



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Former Methodist leader repeats his claim that IRA has disarmed



Rev Harold Good
and "Father" Alec
Reid

Former Methodist president Rev Harold Good, a government-appointed witness, said no IRA bullets had been fired since the IRA 'decommissioned' its arms. "There is growing confidence in what we declared to be a fact, even by those who expressed misgivings," he said.

He and Roman Catholic priest 'Fr' Alec Reid verified the statement on IRA decommissioning given by General John de Chastelain, head of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning.

In an article for BBC News Online and the Sunday Life newspaper, Rev Good said he was aware at the time of those who had "genuine doubts as well as those who, for their own predictable and political reasons, sought to undermine the validity of our statement". However, his confidence flies in the face of ongoing gun violence that many link to the IRA. Just a week before Dr. Good made his comments a teenager was crippled as republican guns returned once more to Belfast's streets. Teenager Conor Weldon had his leg blasted off by republican gunmen.

A relative told a newspaper: "There aren't supposed to be any guns in west Belfast at the minute, so we'd like to know where this one came from." Conor was attacked at Ard Na Va on Belfast's Falls Road around midnight on Friday, September 15th. The IRA has supposedly moved away from shooting people it claims have been involved in "anti-social behaviour" to avoid criticism during sensitive political negotiations.

IRA Heartland

But there were fears that the attack, in the heart of a Provo stronghold, could mark the return of IRA punishment shootings. Conor Weldon was punched to the ground in the incident before one of his attackers took out a gun and blasted him in the leg. Said the family member: "There were two guys standing across the road from him and one fired a shot, but the bullet missed and Conor must have tried to run. "When they caught up with him, he was pulled to the ground and shot in the leg. "The guys weren't wearing masks, but Conor couldn't see their faces as they had their coats pulled up around them." She added: "After he was shot, they started to kick his face over and over again - he had to have stitches and staples in his head and mouth. "Not long after the attack, a car drove past and the men and women inside were laughing and cheering at him as they kept beeping the horn. "What sort of people would behave like that, while a young lad was lying so badly injured on the ground with his leg almost blown off?"