



Gordon Brown

6 comments
 WEDNESDAY
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 18:00:11

Brown rules out 'war' proposals

The Prime Minister has ruled out suggestions that the British government should formally say it fought a war against the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The Consultative Group on the Past has started canvassing opinion with a series of public meetings in Northern Ireland, but unionists have already reacted angrily to the idea that the Troubles should be officially recognised as a war.

And today Gordon Brown gave his view in the House of Commons in response to a question from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

North Belfast MP Nigel Dodds asked: "Will you take the opportunity once again to pay tribute to the gallant service of the security forces in Northern Ireland over many decades of violence in the fight against terrorism and crime.

"Will you therefore also take the opportunity to rubbish any attempt...to validate or vindicate the terrorists and the criminals in their sordid terrorist war by describing it as a war, and will you utterly rule out any suggestion of an amnesty for terrorists and criminals?"

Mr Brown replied: "Yes and I think it is important to say two things.

"First of all our respect for the security services, for the police, for the armed forces, for the difficult job they did over many years and for the loss of life they had to suffer as a result.

"Secondly, to say that is important that we move forward with reconciliation and I think the efforts on reconciliation that are being made by a number of bodies - including what you referred to - are an important element of building for the future."

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On 9 Jan at 17:37 - robert from bangor said:

good man gordon. these people were nothing but murderers.... not soldiers at all...only soldiers fight in wars.

On 9 Jan at 19:04 - Brian Morton from Ballyclare said:

Unusual commonsense for a politician ... the real scandal is how educated men ever came up with idea in the first place and then had the nerve to present it to us as a viable option.

On 9 Jan at 19:04 - moderate from far away said:

It is interesting who people view as terrorists in our recent sad past. The government and its agencies should have no hiding place when the truth is out!

On 9 Jan at 20:49 - Hugh from Ireland said:

Just to let you know Robert, the biggest act of terrorism committed these last few years has been the invasion of Iraq by US and UK Troops. This was done on the back of bloody lies about WMD etc., and was actually done to secure possession to Iraq's massive oil reserves. These "troops" succeeded in unhinging an already volatile part of the planet and to date, approx. 500,000 to 600,000 people (mostly innocent civilians) have been murdered according to even conservative estimates. So while I agree with about the IRA committing murder, they are not the only ones - not by a long chalk!

On 9 Jan at 23:34 - Steven from Edinburgh said:

Well Robert, according to the quote (I haven't heard the full statement), he did not say anything about the "war". He did say that the body suggesting calling it a war are doing a good job. Perhaps he will accept it as a war, as Nigel inadvertently did: "to validate or vindicate the terrorists and the criminals in their sordid terrorist war"

On 10 Jan at 11:05 - Tired from Belfast said:

war • noun 1 a state of armed conflict between different nations, states, or armed groups. 2 a sustained contest between rivals or campaign against something undesirable: a war on drugs. • verb (warred, warring) engage in a war. I think the oxford dictionary validates the ni conflict as a war. But as the man once said, one mas terrorist is another mans freedom fighter.

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