

Ulster Unionist Party

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Actress's Foolish Comments



UUP MLA Billy Armstrong has welcomed the comments by the Producers of the film "Fifty Dead Men Walking" who distanced themselves from the foolish and disgraceful comments of actress Rose McGowan at the Toronto Film Festival that she would have joined the IRA if she had lived in Belfast during the Troubles. He also urged her to apologise as soon as possible to try to salvage her reputation.

Mr Armstrong said

"I welcome the Producers' statement in which they said "they regretted any distress the comments may have caused to people of Northern Ireland and particularly those who were victims of or caught up in the shocking events that existed during the Troubles" and that her views "were not shared, nor endorsed, by anybody associated with the production or creative elements of the film".

At least Guy Collins, Chairman of Hand-Made Films International, speaking on behalf of the co-producers talked some sense when he recognised that McGowan's comments "were insulting to victims of IRA terrorism and she should apologise. It's easy to say this sort of thing when you live in LA

Given the profile of the War on Terror in the USA and the fact that the story broke on the anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, it was particularly sickening to see an American actress come out in public support of the IRA's murder gangs. It may be that from the comfort of her home in LA she has been shielded from the reality of the activities of the IRA and the ruined lives they left behind, but she can now be in no doubt as to the stupidity and offensiveness of her comments.

Ms McGowan has yet to apologise for her remarks and I would urge her to do so at the earliest possible opportunity if she wants to try to salvage her reputation."