

Ulster Unionist Party

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Raze The Maze--Armstrong



Ulster Unionist MLA Billy Armstrong has called on Environment Minister Sammy Wilson to take steps to de-list the remaining buildings at the Maze Prison site so that they can be flattened, thereby removing any chance of the creation of a shrine to terror as part of the so-called "Centre for Conflict Transformation."

Mr Armstrong, who is a former RUC Reservist and who sits on the Assembly's Environment Committee, stated

"If anything positive has come out of this week's disgracefully one-sided BBC programme - it might be more appropriately referred to as an IRA propaganda film - it is the realisation that not a stone of the former Maze Prison can be left standing, lest it become a shrine or memorial to the murderers and terrorists who held this country to ransom for thirty years.

I am calling upon the Environment Minister to take steps to de-list those former prison buildings which have been listed and allowed to remain standing. It is within Sammy Wilson's powers to do this, and I am calling on him to act now.

Such an action by the DUP Minister will actually help the development of the site by releasing even more land for development, be it a stadium, housing, or industry. As long as a brick of the Maze Prison remains, the site will be forever contaminated in the eyes of the law-abiding people of Northern Ireland.

Rather than establish a "Centre for Conflict Transformation" any centre comprising prison buildings will itself be a source of conflict. Its time to raze the Maze and end a sorry chapter in the history of Northern Ireland."