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## Local & National

### Orange Hall damaged in two attacks

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Tuesday, May 27, 2008

A memorial tablet dedicated to Orange Lodge members murdered in the troubles has been damaged during a weekend attack at an Orange Hall.

The Altnaveigh Orange Hall on the outskirts of Newry was targeted twice by vandals on Saturday.

The premises were broken into on Saturday afternoon when windows and other items in the hall were smashed.

A memorial tablet honouring lodge members murdered in the troubles was also badly damaged.

The hall was temporarily secured but it was targeted again on Saturday evening when further damage was caused.

A spokesman for the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland said he believed the attack was sectarian.

Saying "one of the most hurtful" aspects of the attack was the damage caused to the memorial tablet, the spokesman branded the vandalism as "despicable".

He added: "We would call on all community representatives in the area to condemn the attack without equivocation."

The weekend attack has also been condemned by local MLA Danny Kennedy, who said the vandalism was "the latest in a long line of attacks" on the Orange Hall which is situated just off the A1 Newry by-pass close to the border.

The Ulster Unionist said the attack was "deeply provocative and sickening".

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