



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Labour MP praises IRA murderers



John McDonnell, MP

**The following information comes from a statement issued by William Frazer of "Families Acting for Innocent Relatives" ([www.victims.org.uk](http://www.victims.org.uk)) who lost five members of his own family at the hands of IRA murderers.**

"It has come to FAIR's attention that John McDonnell, the English Labour Party MP for Hayes and Harlington, while addressing IRA / Sinn Fein supporters at London's 'Wolfe Tone Society', made the following comments: — "We are in the last stage of the imperialist intervention in Ireland and only armed struggle has stopped it." "It is about time

we started honouring those people involved in that armed struggle." "It was the bombs and bullets and sacrifice made by the likes of Bobby Sands that brought Britain to the negotiating table." "The peace we have now is due to the unilateral action of the IRA."

When challenged about these despicable comments responded: — "We should praise the role they (the IRA) played. They were freedom fighters. They fought for freedom in the same way Mandela did in South Africa. Nationalists in the Six Counties did not have the vote - it was gerrymandered and they were kept out of power."

These IRA terrorists and murderers, whom Mr. McDonnell pathetically sought to glorify and exonerate, were responsible for killing our children, spouses, parents, friends and relatives. Some of those killed by the IRA fought for this United Kingdom through two world wars, including the Battle of Britain. It was only due to our national freedom, purchased by the blood and heroic efforts of these gallant British soldiers, that people like Mr. McDonnell can live in freedom today. By his vile words spoken at that evil gathering, he has spat on our relative's graves and dishonoured our British war dead.

We rang this man's office to arrange a meeting whereby we could further challenge him over his comments, only to be informed that Mr. McDonnell would be unavailable for a number of weeks. We want a meeting with him in the next seven days (not within a number of weeks). If he will not meet with us, then we (along with other victims' groups) will be travelling over to meet him, peacefully confront him and expose him nonetheless.

Never again, will we allow these pro-IRA MPs to dance on our relative's graves and praise the murdering terrorist scum who sent them to their deaths. We will peacefully confront them and expose them all for what they are.

Is it any wonder that Northern Ireland is in its present state of chaos and uncertainty if this is what government MPs are saying in public? We can only guess what these Labour MPs are saying about the innocent victims of IRA terrorism in private. In the name of our innocent, murdered relatives - we call upon Tony Blair and the Labour leadership to take immediate action against this disgraceful MP.

In view of Mr. McDonnell's comments to the 'Wolfe Tone Society', FAIR was unsurprised to discover that he chairs the far left 'Campaign Group' (which 40 Labour MPs belong to) and



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introduced the Common's Adjournment debate on 'Pat Finucane NIO' (05/05/99).