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Wednesday, 4th June 2008

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Time to face reality

Published Date: 30 May 2008

By Staff reporter

The group set up to deal with the past here has said that the State has to face up to the fact that it played a 'combative' role here and that as a result innocent people died during the conflict. They have called on the British government to acknowledge their role in the conflict and face up to their responsibilities.

This is a brave attempt by Denis Bradley and Lord Eames, the joint chairmen of the group, to start moving beyond conflict. In this city we do not need reports to remind us that the state played a combative role and a lot of innocent people died. Bloo

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dy Sunday is the most relevant case of this but the state's role goes much deeper than this.

Throughout the thirty years of the conflict the British state, despite its avowal of neutrality, was deeply involved in orchestrating murderous campaigns against the nationalist/republican community. During this time the state, under the guise of intelligence gathering, armed loyalist death squads not only with weapons but also deadly intelligence so they could target their victims.

The British state has never acknowledged their role and it will be interesting to see how the group on the

past think they can make them do this. Undoubtedly if the British were to admit to their role in the murky activities of the past this would go a long way towards alleviating the hurt and pain felt by many of the victims of state violence.

If we, as a society, are to firmly put the conflict behind us then everyone must face up to their past. it is no good pretending that it was always the 'other side' who did the terrible deeds. There are very few here who are completely blameless for the violence that darkened our past. It is time that we all faced up to that.

The full article contains 315 words and appears in Journal Friday DER Edition newspaper.
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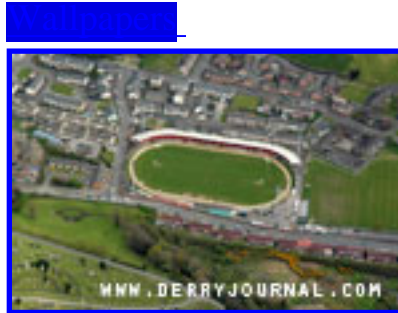
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