



29  
 comments  
 MONDAY  
 25/02/2008  
 18:03:50

**Farrell decision delayed**

Mairead Farrell

A decision on whether to ban a Stormont commemoration for an IRA woman will be made this week after the Assembly's governing body tonight declined to make a final ruling.

The Assembly Commission had been asked to examine the Sinn Fein plan to mark the life of Mairead Farrell, who was gunned down by the SAS in Gibraltar 20 years ago, following complaints by unionists.

A commission spokesman said members had met to discuss issues around the staging of events in Parliament Buildings but had decided to reconvene on Thursday to discuss the matter further.

Thirty-one-year-old Farrell, who spent 10 years in jail for the bombing of a greater Belfast hotel, was gunned down by members of the SAS along with fellow IRA members Sean Savage and Daniel McCann in March 1988 as they planned a bomb attack on a military band in the British territory.

Sinn Fein MLA Jennifer McCann had applied to recognise Farrell`s life at an event in Stormont`s Long Gallery as part of International Women`s Day.

However protests were lodged by the Ulster Unionists and the Democratic Unionists, whose leader the Rev Ian Paisley led a delegation to meet Stormont Speaker William Hay.

Mr Hay then referred the matter to the Commission to make a ruling.

DUP leader and Stormont First Minister Dr Paisley said the plans would undermine the parliament`s status as a shared space.

"Events commemorating the lives of dead IRA criminals who were intercepted by the forces of law and order on their way to kill innocent people have no place in Parliament Buildings," he said.

However, Jennifer McCann rejected the DUP claims.

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ADTECH

"To the Republican constituency that I represent Mairead was a strong, inspirational woman who is still highly respected and held in high esteem and I believe that a celebration of her life to mark International Women`s Day is a fitting tribute.

"Events like this one celebrating International Women`s Day must go ahead in Stormont and be respected in the context of `shared space`.

In the wake of Ms McCann`s proposal DUP Assembly member Jeffrey Donaldson suggested an event be staged at Stormont to mark the role of the SAS in combating terrorism.

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On 25 Feb at 08:24 - Hugh from Ireland said:

Well if Sinn Fein can commemorate their terrorists, surly the DUP should be allowed to commemorate theirs!

On 25 Feb at 09:09 - lorna from limavady said:

No no no, not the way forward. It seems like Stormont ministers are primary school playground kids, you pushed me I push you. For the sake of all the innocent victims of the SAS no. Maybe the bomb disposal personal should be honoured but stop using stormont this way i doubt if any sas would want to attend being used that way.

On 25 Feb at 09:14 - disgusted from west belfast said:

i am appaled at the thought of a celebration in the honor of scum like the SAS. sinn feindnt be planning an event for mariéad if the SAS hadnt murdered her. Mr donaldson is playing a game of tit for tat, he cant see nothin without wanting it. Mariéad deserves to be remembered unlike some

On 25 Feb at 09:21 - Johnnybelfast from Belfast said:

I think they DUP and Sinn Fein are making a mockery of out of the people here. Why do they always engage in these petty squabbles? How about concentrating on schools and hospitals instead?

On 25 Feb at 09:48 - Rate Payer from South Belfast said:

I would like to reserve a room in stormont, and the DUP and Sinn Fein should be locked in it so that UUP and SDLP can get on with the real work at stormont- health, housing etc.

On 25 Feb at 10:23 - WJ from Newry said:

SF/DUP - What a pathetic collection of tribal no hopers. They talk of moving forward yet use every opportunity to drag us back to the bad old days. Those who wasted their votes puting them into power should hang their heads in shame. Sadly most are too bogged down in the sectarian mud to realise this.

On 25 Feb at 10:52 - Paul from Derry said:

More tit-for-tat rubbish. Bad enough when the Shinners stick two fingers up at peace and reconciliation. Now the DUP are at it as well. Like kids in the playground. Get rid of em all and get some well balanced, non biased and more importantly GROWN UP politicians in to represent us.

On 25 Feb at 11:32 - Clare from belfast said:

And to think these people get paid for this!!!!!!

On 25 Feb at 11:38 - Lagan valley voter from Lagan valley said:

Good old Jeffrey Just like his counterparts in SF he really does know how to wind people up!!! Also it deflects away from him and his parties problems that were pointed out to them by the electorate in the recent Banbridge council by election. Really is quite pathetic the way they are getting on primary school playground stuff "my daddy is bigger than yours" tyoe of thing

On 25 Feb at 11:40 - Realist from Bangor said:

This \*tit for tat\* is so childish, for goodness ( and Ireland's) sake grow up !! We need more mature attitude's than this at Stormont.



ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Content provided by entertainment.ie

FILM: THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

DIRECTOR: Griffin Dunne.

STARRING: Uma Thurman, Colin Firth, Jeffery Dean Morgan, Sam Shepard.

DETAILS: US / 90mins (12A)

RATING: ★★★★★

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