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Victims' Commissioners

6 comments
MONDAY
28/01/2008
18:04:07

'Judge us on our work' says victims' commissioners

Northern Ireland's new victims' commissioners today urged the public to judge them on their work and not the controversial process by which they were appointed.

The four commissioners were speaking after First Minister Ian Paisley confirmed their selection and the allocation of £33 million for the victims` sector over the next three years.

Mr Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness were forced to justify in the Assembly the appointment of the four-strong panel and insisted that it was not as a result of any deadlock between them over the original plan for a single commissioner.

As they faced the cameras for the first time, the four commissioners - former interim commissioner and RUC widow Bertha McDougal; Patricia MacBride, whose brother was an IRA man shot dead by the SAS; former TV anchorman Mike Nesbitt; and Brendan McAllister, the director of Mediation Northern Ireland - said it was time to concentrate on victims` issues and not the selection process.

When you smoke you inhale over 4,000 chemicals

Mr McAllister said: "We hope we can all now move forward and switch the focus away from the appointment process and return where it belongs - on the victims and survivors - the people who have paid, and continue to pay, the greatest price."

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On 28 Jan at 10:36 - ruc widow from limavady said:

the families of the terrorists should not be recognised as victims since they chose to take life rather than protect. if those in government cannot difference between the protector and the terrorist they will never have any REAL victims interest at heart

On 28 Jan at 14:18 - Sean from North Belfast said:

There's no such a thing as a hierarchy of victims. Everyone suffered and felt hurt in equal measure. RUC personnel knew the risks when they joined.

On 28 Jan at 15:52 - Disgusted from Strabane & New York City said:

Sean your comment, apart from being absolutely disgusting and vile is a complete contradiction in itself, No one is suggesting that there is or should be a "hierarchy" of victims but justice for REAL VICTIMS and everyone Suffered and felt hurt in completely different measures. Now to the point that you suggest an RUC officer is not a victim because he "knew the risks", then surely the same must be aplied to the ones planting bombs, shooting, disabling, maiming and murdering people etc for whatever their reason. This means that they would NOT be victims either as they knew exactly what the risks were. The actual difference is that one was doing his job and the other purposely set out to destroy property, families, peoples way of life, communities and take life. Let me ask you this, Do you think that the terrorists involved in September 11th are victims ?, because according to your reasoning they are and should be classed as such. Do you also suggest that the Brave Firemen and suchlike that lost their lives in this disgusting act of terrorism aren't victims because they "knew the risks" when they took on the job. No terrorist is a victim, no matter what their allegiance or beliefs and even the suggestion of such can only come from very one sided, clouded and deluded minds who are only trying to justify the actual terrorism.

On 28 Jan at 16:52 - Pearse from Michigan said:

Disgusted from NY,seems to me you perfectly described the RUC there, they destroyed nationalists property while performing house searches and were guilty for taking civilian life, and openly harassed the nationalist community, so think twice before you compare them to the NY fire fighters who were truly doing their job heroically.

On 28 Jan at 17:36 - Marc from Dublin said:

It's Important we dont forget the victims the ~ 800 year period since the British invaded Ireland. I mean this is the real reason why we have "victims!

On 28 Jan at 18:00 - bulby from bangor said:

ITS A GOOD BALANCE..I THINK NESBITT WILL BE IDEAL...ID ALSO LIKE TO SEE A REPRESENITIVE OF THE LOYALIST GROUPS..THEY SUFFERED ASWELL...HOPE PEOPLE GIVE THEM A CHANCE

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

Content provided by entertainment.ie

FILM: NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

DIRECTOR: Jon Turteltaub

STARRING: Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren

DETAILS: USA / 124mins (PG)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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VOTING POLL

The Stormont budget has been announced, do you think Peter Robinson got it right? Which department do you think needs the most money? Vote and leave your comment below.

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