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 SUNDAY
 06/05/2007
 08:34:50

Adams hails hunger strikers' legacy

The IRA hunger strikers who died in jail left a lasting legacy in the Irish peace process, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has said.

By: Press Association

Just days before his party enters a new power-sharing administration with unionists in Belfast, Mr Adams addressed a commemoration in Dublin marking the 26th anniversary of Bobby Sands' death yesterday.

Sands was one of 10 republicans who starved themselves to death inside the Maze Prison in 1981 during a struggle for political prisoner status which plunged Northern Ireland deeper into violence. At a Garden of Remembrance in Dublin, Mr Adams emphasised the special place those men still hold in the hearts of many.

The West Belfast MP said: "The enduring legacy of the hunger strikers is to be found all around us.

"Like the Easter Rising 66 years earlier, it marked a watershed in modern Irish history.

"The political growth of Sinn Fein and of Irish republicanism is in no small measure a result of their courage."

Mr Adams added: "But more importantly, their legacy is to be found in the peace process and the positive transformation it has brought about in Irish society in recent years. That process of change continues.

"Despite the brutal conditions, Bobby never lost his faith in people or his determination to look to the future.

"Twenty-six years after his death Irish republicans face that future with confidence."

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On 5 May at 16:01 - [sam millar](#) from belfast said:

Gerry should hang his head in shame. What he won't do for a vote...

On 5 May at 20:50 - Glenn from England said:

To Sam Millar: Yet again you make another your one-liner ridiculous remarks. I respect all points of view, but you don't half talk a lot of nonsense. you clearly don't know what you're talking about.....

On 5 May at 22:27 - [Nik](#) from Christchurch said:

To Sam Millar. The work of Mr Adams, and friends, has bought Ireland to as position where a long and lasting peace seems to be setting more and more firmly. I see that as something to be tremendously proud of.

On 6 May at 09:14 - Concerned from portadown said:

They gave their lives for nothing.

On 6 May at 10:31 - [Sean](#) from newry said:

The usual fanatical republican calptap, so much for moving forward. I wonder if [Nik](#) from Christchurch would be as proud of me if i attended funerals of terrorist bombers too ? Are you proud of all those fanatical muslim bombers too?

On 6 May at 13:56 - [Stephen](#) from Enniskillen said:

To Sam Millar in Belfast. WELL SAID!!! Adams says one thing and then says something stupid. They can't be trusted...

On 6 May at 20:50 - [Sandy](#) from Belfast said:

,900 killed and many thousands of innocent people maimed and injured throughout the troubles. The majority of the above were killed, injured or maimed by republicans. That's some 'legacy' Mr Adams, and yet you hail the 'hunger strikers' Mr Adams. Do these Victims not deserve recognition Mr Adams? The 'hunger strikers' choose their fate themselves not like the 'victims' who had no choose. What are Sinn Fein doing to help the people who have suffered during the troubles. The 'victims' aren't going to go away (to coin a phrase)

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Content provided by entertainment.ie

FILM: GOODBYE BAFANA

DIRECTOR: Bille August.

STARRING: Joseph Fiennes, Diane Kruger, Dennis Haysbert, Shiloh Henderson.

DETAILS: South Africa / 118mins (15A)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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