



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

IRA still armed and active!

If there was one ounce, indeed a fraction of an ounce, of decency and integrity within the ranks of the DUP it would immediately break all links with Sinn Fein and bring the unutterably shameful Stormont Executive down in ignominy.

The following report, taken from the **Belfast Newsletter** of 2nd December 2020, gives cause enough to DUP members to act so!

Of course, we have been here before! Decency and integrity were mutilated and cast aside in 2007 by the DUP when it went into partnership with Sinn Fein/IRA and that for mere party and personal political and monetary gain.

Those of us who knew the chief participants in that shameful deal and who were all too well aware of the 'professed' 'anti-IRA', 'anti-terrorist' sentiments, repeatedly proclaimed by them, particularly at election time, well remember the sense of shock and shame that resulted from the realisation that the DUP had turned its back upon all that it had previously professed and that it had deceived the Protestant electorate into believing that it was determined to withstand every attempt to sell-out Ulster to Irish Republican murderers!

That day signalled the betrayal of the Unionist electorate and of common decency!

Today, this report shows, the DUP is truly in partnership with terrorists, the murderers of their own people, in many case their own kith and kin!

Will this latest revelation change things?

I would like to think so but I think that such an expectation is as vain as was the hope, lovingly embraced by many in 2007, that Dr Paisley had something up his sleeve that would wreck the 'power-sharing' deal with the IRA.

It never happened. Monetary greed and political glory, so-called, won the day.

Ulster is in the hands of wicked and unprincipled men and women who have no regard for the fundamental teachings of God's Word nor fear His power and judgment!

Ulster will continue to follow this menagerie of deceivers and charlatans to its sad and terrible cost!

IRA is armed and still gathering intelligence on opponents, says leaked MI5-PSNI assessment

The Provisional IRA's Army Council is still in existence and is secretly gathering intelligence, according to a leaked security services' assessment from the summer.

That directly contradicts the repeated public statements from the Sinn Fein leadership that the IRA has wholly disbanded.

Five years ago the alleged IRA role in the murder of Kevin McGuigan led to the government commissioning and publishing an assessment of paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland.

That document stated that the IRA Army Council remained intact and that "PIRA members believe that the Provisional Army Council oversees both PIRA and Sinn Fein with an overarching strategy".

The PSNI and An Garda Síochána have endorsed that finding over recent years but Sinn Fein leader Mary



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Lou McDonald and other senior party figures have insisted that the IRA has been disbanded.



Sinn Féin leaders Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill at the funeral in June of IRA intelligence boss Bobby Storey

However, last night BBC's 'Spotlight' revealed an internal government assessment of paramilitarism in Northern Ireland which was compiled in the summer by the PSNI and MI5 and which sets out new information about the secretive organisations.

Despite Sinn Féin endorsing the PSNI which jointly conducted the assessment, last night the party continued to insist that its report was wrong and that the IRA has vanished.

'Spotlight' reported that it said that the assessment of the IRA remains unchanged from 2015 report, with the IRA continuing to exist – although its structures are greatly reduced from the time of its terrorist campaign, it is not recruiting, training or target-

ing, and it has a wholly political focus in support of Sinn Féin.

However, it reported that the IRA still has access to some weapons and is gathering intelligence, said to mainly be information on dissident republicans and attempts to root out continued informers in the organisation.

The government assessment also referred to a belief that there is continued criminal activity among some IRA members.

In February, Ms McDonald was asked if the IRA still existed. She replied: "No it does not, so far as I am aware, no it does not."

In a statement to 'Spotlight', Sinn Féin again said "the IRA is gone, has left the stage and is not coming back".

It added: "There is no place or support for any armed groups in our society either republican dissidents or loyalists.

"Sinn Féin has consistently called for these groups to disband and where they refuse to do so called for robust action by the police whose role it is to maintain public order, safety and the rule of law."

DUP MP Gavin Robinson, whose party shares power with Sinn Féin at Stormont, told 'Spotlight': "There can be no naivety around that. We know that has been the situation for decades ... the security assessment highlighted a commitment to the democratic institutions and a whole commitment to politics but we have to keep our eyes wide open."

The report also showed that loyalist paramilitaries still maintain considerable resources – despite having repeatedly promised to wind down their operations.

'Spotlight' said that the report estimated there to be 12,500 members of loyalist paramilitaries. It also said that in an increasingly fractured paramilitary landscape there are seven dissident republican groups.

It also referred to 79 organised crime gangs, of which 26 are either loyalist or republican paramilitary in nature.