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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY

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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****MCCAUSLAND CONDEMNS SOLDIERS' HOMECOMING PROTEST PLANS**

Sinn Fein has applied for permission to hold a republican protest parade in Belfast city centre on Sunday 2 November at the same time as the 'welcome home' parade for British Army soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The organisers of the Sinn Fein parade have applied to march from Bank Square, through Castle Street to Donegall Place and their application states that there will be 500 republican marchers. Condemning the proposed Sinn Fein protest parade, DUP MLA Nelson McCausland said,

"The Sinn Fein protest parade is simply a squalid attempt to disrupt the day and to intimidate those who want to come out to see the 'welcome home' parade.

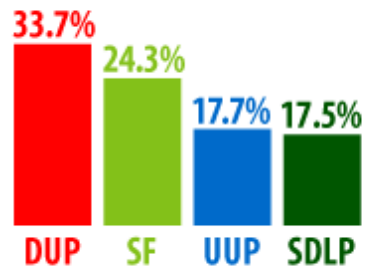
Sinn Fein intend to bring 500 republicans to a position opposite the City Hall, a place where many individuals and families will be gathering to watch the soldiers march past. It is a sinister attempt to intimidate those people and to create tension.

Thousands of people will be out on to the streets of Belfast that day to welcome home the local men and women who have served so bravely in Afghanistan and Iraq in the ranks of Her Majesty's Forces.

This parade will recognise the service and sacrifice that Ulster men and women have made in these campaigns in the ranks of the British Army.

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The Sinn Fein parade will damage community relations in our city and indeed throughout Ulster.

Those in the ranks of the British Army were fighting terrorism in Afghanistan whereas those in the Sinn Fein parade will have been perpetrators or supporters of terrorism.

The DUP will be meeting the Parades Commission to discuss the Sinn Fein protest parade, which is deliberately provocative and offensive.

Those who spent decades trying to kill British soldiers do not even want to allow them to walk the streets of our capital city.”

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