



INTERACTIVE
CRIME MAP OF
NORTHERN
IRELAND: EVERY
CRIME IN YOUR
AREA

Big Walk Week.

Starts Sat 28th March - Sat 4th April 2009. [Click for details.](#)



**Northern
Ireland
Hospice**

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Life & Style](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Classified](#)

- [Local & National](#)
- [World](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Property](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
- [Crime Map](#)
- [Sunday Life](#)
- [The CT](#)

The digital gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local & National](#)

Fanatics' deadly game in the fractured remnants of the IRA

Security expert Brian Rowan traces the roots of dissident republican violence

Wednesday, 11 March 2009

In that dissident republican world the Continuity IRA was there before the so-called Real IRA.

The history of this organisation probably dates back to the 1980s, and its roots are in the fallout within Sinn Fein over a decision to enter the Dail if elected, in other words to end the policy of abstention.

Then, Ruairi O Bradaigh led the walkout, and while Republican Sinn Fein does not present itself as the political wing of the Continuity IRA, the two are seen as closely linked or associated.

In its violent form it took until July 1996 for CIRA to emerge, carrying out a bomb attack in Fermanagh in the heat of that year's marching season.

"Why didn't they fight the Brits from '86 to '96?" one republican asked. "People who fought the Brits would look down their noses at them."

Now, the Continuity IRA has put its name to murder, to the killing of a police officer in Craigavon.

In the confusion of that dissident world it will take some time to authenticate or dismiss that claim.

The Continuity and Real IRAs are separate groups but republicans and the security forces believe they co-operate.

And, not long ago, the Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde talked of a "competition" among the dissidents to see who would be first to kill a police officer.

That has been their deadly game — the focus of these groups stretching back over 18 months or so.

The Real IRA has admitted the killings at Massereene Barracks, and now the Continuity IRA claims the Craigavon murder.

Police will take their time before coming to any firm conclusions of their own.

It is difficult to be certain about anything that happens or is claimed in that dissident world. It is fractured, disparate, confused, and even within the splinter Real and Continuity IRAs there are splits.

The intelligence assessment is that the bulk of their leaderships are based across the border. But it is here in Northern Ireland that there is a very specific security focus at present.

How, after months and years of failure, have these splinter republican groups managed to carry out the killings of recent days? How did they get in under the radar?

In all of the assessments that are going on at present those are just two of the questions, and part of the investigation will also be a close examination of the claims that have emerged since the weekend.

Who is masterminding the killing? Who is doing their dirty work? And why are these attacks taking place now?

Print Email

Search [Go](#)

Bookmark & Share

Digg It [del.icio.us](#)

Facebook [Stumbleupon](#)

What are these?

Change font size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

VIOLENCE RETURNS

- Book of Condolence - pay your tribute
- Sinn Fein should produce name, says UUP **NEW**
- Teen arrested over murder has alibi: parents
- Loyalist praises McGuinness but warns of 'Real UDA'
- Pizza delivery man recovering
- Thousands attend peace vigils
- Extra cash to hunt down killers
- Two arrests over shooting of policeman
- Orde shows his grief
- PSNI widow: They've taken my life
- CIRA claiming responsibility for killing
- Families heartbroken at killing of young soldiers
- Patrick Azimkar: A fun-loving friend to all
- Mark Quinsey : A charismatic young soldier
- Police 'making progress' in hunt for gunmen
- PUP leader urges loyalists not to react to killings
- Murder at army barracks caught on CCTV
- Irish America stunned by RIRA attack
- Gunmen 'shot at people on the ground'
- Real IRA claims responsibility

**click here to
download your
registration form**

**Buying?
Selling?
Renting? Or
Just Looking?**



Post a comment

Limit: 500 characters, left: 1000

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article

* Name (only this field displayed)

* Email

* Town/City

* Country/State

* Required field

Remember Me

Post

Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's [Terms of Use](#).

Posts submitted in UPPERCASE letters will be rejected.

Martin McGuinness should be congratulated by all in Northern Ireland for at last taking a real stand against these evil fanatics. It's up to us - regardless of our individual political views - to give him our support in trying to bring to an end this murderous lunacy.

Time to move on. There's a big, bad world recession out there. That's the real enemy. We should be focusing on trying to create jobs and opportunity in Northern Ireland, not being sidetracked by sad, dangerous dinosaurs whose only interest is replaying the worst features of our past.

Posted by PB | 11.03.09, 03:04 GMT

[Complain about this comment](#)

Post a complaint

Please note Name and E-mail are required.

Contact details

* Name:

* Email:

Post

Also in this section

- Gyrocopter death: Murder charge after hunt follower is hit
- Start wearing purple for peace, say Northern Ireland church leaders
- Police hunt for huge bomb in bid to stop Real IRA attack
- Secret emails reveal concerns over Iraq war dossier
- School evacuated after gun threat by teenager

Results by

[Envva \(NI\) Ltd](#)

Collection, Treatment, Recycling & Disposal of Diverse Range of Hazardous Waste
[Waste Disposal - Commercial](#)

[Martin Phillips Carpets](#)

Carpets, Wooden Floors And Laminate
[Carpets & Rugs - Retail & Repair](#)

[Easy Travel](#)

All sizes of buses & coaches available for Private & Executive hire, Car Hire Available
[Coach Hire](#)

[Bracken Blinds](#)

Specialist suppliers of Curtains and Blinds to all commercial premises, deigned and fitted
[Architects](#)

[Sportyfeet NI](#)

Suffering From A Foot Injury?

[Chiropodists & Podiatrists](#)

You know you're from Belfast when . .



-isms: 'You should click here - it's class like'

Northern Ireland Troubles Gallery



Holy Cross Primary School protests

In Pictures: Northern Ireland Nightlife



Had a big night out? Click here to send us your pics

In Pictures: Fashion & Showbiz



Spice Girl Mel B - the Ultimo range

In Pictures: All Our Yesterdays



Park life. Victoria Park boat lake

Most popular

1. Thousands in Northern Ireland attend peace vigils after horrific murders
2. Murdered officer's grieving wife faces the hardest day of her life
3. Northern Ireland peace rallies: The silent majority takes to the streets
4. In Pictures: You know you're from Belfast when . .
5. Top loyalist praises McGuinness but warns of 'Real UDA clowns'
6. In Pictures: Roma 1 Arsenal 0
7. In Pictures: Manchester United 2 Inter Milan 0
8. In Pictures: Funny football chants
9. In Pictures: Lara Croft interview
10. In Pictures: Liverpool 4 Real Madrid 0

An advertisement for Northern Bank's Charity Savings Bond. It features a photo of a smiling child and a woman. A starburst graphic says "Apply before 31 March 2009". The text reads "Open a Charity Savings Bond" and "Fixed rate, Fixed term & Guaranteed return". Below this is the logo for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children, which includes a sun icon. A button says "Competitive Charity Savings Bond". At the bottom, it says "Terms and Conditions apply Click Here" and the Northern Bank logo.

The Vitality Show.
The feel good factor

Results by

[K W M Wines & Spirits](#)
Award Winning Specialists
Since 1984 Shipping
Vintage Wines & Spirits
Worldwide
[Off Licences & Wine
Merchants](#)

[Valu Van Hire](#)
Van Hire Short & Long
Term Hire
[Van & Truck Hire](#)

[Kearney Consulting Ltd](#)
EPC's And Building
Surveys
[Surveyors - Building](#)

[Urban Planting By Reids](#)
Interior Landscapers,
Design, Install & Maintain
[Interior Landscapers](#)

[C.I.T.B.](#)
Northern Ireland
Construction Industry
Training Provider, Health &
Safety Training
[Training Services](#)

Search



Advanced
Search ▶