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UDA move 'insult to Greysteel victims'



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East Derry SDLP MLA., John Dallat said the UDA's announcement that the UFF has been stood down made him sick.

Mr. Dallat made the comment after the UDA announced on Sunday that the UFF, the organisation it describes as its military wing, has been disbanded. In a statement read out at Remembrance Sunday ceremonies in loyalist areas on Sunday morning the UDA said: "In consideration of this new reality all active service units of the Ulster Freedom Fighters will, as from 12pm tonight, stand down with all military intelligence destroyed and, as a consequence of this, all weaponry will be put beyond use."

Mr. Dallat said there can be no distinction between the UDA and UFF and called for both organisations to be disbanded. "It made me sick when I heard the news. The UFF are nothing but a flag of convenience which brought about the deaths of eight innocent people in Greysteel. "I would imagine that this would be regarded as an insult to any of the families who lost loved ones at the hands of this ruthless sectarian group."

The SDLP Assembly man also described the UDA's claim that it was not decommissioning because there was no support for such a move as 'pathetic and feeble'. "They claim the guns are not theirs and that they belong to the people but the people did not ask for the guns in the first place. It is a pathetic and feeble claim. To make this non-announcement on Remembrance Sunday is also an insult to the people who died in the two world wars," he said. Mr. Dallat also said he thought the move would have little impact on the ground. "From my experience, the UDA men on the ground will not take any notice of this and will carry on regardless," he said.

Last Updated: 13 November 2007 9:44 AM

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