

# Statement from the Ulster Unionist Party on Royal Irish Home Service Battalion's Parade

[E-mail to a friend](#) *October 6th, 2006 Sir Reg Empey MLA*



“Today’s parade is a fitting way for Northern Ireland and the entire United Kingdom to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions.



Through the dark years of the Troubles the men and women of the UDR and the RIR Home Service - supported by their families - protected our society from those who sought to impose their will through the ways of terror.

Today’s award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross by Her Majesty The Queen is a well deserved recognition of the enormous sacrifices made by the men and women of the UDR and RIR Home Service.

While the terrorists’ legacy is one of destruction, murder and tears, the legacy of the UDR and RIR Home Service is of sacrifice, duty and service, helping to build a Northern Ireland at peace.

Today our thoughts and prayers will especially be with the families and comrades of the 274 serving and former UDR and RIR Home Service personnel who paid the supreme sacrifice defending our society. Their sacrifice should be a constant reminder to us that the values of a peaceful, decent society were preserved only at great cost.

Our children now live in a more peaceful Northern Ireland, a Northern Ireland in which terrorism is becoming a memory. A peaceful Northern Ireland, a Northern Ireland which has overcome the threat of terrorism, has been built by the service and duty of the UDR and RIR Home Service.

As the officers, men and women of the RIR Home Service parade today, they can do so with pride - the Regiment in which they served outlived the menace of terrorism and fulfilled its mission with dignity and courage.”

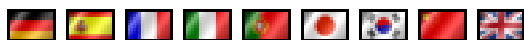
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**Do you agree with the IRFU decision banning the playing of the UK National Anthem at Ravenhill?**

- Yes
- No

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