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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY

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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****Gov. needs to stand up for victims of Libyan regime**

Nigel Dodds, DUP Deputy Leader has called upon the government to do more to secure compensation for the victims of terrorism that was financed and supported by the Libyan regime of Colonel Ghaddafi. The DUP MP was speaking out after news speculation that the United States is to open up trade opportunities with Libya, including trade in arms. Speaking today the DUP MP said:

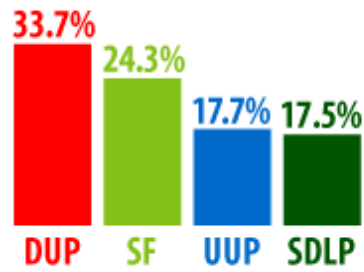


"The Libyans have admitted their guilt in supporting terrorism. The very fact that they have established a \$2.7billion fund to compensate American victims of terrorist acts they supported is a clear admission of culpability. If the Americans can apply pressure to guarantee compensation for victims, why is our own government selling short victims from all corners of the United Kingdom who suffered at the hands of the terrorists Ghaddafi bank-rolled, armed and trained?"

In recent times there has been a thawing in diplomatic relations between the Libyan government and the US Administration. The United States has appointed an Ambassador to Libya for the first time in over thirty years and there are now moves to foster trade links between the two states, including bizarrely given Libya's history,

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trade in military weaponry.

In a Northern Ireland context, it is no exaggeration to say that the Provisional IRA could not have waged the campaign they did against the people of this country on anything like the scale we witnessed without the assistance of Colonel Ghadaffi.

As the US government rushes to soften its relations with this regime, our own government needs to realise and remember that Ghadaffi was directly responsible and complicit in the death of many people in the United Kingdom. The US pushed for and got compensation before appointing an Ambassador or embarking on new trade opportunities. The United Kingdom should be doing the same.

There should be no thawing in our attitude towards the Libyan regime until they compensate UK citizens who suffered at the hands of the terrorist criminals that the Libyans armed and bank-rolled down through the years."

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