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IRA responsible for half Troubles deaths

By Rebecca Black

07/08/08

In more than three decades of violence the Provisional IRA was responsible for around half of over 3,500

Troubles-related deaths.

More than 1,700 deaths have been attributed to the IRA, with the UVF/Red Hand Commando responsible for

more than 500 and the UDA/UFF for 400.

The British army killed around 300 people and the RUC was responsible for at least 50 deaths.

Of smaller groups, the INLA killed around 150 people and the Official IRA 50, while other republican groups have killed around 165 and the LVF and other loyalists around 90.

Despite paramilitary groups often insisting they killed "legitimate targets" – which for republican paramilitaries included all members of the security forces – people with no association with paramilitarism or the security services were more likely to end up paying the ultimate price.

West and north Belfast were the most dangerous locations to live, with counties Armagh and Tyrone the worst outside Belfast.

The worst year of the Troubles was 1972 when almost 500 people losing their lives as the government at Stormont closed down and direct rule was imposed from London.

Meanwhile, only four of 15 of the 'Disappeared' – men and women who were killed and secretely buried during the Troubles – have ever been recovered.

The bodies of Kevin McKee, Seamus Wright and John McIlroy from Andersonstown, Columba McVeigh from Co Tyrone, Brendan Megraw from Twinbrook, SAS soldier Captain Robert Nairac, Gerald Evans and Charlie Armstrong from Crossmaglen, Danny McIlhone from west Belfast, Seamus Ruddy from Newry and Sean Murphy from Creganduff, Co Armagh have never been found.

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