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'The council should be ashamed over wrath laid by UVF terrorists'

By Stephen Breen

19 November 2006

The crusading father of a loyalist murder victim last night hit out at councillors over their failure to remove a UVF wreath from the Belfast Cenotaph.

The terror group waited until dark before having their own commemoration at the city hall last Sunday.

Although the council received numerous complaints about the UVF ceremony, the wreath has remained at the cenotaph all week.

Mr McCord (above), whose son Raymond jnr was butchered by a gang of UVF informers in 1997, said the wreath was an insult to the memory of soldiers who died in two world wars.

Said Mr McCord: "It's a disgrace that the UVF has been allowed to do this. This wreath has nothing to do with the old UVF.

"It's up to the council to address this problem. David Ervine should remove it because the people of this city don't want killers and drug dealers honouring the fallen.

"This is the organisation behind the Shankill Butchers' attacks and many other atrocities. My father and grandfather fought in two world wars and the last thing they would want is a group like the UVF remembering their sacrifice.

"The wreath should have been removed as soon as it was placed on the cenotaph.

"It seems unionist politicians are frightened to stand up to the gangsters of the UVF, an organisation that kills its own. It has murdered 30 Protestants since 1994."

Nobody from Belfast City Council was available for comment.

The SDLP's Alban Maginness said: "Veterans and relatives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country will be disgusted at this sully of their good name.

"Everyone knows their claim to links with the organisation formed in 1914 is a gross distortion and a ruse to fly their

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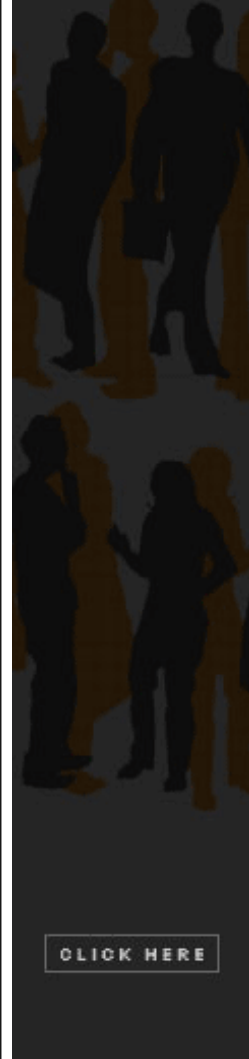
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"If the UVF want to become an 'old boys' commemorative organisation, then we will be expecting them to hand in their guns forthwith."

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