



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Extract from a recent F.A.I.R. Newsletter.

Victims are shocked and saddened today by the reaction of Jeffrey Donaldson and the DUP to their genuine petition to have their concerns dealt with. In a rushed meeting at Stormont today victims were cruelly snubbed by the arrogant attitude of the DUP. Their crime appears to have been questioning whether it was wise to trust Sinn Fein/IRA. Victims asked a number of heart felt questions, wondering why issues important to them were not being addressed. They were shouted down at every opportunity and their concerns belittled by Jeffery Donaldson. In the absence of William Frazer who is with his sick mother at present, Mr Donaldson questioned FAIR's right to speak on behalf of victims. He asserted that he could with more authority speak on victims issues since he was an elected representative. He arrogantly barracked the delegation for proof about their concerns over the dissident threat and the strategy of republicanism. He boasted that the majority of unionists wanted to do a deal and that areas like South Armagh were not the be all and end all and that they only represent a "small part of Northern Ireland". He said that the conspiracy theories of victims would not be used to stop a deal being done.

William Frazer said "being unable to attend the meeting due to my mother's illness I was shocked to hear of the treatment a number of FAIR victims and staff received from the DUP. I intend to get to the bottom of this matter and be under no illusions that FAIR speaks for a large number of victims and we will not be lectured to or shouted down by any politician. Victims should be at the heart of any process and history has shown the price political parties pay for ignoring us".

Clearly under pressure to cut a deal with Sinn Fein/IRA the DUP are intolerant of any questions. Their trust in Sinn Fein/IRA appears unshakable. So dismissive was Mr Donaldson of the victims concerns that his comments descended into a bitter personal attack on those delegated by FAIR to speak on their behalf.

Members of the delegation who had attended many similar meetings with political parties over the years on equally important issues stated that they had never been treated with such contempt nor attacked in such a personal manner. It is clear today who Jeffrey Donaldson and the DUP choose to trust and choose to work with. Whilst they lecture victims on how much they have given them and done for them they appeared quite happy to give more and to do more for their killers. The final insult was to question FAIR's right to even have an opinion on such matters. The delegation was told to go and read their newspapers and to get to grips with the reality in what can only be described as a sickening display of both arrogant and apathy.

See Video Statement from William Frazer, Director of F.A.I.R., at:
<http://victims.org.uk/s08zhk/>