

Ladies and Gentlemen on behalf of the East Belfast Historical and Cultural Society I extend a welcome to you all this evening. In particular we extend a warm east Belfast welcome to the Brethren, bandsmen and friends from the Shankill Road.

The purpose of this parade and service is to remember 6 innocent Protestant men murdered by violent Republicans 35 years ago. Bobby Kincaid, Tommy Reid, Danny Loughins and Sandy Gould were all murdered in the Greater Shankill area following an unprovoked attack by republicans on the annual Whiterock parade and subsequent gun attacks.

Later that evening the Provisional IRA flexed their muscles in east Belfast as they opened fire from St Matthews's chapel and the surrounding area killing Jimmy McCurrie and Ginger Neill. In addition another 28 men, women and children were shot and seriously wounded.

Tonight as part of the memorial to these 6 innocent men the East Belfast Historical and Cultural Society arranged the memorial parade, which has just finished. Out of respect to the families of Jimmy, Ginger, Tommy, Danny, Sandy and Bobby the Society complied with the draconian legislation given to the Parades Commission by the Government in yet another act of appeasement to the Pan Nationalist front.

The Society is of the opinion that the Parades Commission is anti Protestant, anti Loyalist and anti Unionist. How can it be described as anything else?

Cast your minds back to February this year.

On Saturday the 19th February LOL 710, Ulster Defenders of the Realm organised a their annual dignified and peaceful memorial parade to remember two local members of the valiant Ulster Defence Regiment who were brutally murdered by cowards in the centre of Belfast.

The following day an **ILLEGAL** organisation marched through Strabane in full paramilitary uniform. The same parade last year ended in serious rioting with petrol bombs etc being thrown. The annual parade is held to remember men who belonged to an organisation responsible for the murder of innocent people across our beloved country and further a field.

The Parades Commission in its infinite wisdom decided that the parade organised by LOL 710 was ILLEGAL and that the parade organised by the Provisional IRA was LEGAL. How can any quango come to such a judgement?

Simple the Parades Commission is nothing but a sop to the Pan Nationalist Front, which will always side with the pan nationalist front community when making any determination near interface areas. As a result good men from east Belfast who have no criminal record may well end up with one now as senior District Officers and others from Ballymacarrett are being interviewed with a view to a possible prosecution.

These prosecutions ladies and gentlemen are being pursued with vigour by the PSNI; contrast that with the interest shown by the police in the attempted murder of 5 innocent Protestant in Cluan Place in June 2002.

The PSNI have no interest in bringing to justice the members of the Provisional IRA who shot 5 fellow Protestants including 2 children.

It is the opinion of the Society and indeed many people in east Belfast that both the Parades Commission and the PSNI are pursuing a policy of cultural apartheid against the community from, which we come.

We call upon the Parades Commission to resign immediately and for the PSNI to remember that the tunes we listen to and the road upon, which we stand, belongs to this community and no other.

- **WE DEMAND** that no prosecutions are brought against members of our District. These men are not criminals; they are law abiding decent and honest members of our community.
 - **WE DEMAND** that the Parades Commission recognises that this road belongs to our community and no-one else, the tunes our bands play reflect our community and there should be NO outside interference as has been the case for centuries.
 - **WE DEMAND** that as a community we are allowed to watch our parades where we choose in a manner that displays respect to other communities.
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Is it not a sad reflection on our society over the years that men who are following in the footsteps of their fathers are prosecuted whilst the men who murdered six innocent Protestants walk freely around the streets of our city? 35 later years neither the RUC nor the PSNI have managed to prosecute anyone over the attacks carried out by sectarian killers 35 years ago. Hugh Orde likes statistics – well what about these statistics Mr Orde: -

1. In June 2002 5 innocent Protestants were gunned down and seriously injured by members of the Provisional IRA, who were on ceasefire remember. Number of people prosecuted **NIL**.
2. In June 1970 6 innocent Protestant men were murdered and many more seriously injured by the provisional IRA. Number of people prosecuted **NIL**.

Mr Orde that adds up to a 100% failure rate in my book and I am sure everyone else's. When are we going to have our justice? When are we going to have our enquiries? When are we going to be treated with equality?

The families and friends of these 6 men who we are gathered to remember demand the same treatment as the families of Nelson, Hamill, Finucane. Nothing more nothing less.

No Surrender
