



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

RUC chiefs playing politics again



Six men being questioned by the RUC about the Omagh bombing have been released without charge.

The men were detained in mid-September in early morning raids on addresses across South Armagh. The RUC confirmed they were being questioned about a number of matters, including the "Real IRA" attack on Omagh in August, in which 29 people were killed along with two unborn babies and over 200 injured. Six other people arrested

for questioning about the bombing by Irish police across the border, in Co. Monaghan, have already been released without charge.

Hugh publicity attended the arrests with RUC chiefs declaring their determination to catch the bombers. Both the British and Irish governments likewise used the occasion to boast of the inevitability of the bombers' arrest and conviction.

In truth, we are seeing a re-run of the hype put out by the police, following the "Poppy Day Massacre" in Enniskillen in 1987. Then, eleven Protestants were murdered by a "no warning" IRA bomb while attending a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial. Great claims of the help the republican community were giving the police were made by the RUC at that time also. Later it was revealed by a disgusted senior police officer that not as much as one phone call was received from the Republican community.

It is clear that this time also, irrespective of the condemnations of republican politicians, the Roman Catholic community will not give up the bombers to the police. The RUC is playing politics and seeking to deceive the world at large and the Protestant people of Ulster in particular, that republicans have eschewed violence, as claimed by the British and Irish governments.

When the bombers have been arrested and convicted, then perhaps we will believe that a change has indeed come about.