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# PRESS RELEASE

## STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER MR BRIAN FAULKNER

Events in Londonderry over the past few days have given rise once again and have been designed to give rise to tension in our community. We have seen again the deliberate creation of disorder and acts of lawlessness which can not be tolerated in any democratic society.

Already we see, in the wake of these events, the attempt to create, by irresponsible statements, an atmosphere of sympathy for the lawbreaker and hostility towards the security forces. We have seen this happen before, when the bomber, the gunman and the common criminal has met the inevitable consequences of his actions, whether in the courts or in the violence of the streets.

The trouble in Londonderry which I deplore has led to the death of two civilians and injury to more than 30 members of the security forces. Since last Monday the security forces have been attacked nightly by gunfire, nail bombs, petrol bombs and other missiles. These attacks are the results of the machinations of evil men who, for their own selfish purposes, wish to embroil this whole community in conflict. By their actions they have deliberately put at risk lives and property in a city which, above all else needs peace and constructive effort to achieve greater prosperity.

Throughout this difficult period, the security forces have acted with the greatest restraint. Their duty, under the law, is to prevent the commission of crime with the minimum use of force. Under vicious and sustained attack they have at all times striven to restore the peace in accordance with that precept.

I, and here I am sure I have the support of right thinking people everywhere, condemn outright those who have organised and implemented the violence in Londonderry; I condemn those misguided people who, by spiriting away an injured man probably contributed to his death; and I appeal to every responsible person, whatever his class or creed, to act with restraint and commonsense in the days ahead.

9 July 1971