

[Register](#)

[Sign In](#)

[Drag this link onto your Home button to make us your homepage](#)

[Help](#) [Sitemap](#) [Home](#) [Skip Navigation](#) [Contact Us](#) [Disability Statement](#)

# Derry Journal

[jobs today](#)

[property today](#)

[motors today](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Your say](#)
- [Newspaper](#)

site    web

[Search](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Archive](#)

[Subscriptions](#)

[Forums](#)

[Video](#)

[Gift Shop](#)

[Sunday Journal](#)

[Slideshows](#)

[Reporting Staff](#)

[Bingo](#)

Thursday, 7th February 2008

- [Email a friend](#)
- [Print article](#)
- [Increase text size](#)
- [Decrease text size](#)

- **Published Date:** 05 February 2008
- 
- **Location:** Derry

## Premium Article !

Your account has been **frozen**. For your available options click the below button.

[Options](#)

## Premium Article !

To read this article in **full** you must have registered and have a Premium Content Subscription with the **n/a** site.

[Subscribe](#)

## Registered Article !

To read this article in full you must be registered with the site.

[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

# 'We just don't want any more victims'



Click on thumbnail to view image

[Click on thumbnail to view image](#)

[Click on thumbnail to view image](#)

[Click on thumbnail to view image](#)

[« Previous](#)

[« Previous](#)

[Next »](#)

[Next »](#)

[View Gallery](#)

Typical. "You wait years for a victims' commissioner and then four come along at once," was how Alan McBride put it. We were all expecting just one and were taken aback by four. But there's such an ocean of hurt and division out there that a reasonable argument can be made for four.

Having said that, government can't forever keep on growing like Topsy. Between the NIO and our devolved administration we have 16 ministers, 18 MPs, 108 MLAs, 3 MEPs and almost 600 local councillors. On top of this we have ten public sector boards along with more trusts, commissioners, quangos and legal tribunals than Derry City Council staff have 'sickies.' Add to this all the support staff (families?) and the civil service.

Is government just a huge gravy train? It's like an unemployment relief scheme. The celebrated economist, Lord Keynes thought employing people to dig holes and fill them in again would be better than having them idle, but even he didn't come up with the notion of government employing everyone. While all this public expenditure will help stave off the worst effects of any recession, in the longer term we need more people in wealth creating jobs.

Still, we do need to grapple with the so-called legacy issues. Just because they're difficult doesn't mean we don't have to try and I wish the four new commissioners well.

Meanwhile dissident republicans want more victims. The papers reported appeals for the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA to unite. The Sunday Times quoted Gary Donnelly as saying; "There is strength in unity. I would love to see republicanism united. It would be more logical to have one group which would be more effective than two."

"I personally support armed opposition to British rule in Northern Ireland. It's legitimate," he said.

We've always had people convinced about, "armed opposition to British rule." Wolfe Tone was a dedicated and ruthless revolutionary in his day. He too believed in "the armed struggle." He also had a vision of uniting "Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter under the common name of Irishman." As a

"Dissenter" (or Presbyterian in today's terms) I'm happy to share his vision but not his enthusiasm for violence. The debate about whether or not force was necessary in the past to break Ireland's connection with England will probably go on forever. What is clear is that more force or even firebombs can't help our situation now.

We're in an entirely new political dispensation. We haven't had anything remotely like it since partition. Unionists no longer enjoy dominance and we have much wider acceptance of the idea of democratic consent.

Our biggest problem is that we still have such entrenched divisions and desperately need a sustained period of peace to allow healing to begin. With generous attitudes and a climate of mutual respect, closed minds will eventually begin to open. Ireland can be re-united and Tone's 18th century vision achieved. Force just can't do it. It can only build the walls ever higher.

The peace process has already achieved much and points the way to further progress. When we get devolution of policing and justice powers, hopefully later this year, the PSNI can no longer be reasonably seen by anyone as instruments of British rule in Ireland. Let's allow the process to continue and old enmities to subside.

It's ok to have four commissioners for victims; we just don't want any more victims.

The full article contains 581 words and appears in n/a newspaper.

Last Updated: 05 February 2008 10:25 AM

Page 1 of 1

Bookmark:



Delivery formats: [RSS](#), [Atom](#), [Javascript & Email](#)

## DerryJournal.com

- [About Us](#)
- [Journal View](#)
- [Sunday Journal](#)
- [Reporting Staff](#)

## News

- [Derry News](#)
- [Inishowen News](#)
- [Strabane](#)
- [County](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Around the courts](#)
- [News in brief](#)
- [News Forum](#)
- [Business](#)

## Sport

- [Derry Sport](#)
- [Sport Columnists](#)
- [Sport Forum](#)
- [Inishowen Football League](#)

## Features

- [Journal Interview](#)
- [Jed](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Friday's Child](#)
- [Feature Articles](#)

## Entertainment

- [Northern Beats](#)
- [Journal Entertainment](#)
- [Music Forum](#)
- [Showbiz news](#)
- [At The Movies](#)

## Interactive

- [Looking for a friend or relative?](#)
- [Letters to the editor](#)
- [Email the editor](#)
- [All Forums](#)

## Community

- [Blogs](#)
- [Inishowen Notes](#)



[What's this?](#)

## More Hamill's Beat:

- ['We just don't want any more victims'](#)
- [We're to be 'foreigners' in Britain](#)
- [A shared future or benign apartheid?](#)
- [Sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander](#)
- [Welcome to 'the blue skies of Ulster ' - Aer Lingus](#)
- [Confessions of a winter sun-seeker](#)
- [Why is PSNI so poor at traffic control](#)
- [Bigots bring God into disrepute](#)
- [PSNI must meet challenge of peace](#)
- [Where's the feel good factor?](#)
- [Will past enmities ever lose their power?](#)
- [Revising history makes us rub our eyes!](#)
- [War and peace and the media mirror](#)
- [A Bill O' Frights looks likely](#)
- [Stop 'fake' prosecutions](#)

## [More Hamill's Beat](#)

### Today's Vote


Is an armed campaign by dissident republicans justified?

Yes

No

[Vote Now >>](#)

### Featured Advertising

- [Contact us](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Our sister newspapers](#)
- 

All rights reserved ©2008

Johnston Press Digital Publishing

Sister Newspapers:



[Donegal](#)