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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****SINN FEIN HYPOCRITICAL STANCE ON PARADE**

The Assembly has backed a DUP motion condemning a republican parade in Belfast city centre on 12 August. The motion, proposed by Nelson McCausland MLA, stated that the “city centre should be a shared space” and deplored the “Sinn Fein sponsored parade” which “involved depictions of IRA terrorists and participants carrying guns.” It also called on the PSNI and the Parades Commission to ensure that this never happens again. Commenting after the debate the North Belfast MLA said,

“This was a disgraceful event, and it raises serious questions for the PSNI, the Parades Commission and Sinn Fein.

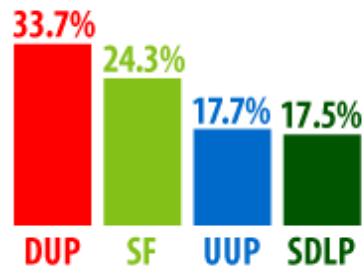
The PSNI failed to mark the feeder parades from North and West Belfast as contentious, in spite of the fact that the parade documentation named the bands taking part. These bands are well known and some of them are named after IRA terrorists. This was a failure on the part of the PSNI.

The Parades Commission also failed in that it did not make any determination on the one feeder parade that was referred to it.

This event was organised by the National H-Block Committee but in reality it was a Sinn Fein sponsored event. The chairperson was Sinn Fein MLA Jennifer McCann

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and the main speaker was Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams. One of the leading organisers was West Belfast republican Sean 'Spike' Murray, a member of the new Parading Review Body and Sean Kelly, the Shankill Bomber, was one of the stewards."

Nelson McCausland has several photographs of the parade including one of bass drums covered with pictures of masked IRA gunmen.

An SDLP amendment was defeated by 41 votes to 31 and the motion was then passed by the Assembly. Mr McCausland continued by saying,

"This was an opportunity for Sinn Fein to justify the fact that there were pictures of armed and masked IRA men on the drums of some of the bands and that at least one of the Sinn Fein banners had pictures of armed IRA men. However they ignored these issues. They ignored them because they have no answer.

Sinn Fein is quick to criticise Orange parades and other loyalist parades but this time they were under the spotlight. The attitude of Sinn Fein to parades is hypocritical and that hypocrisy was thoroughly exposed."

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