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**Ulster Unionist Party**  
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## UUP Ministers



**Sir Reg Empey**  
Department of  
Employment and  
Learning



**Michael McGimpsey**  
Department of  
Health, Social  
Services and Public  
Safety

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## A Sad And Painful Week



Reflecting on a painful week for Northern Ireland, Ulster Unionist MEP Jim Nicholson has stressed the strength of cross-community and cross-party opposition to dissident republican terrorism.

Mr. Nicholson said, "It has been a sad, painful week for the people of Northern Ireland. Those of us who lived through the Troubles hoped that such events would never again occur on our streets.

We hoped that the generation that came of age after 1998 would never witness what we witnessed. Instead, this past week three families have been left grieving because of the actions of evil people.

"Amidst the pain and grief of this week, there have also been signs of hope. On Wednesday the people of Northern Ireland in Belfast, Newry, Londonderry and other towns signalled their rejection of and utter contempt for the dissident republican terrorists and their ideology of hate. On Friday, Constable Carroll's grieving family were joined by politicians, civic and church leaders, and ordinary citizens from across the entire community.

"The terrorists have been confronted by the new Northern Ireland - a Northern Ireland that supports the structures and institutions created in 1998, a Northern Ireland determined not to go back to a violent past, a Northern Ireland in which the entire community is committed to supporting the PSNI.

"I know that across Europe, people have responded with sadness to the news of the murders that occurred on our streets this past week - but they have also been reassured by the strength of political and popular opposition to the terrorists. It has been a painful week. But it has also been a week when the people of Northern Ireland have again told the terrorists that violence and hate will not prevail".



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## Speeches & Articles

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[Text of a speech by Sir Reg Empey to the AGM of the Ulster Unionist Council on Saturday, May 31, 2008.](#)

[Speech by Sir Reg Empey to UUP Annual Conference](#)

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[Text of a speech to the AGM of the UUP East Antrim Constituency Association. Sir Reg Empey MLA](#)

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