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LOCAL NEWS



Royal Irish Regiment

Wednesday 29 October 2008 15:30

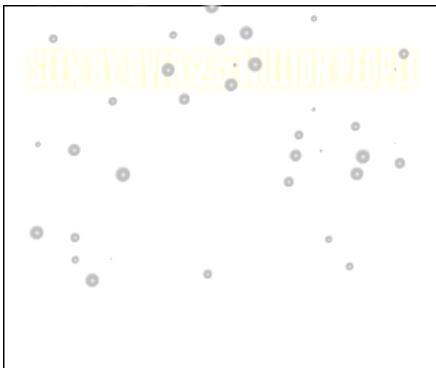
SDLP calls for parade review

The SDLP is calling on the Parades Commission to review their determinations on both the RIR homecoming parade and Sinn Fein's counter protest.

Fears are growing that violence will erupt in Belfast on Sunday.

Earlier, the Presbyterian Moderator Dr Donald Patton said the protest would be unhelpful and urged the Sinn Fein president to call off the demonstration.

But Gerry Adams is defending his party's plans and blaming the Secretary of State Shaun Woodward for the controversy.



Now the SDLP want the situation to be defused.

MLA Alex Attwood says steps need to be taken:

"There are things that could be done to take the sting out of this issue so that both parade and protest can take place on Sunday.

Not whereby fears and anxieties are deepened but in a way that they are diminished."

Unionists have called for the public to support Sunday's homecoming parade organised by the Ministry of Defence for troops returning from Afghanistan.

But Mr. Adams defended plans for a Sinn Fein protest and said that while relatives had a right to welcome their loved ones home, the Secretary of State should have warned against a military march.

Mr. Adams said: *"I hold the British Secretary of State responsible for the controversy that has arisen around the British Army's military parade in Belfast on Sunday.*

"While the British Ministry of Defence may be oblivious to the sensitivities involved, surely Shaun Woodward should have realised that Sunday's event is ill-advised.

A civic reception and a religious service would have provided families and supporters of the British Army with the opportunity to welcome back their loved ones.

And while many Belfast citizens may not support such events there would have been little protestation."

There have been concerns expressed that while Sinn Fein says it plans to hold a peaceful protest, dissident republicans opposed to the peace process will hold their own demonstration.

NEWS ARCHIVE

- 15:30 Security alert at school a hoax
- 15:30 SDLP calls for parade review
- 15:17 RUC murders to be re-examined
- 13:30 Irish woman wins harrasment case
- 12:52 Two catholic churches robbed
- 11:50 Man attacked with crow bar
- 09:07 What the law says on assisted
- 07:51 Man and woman attacked at home
- 00:08 Turmoil leaves US consumer
- 00:08 Rivals slug it out in battleground
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- 00:08 Two hanged in Japan despite UN
- 00:08 Official fined for leaving
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- 00:08 Mathematician Du Sautoy takes
- 00:08 White working class need help in
- 00:08 Jury shown picture of gun

YESTERDAY

- 18:04 Petrol bomb injures teenager
- 18:00 Hospital worker is jailed
- 17:45 Calls for parade to be called off
- 12:52 Service for aircraft crash victims
- 12:17 Man arrested over farmer's murder
- 11:50 Man charged with motoring offences
- 08:26 Executive deadlock may delay reform
- 00:08 More than 30 arrests at
- 00:08 De Menezes marksman insists he
- 00:08 Driver describes M-way murder of
- 00:08 BBC says sorry for prank phone
- 00:08 Sir Arthur Franks
- 00:08 Country diary
- 00:08 MPs hit out at government over
- 00:08 Polls show Livni pulling ahead as
- 00:08 Obama tempers optimism with
- 00:08 McCain prepares his last stand in
- 00:08 I think I made a mistake, admits
- 00:08 Democrats train their sights on
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On 29 Oct at 08:59 - William from Belfast said:

It is a absolute disgrace that Sinn Fein are holding a protest yes by all means air your opposition, however do just talk of how the republican community has suffered at the hands of the British. Sin Feinb and the republican community seem to forget of how this country as a whole has sufered at the hands of the IRA, they kept this country in the dark ages for to long. Now the country is turning itself around and the so call rpresentives of the people are doing nothing but arguing if they dont like it dont take the wages and get a different job were you will actaully do something that does not involve a statement about what you might do. Start earning your money instead of being useless, live and let live.

On 29 Oct at 09:17 - Tom from Crossmaglen said:

Everybody should be out on the streets protesting against this triumphalist imperialist march. They get marching all summer why do they need to do it in the autumn aswell.

On 29 Oct at 10:48 - Laughing from Here said:

I hardly think the RIR were parading all summer when they were in Afghanistan Tom. I hope the world sees the republican protests at the RIR homecoming parade and the lack of one in the republic for their brave soldiers.

On 29 Oct at 10:56 - no longer fooled republican from belfast said:

The Moderator, Dr Patton really wants to go and educate himself instead by disgracefully bringing religion into this. What difference does it make that those involved in this triumphalism are either Catholic or Protestant? Does it matter if a Catholic or Protestant was involved in the slaughter of Afghan civilians? Of course bloody not! First, I must state this again. This is not a SF protest. If anything, SF have jumped on the bandwagon because they saw the anger in nationalist and republican areas. Make no mistake about that. There is still anger at SF for asking for permission in the first place to protest in their own city – shame on them. I don't care what Adams and his motley crew say. I and a load of my friends will be there, come rain, sleet or snow, and Adams won't be giving me any orders, one way or the other. His days are over in our areas...

On 29 Oct at 10:59 - OldSod from Fermanagh said:

"It seems that tolerance, understanding and cooperation continue to be the casualties of our convoluted politics." I have rarely heard a truer statement. The RIR are not the Orange Order, they are not the British Army of 20-40 years ago. They don't represent just one side of the community, the soldiers come from all backgrounds. If the Irish Defence Forces wanted to parade through Belfast after returning from a peace-keeping mission. I would equally have no objection on the same grounds. Why don't we try a little "live and let live"?

On 29 Oct at 11:08 - Steffan from Belfast said:

A week ago Sein Fein said this protest was about what it saw as

the illegal Afghan war. Now its about British imperialism. Why the change of heart? Did Gerry get a call from the States saying US contributions were drying up? If its about the afghan war you can have your protest anyday, give these brave soldiers and their families their day of celebration. If its about British soldiers marching the streets of Belfast, tough.

On 29 Oct at 11:14 - Drew from Antrim said:

may the men & women of the RIR walk with their heads held high.....they went & did their duty fighting the terrorist regime.

On 29 Oct at 12:01 - Laughing from Here said:

America are you watching? Nationalists are you watching- do you still want to vote for a party which cares little for anything (or anyone) but a united Ireland and protesting against anything British. I don't see the shiners organising a protest at republicans closing down a school in West Belfast.

On 29 Oct at 12:11 - Realist from Belfast said:

These republicans must have very little to do with themselves these days. They are making the majority of catholic people in the north look stupid and intolerant, like the unionists in the early sixties.


On 29 Oct at 12:15 - Mike from Carrickfergus said:

Republicans are just angry because ANYTHING British is happening in Belfast. They need to remember this is a shared city. Their protest has incensed our community which will be obvious on Sunday.

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