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Mitchell McLaughlin. This they have never done before, when their compatriots in the IRA were guilty of such atrocities as the Enniskillen bombing, which left 11 Protestants dead and over sixty seriously injured. Had the 28 been soldiers or policemen, then Sinn Fein would never have condemned the bombing. As it is, their sorrow must be weighed against the fact that they have publicly stated that the terrorist war of the IRA is not over and, to underline that fact, have adamantly refused to encourage any hand-over of IRA weapons and explosives.

We would not have wished such horror on anyone and we feel nothing but sorrow for those who suffer, but perhaps out of this dreadful event will come an understanding of the terror and grief, inflicted upon the Protestant people, over the last 30 years, by those terrorist organisations such as the IRA, which acted with the support of a sizeable portion of the community, which now grieves over the deaths inflicted by the same terrorist machine.

More wicked

It is quite clear that politicians such as John Hume and Gerry Adams and the political leaders from the Irish Republic consider this bombing much more wicked than anything that has happened in the last 30 years. The British and Irish Prime Ministers jumped to announce new measures to deal with the breakaway IRA group that planted the Omagh bomb. "Draconian" measures were to be introduced, announced Bertie Ahern, the Irish premier. Why was there never such zeal and determination following the many dozens of horrific bombings that are etched on the memories of the Protestant community? Bloody



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Friday, La Mon, Enniskillen, Teebane, to name but a few, were never followed by the political flurry of recent days.

Reason

The reason is simple. Terrorism in the past was in order to procure certain political developments -- that of the majority Protestant community being made amenable to the constitutional change being sought by republicans as well as the British and Irish governments. That a majority of Unionists had been made subservient was signalled by the acceptance of the treacherous "Good Friday Agreement", signed by David Trimble, the leaders of Irish nationalism and the British and Irish governments. Bombing and murder having served its purpose, none must be allowed to carry it on, not even disgruntled former companions of Adams and McGuinness, whose evil skills served the cause of subjugating Ulster Protestants so well. Most certainly they will not be permitted to continue bombing in the name of Irish republicanism when they are killing Roman Catholics!

Sadly, behind the tears and the sorrow and the expressions of sympathy of "the great, the good and the mighty" there is that distasteful stench of hypocrisy.