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PUP leader urges loyalists not to react to killings

By Brian Rowan
Tuesday, 10 March 2009

Loyalist political leader Dawn Purvis has called for a "swift, direct and focused" police response to the weekend dissident republican gun attack at Massereene Barracks.

And the Stormont politician has warned that loyalist retaliation would "divert police resources away from pursuing these criminals".

The East Belfast MLA, a former member of the Policing Board, said: "There is understandable anger in the wider community. Loyalism is part of that wider community and not immune to feelings of shock and anger." But she added: "That anger needs to be channelled positively."

Ms Purvis said the paramilitaries should "not react to these small criminal gangs" — a reference to the dissident republican organisations, including the Real IRA which has admitted being behind the weekend attack.



PUP leader Dawn Purvis

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In response to Alex, I too very much hope that 'loyalism' won't react in a violent way, but their 'political analysis' is pretty much non-existent, as is their central leadership and political rationale. There will be figures within the power vacuum of loyalism vying for positions of power, looking to galvanise their criminal enterprises round some sort of political veneer. Loyalism has always been kneejerk and absolutely, totally counter-productive to its stated aim. Let's face it, your average loyalist isn't political, is stoked with hatred and a blind bigotry. They're not bright and easily led. TUV and elements of the DUP will still say "just" enough to plant a murderous thought in their minds.

I very much hope it's not the case

Posted by Stephen | 11.03.09, 11:46 GMT

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I do not share the view expressed by Stephen that loyalism will respond in a violent way. Let us hope that their political analysis is more advanced than knee jerk reactions that result in a cycle of wicked slaughter making matters even worse.

I was heartened by the calls from both the PUP and the UPRG for restraint. The people of Ulster do not want any more blood spilt!

Posted by Alex | 10.03.09, 22:22 GMT

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why should loyalists be angry the police never help us

Posted by geoff | 10.03.09, 22:04 GMT

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Once again violent Irish Republicanism is the aggressor. I really hope that Loyalists will not be provoked by these murdering cowards.

Posted by Robert, Newry | 10.03.09, 21:44 GMT

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SPOT THE RIRA SUPPORTER! It is that exact attitude of Stephens that needs to be firmly kept in the wastepaper basket of history.

Posted by Andrew | 10.03.09, 20:46 GMT

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The 'loyalists' will no doubt respond with some idiotic attack on civilians, such is their rationale and raison d'être. These moronic thugs have been played like violins by Republican paramilitaries. They are predictable in that they will see themselves as striking a blow for 'God and Ulster' when in fact they only generate more support for those they claim to fight. They are politically retarded, stunted bigots, probably rubbing their drug dealing hands with glee at the prospect of 'retaliation'. Watch this space for the abject lack of condemnation from their 'mainstream' community representatives.

Posted by Stephen | 10.03.09, 11:29 GMT

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paramilitaries should "not react to these small criminal gangs"

As if they themselves are not the same breed of people as those who carried out this awful crime. Its time we got rid of all these sorts of people from all sides form this community. Then at least we will have the opportunity to move on. How can we move on when we have thugs on one side out killing and thugs from the other still armed to the teeth?

Posted by Joe | 10.03.09, 10:03 GMT

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