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Wednesday, 24 September 2008

Victims groups and unionists have hit out at the makers of a BBC documentary on the Maze prison breakout claiming it could have serious ramifications concerning the devolution of Policing and Justice powers.

Some senior political figures criticised the programme describing it as nothing more than a "platform" for republicans to "boast of their deeds" and accused the BBC of "poor editorial and commissioning judgement".

However the BBC have defended the programme saying it was a "fair and impartial" account of what took place on that day.

"The aim of this documentary was to provide a detailed account of the Maze escape," a BBC spokeswoman said. "It was based on contributions from some of those who were involved and included a prison officer's perspective.

UUP leader Sir Reg Empey claimed Sinn Fein Junior Minister Gerry Kelly, one of the 38 escapees, did not show any "remorse" during the programme and said the documentary could have a serious "knock-on"

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effect politically.

In September 1983, 38 prisoners broke out of the infamous Maze in the biggest prison escape in British penal history.

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 Paul, I think you will find that Gerry Kelly is not an elected MP.


Posted by Andrew | 24.09.08, 13:35 GMT

 Why would anyone be proud to be part of a vicious sectarian death squad which fought and lost a squalid, divisive hate filled campaign for a 32 county socialist republic? They killed, died and suffered for an unachievable and frankly stupid goal. The only thing they succeeded in doing was to divide the people they claimed to want to unite.

Posted by Peter | 24.09.08, 12:05 GMT

 Many people would agrue that Gerry should be proud of his past, hence him being a elected MP in his local area.

Posted by paul | 24.09.08, 10:30 GMT

 It made me proud to be northern irish that we would broadcast one of our politicians as he boasts of breaking out of jail, referring to soldiers as 'brits' and lying low in an IRA arms dump, (which i assume, when he 'turned from the struggle', he gave up its location to the police.) And talking absolutly care free about someone in his group stabbing and murdering a prison gaurd. The ultimate embarrassment came at the end, when it reminded everyone that we let all our prisoners out early, murderers and all. Americas government dont negotiate with terrorists and our government are terrorists...How do these trans-atlantic affairs work??? What a country.

Posted by andy | 24.09.08, 10:06 GMT

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