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New victims group: 'Distinguish between innocent and guilty'



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By Staff reporter

THE DUP's Gregory Campbell has given a guarded response to the establishment of a new group to

draw up proposals on how to deal with the legacy of the Troubles in the North.

The British government has appointed former Policing Board vice-chairman Denis Bradley and ex-Church of Ireland Primate Robin Eames to chair the body.

They will examine whether the North needs a South Africa-style Truth Commission or some other mechanism to come to terms with its violent past.

Gregory Campbell says it is crucial the group makes a distinction between 'the innocent and the guilty'.

He said: 'The establishment of an Independent Consultative Group by Peter Hain to deal with the legacy of the past, while having some potential for a positive resolution, could also be counter productive.

'This group must not fail to take account of the fact that there were thousands of people in Northern Ireland, irrespective of religious affiliation, who were entirely innocent and yet either were severely injured or killed, while there were others who, although they suffered, also did so while carrying out illegal terrorist acts.

'This is the fundamental distinction that relatives of those who were murdered quite rightly insist on when apologists for terror insist on referring to a 'conflict' rather than a vicious, brutal and totally unjustifiable campaign carried out against innocent people.

'It remains to be seen if those in membership of this Independent Group are prepared to face up to this issue; if they are, they will have done a service to all those innocents who have suffered in atrocities; if not, they will have unwittingly or otherwise helped to engage in revisionism on a massive scale.'

Last Updated: 25 June 2007 4:29 PM

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Hugh,

Ireland 26/06/2007 08:18:36

Where does Gregory stand on the people who murdered Pat Finucane? More than likely he has associated with them over the years in their positions as members of the RUC?

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the Omagh Victims Group,

Surrey Branch 27/06/2007 08:09:12

How does Hugh from Ireland stand on the murder by Oglagh Na H'Eirann of innocent women and children in Oamgh on the 15th August 1998?Particulary four children three from Buncrana aged less than 12 and one from Spain of the same age? They had no choice when their lives were stolen from them and their families.No act of murder or terrorism is acceptable in a civilised society but the perpetrators whether stage agencies or terrorist organisations cannot hide behind the "banner of conflict".

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Hugh,

Ireland 28/06/2007 10:15:24

Two reasons why I picked the people who murdered Pat Finucane. The decision not to prosecute these murderers (surprise, surprise) was approx. within 24hrs of Gregory's statement. Secondly, I for one am well aware of his hierarchy of both victims and innocents in N. Ireland's past. E.G. during his despicable "Long March" (roundly condemned by all the main churches) he was highlighting the innocent victims of Republican atrocities yet was quite willing to walk along side Loyalist murderers who were very prominent during that march. "Condemn all or condone all", that is how I've approached the killings during these last 40 years. So while I've condemned, on umpteen occasions, the Omagh murders, I will not stop there. I will not make excuses, allowances, or be inconsistent "will you? These personal qualities are a lot harder to live with because there are a lot of people who will rant and rave about certain murders yet will completely ignore similar carnage emanating from their own house or being done in their name.

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