



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Life in Provoland!!!



**Robert McCartney**

The following article is taken from an article in *The Irish Examiner* entitled "Pub row murder a much bigger blow to SF than Belfast bank raid". *The Irish Examiner* is a publication which is anything but Protestant and unionist or pro-British. The article was written by Noel Whelan. It testifies clearly to what life under the republican mafia is all about, as it outlines the events surrounding the murder of Robert McCartney by a group of thugs, led by a prominent IRA commander who acted as Martin McGuinness's body guard on many occasions according to Jim Cusack of *The Sunday Independent* of February 20th — The Editor.

"The murder two weeks ago in Belfast of 33-year-old father of two Robert McCartney has unleashed forces within and without nationalism which are much more potent and more troubling for the republican movement's leadership than those unleashed by the Northern Bank raid controversy. Details of the horrific murder have been put together second-hand by Robert McCartney's sisters. On January 31, he was out for the night with a friend, Brendan Devine. They called into a city centre pub for a pint on their way to a birthday party. In the pub there happened to be some IRA members, including a local commander who had previously had a low level run-in with Devine. On the pretext of alleging he had insulted some women in their company, a group including the IRA commander picked on Devine and, when McCartney intervened, they were both attacked. They were taken outside and beaten with sewer rods and set upon with a knife. Devine had his throat slit and is still seriously ill in hospital. McCartney sustained a stab wound to the stomach and he died of his injuries the next day. After they had left the two injured men outside, the IRA group returned to the pub and engaged in some kind of forensic cleaning of the scene of the assault. They also ordered everyone in the pub not to make phone calls - not even for an ambulance - and threatened that if anyone told of what had happened, all would be severely punished. There were more than 70 people in the pub, many of whom would have been able to identify some of those involved. However, the Northern media say that, to date, no official statements have been made to the police by anyone in the pub on the night. Neither the family nor the police are claiming that the IRA sanctioned this murder, but they do contend that leading members of the organisation in Belfast were involved and have since been working to frustrate the murder investigation." "In the days after the murder Sinn Fein MLA Alex Maskey criticised the searches and arrests conducted as part of the police investigation." "Some have even alleged that Provisional elements were responsible for organising a sham children's riot and attacks on the police in order to prevent them from accessing items of evidence relevant to the case."

**May the Roman Catholic people of Northern Ireland, who have persisted in their sympathy and support for the IRA for many years, yet see them for the depraved and evil killers that they are.**