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Gerry Adams praises Bloody Sunday families 'persistence'

Published Date: 19 August 2008

By Staff reporter

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams lauded Derry's Bloody Sunday families during his speech at Sunday's annual hunger strike commemoration for their "persistence" in trying to expose British State violence.

Mr. Adams addressed hundreds of marchers after they paraded from the Rosemount factory to the republican monument in the City Cemetery.

Five of the hunger strikers came from Derry - Patsy O'Hara and Michael Devine lived in the city and Francis Hug

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hes, Tom McElwee and Kevin Lynch came from the county.

Addressing the crowd, Mr. Adams said that many families and communities had campaigned for truth about British state violence and collusion in recent years, including the Ballymurphy Massacre committee in his own area.

He said: "They are not alone. Countless hundreds of other families are similarly demanding truth.

"I want to commend all those families for their commitment and persistence. In particular I want to salute the Bloody Sunday families for the great example they gave to the rest of us," added the party leader.

Mr. Adams also said that Sinn Fein would continue to press for a united Ireland and not allow unionists to block progress in NI Assembly.

"The message to unionism is clear - if unionists want to exercise power; if they want an Assembly, and an Executive, taking meaningful decisions, then there is a price to be paid - and that price is sharing power with republicans in a partnership government of equals. Anything less is not acceptable and anything less will not work."

A large-scale security operation was mounted by the PSNI as the parade marched along a route that took in the houses where wakes had been held for hunger strikers Patsy O'Hara and Michael Devine.

Wreaths were laid by the INLA, the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the family of Patsy O'Hara, the 32 Country Sovereignty Movement and Oglagh na h'Eireann.

The full article contains 312 words and appears in Journal Tuesday Derry Edit newspaper.

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