



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Northern Ireland Security Situation, week ending 29 June 1988

COMMENT

Mr C Campbell  
Mr Kewen  
5-7-88  
417

1. Current situation

(a) Overview

There was widespread condemnation of the IRA bombing of a school bus in Lisnaskea on 28 June which resulted in serious injuries to one of the school-girl passengers. The bus driver, a part-time member of the UDR and the intended target of the attack, received only minor injuries. Significantly, Gerry Adams said that he was "unable to condone" the attack and an IRA statement referred to an "inquiry" being held. This was the third occasion in the last 9 months that the Fermanagh "brigade" of the IRA has been involved in controversial incidents (the Enniskillen bombing in November 1987, the killing "in error" of Gillian Johnston in March of this year and now the Lisnaskea attack).

An IRA machine gun attack on a British Army helicopter on 23 June near Crossmaglen resulted in the helicopter having to make a forced landing. This was the first occasion in recent years in which the IRA had succeeded in "grounding" a helicopter in such an attack.

The number of fatalities for the year to date in Northern Ireland stands at 38. Annualised, this is down on 1987 (full year total, 93), but up on 1986 (61) and 1985 (54).

The number of non-paramilitary civilian deaths in 1988 stands at 13 (39 in 1987). Eleven of these were killed in sectarian attacks (10 Catholic), one as an alleged informer by the IRA, and one by the British Army (Aidan McAnespie).

(b) Border areas

Table 1 attached shows the current position in relation to fatalities in border areas. Fatalities (9) in these areas in 1988 are down on the equivalent periods in 1986 (16) and 1987 (16). This year's fatalities included two civilians - Aidan McAnespie in Aughnacloy and Gillian Johnston in Fermanagh.

2. Statistics 1969-date

● (a) Overview

Table 2 attached gives a breakdown of fatalities in Northern Ireland in the period 1969 to date (29 June). 2656 people have died in the period. Broken down as between pre and post-Agreement, the figures show that in the first two full years (1986 and 1987) after the signing of the Agreement, 154 people were killed, compared to 118 people in 1984 and 1985, an increase of 30%. The total for 1986-7 is, however, lower than for any other two-year period since 1970. Fatalities for the 1980s as a whole are running at less than one third of their level in the 1970s (1983 deaths in the 1970s as against 660 in the 1980s to date).

(b) Civilians

Table 3 gives a breakdown of civilian fatalities as between the various paramilitaries and "genuine" civilians. The latter form by far the largest category (1494 fatalities). 934 of these (62%) died during the 5 year period 1972-76. Among the paramilitaries, Provisional IRA losses (221 fatalities) are considerably higher than that of any other grouping.

(c) Agency responsible

Table 4 gives a breakdown of the agencies responsible for fatalities in Northern Ireland from 1969-date. The Provisional IRA have been responsible for 1088 fatalities (roughly 41% of the total). Among the security forces, the British Army have been responsible for 252 (9%), the RUC 48 (2%) and the UDR 7 (0.26%) fatalities. The statistics for the Army and UDR are, perhaps, interesting in the context of the traditional image of each, in relative terms, in the eyes of the nationalist community.

Anglo-Irish Section  
1 July 1988

c. c.	PSS	Mr. O'Brien
	A-I Section	Embassies London, Washington, Canberra
	A-I Secretariat	Mr. Nally, Dept. of the Taoiseach
		Mr. Brosnan, Dept. of Justice

W0334

Fatalities arising from incidents in border areas\*

Fatality	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1986</u>
	(1 January-29 June)	(1 January-29 June)	(1 January-29 June)
	Deaths: 9	Deaths: 16	Deaths: 16
RUC	1	3	5
UDR	3	1	4
Army	1	-	1
IRA	2	1	3
INLA	-	5	-
Civilian	1 (Catholic)	- (Catholic)	2 (Catholic)
Civilian	1 (Protestant)	6 (Protestant)	1 (Protestant)

Fatalities in border areas: Breakdown by County

County	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1986</u>
	(1 Jan-29 June)	(1 Jan-29 June)	(1 Jan-29 June)
Down	1	3	2
Armagh	3	6	6
Tyrone	2	-	3
Fermanagh	2	1	4
Derry	1	6	1
<u>Total</u>	9	16	16

\* Border areas are defined as areas lying within a 10 mile radius of the border and include, therefore, the urban areas of Derry, Strabane, Armagh and Newry. The above tables are based on statistics which the Section has been compiling since 1986.

TABLE 2

Fatalities in Northern Ireland 1969-date<sup>o</sup>

	Civilians** (ie non-security forces)	Army	UDR	RUC	Total Security Forces Fatalities	Total Fatalities
1969	1	-	-	1	1	13
1970	2	-	-	2	2	25
1971	115	43	5	1	59	174
1972	322	103	26	17	146	468
1973	171	58	8	1	79	250
1974	166	28	7	15	50	216
1975	216	14	6	11	31	247
1976	245	14	15	23	52	297
1977	69	15	14	14	43	112
1978	50	14	7	10	31	81
1979	51	38	10	14	62	113
1980	50	8	8	9	25	75
1981	57	10	13	21	44	101
1982	57	21	7	12	40	97
1983	44	5	10	18	33	77
1984	36	9	10	9	28	64
1985	25	2	4	23	29	54
1986	37	4	8	12	24	61
1987	66	3	8	16	27	93
1988	18	10	8	2	20	38*
(to date)						
Total	1830 (69) <sup>oo</sup>	399(15)	174(6)	253(9)	826(31)	2656
Since 1969)						

\* In addition, 3 IRA members killed by British security forces in Gibraltar on 6 March and 3 British soldiers killed by the IRA in Holland on 1 May.

\*\* For breakdown see table 3.

<sup>o</sup> Source: Westminster PQ replies and Section records

<sup>oo</sup> Figures in brackets represent approx. percentage of total

TABLE 3

Breakdown of Civilian (i. e. non-security forces) fatalities 1969-date<sup>o</sup>

	Provisional IRA	INLA	Official IRA	UDA	UVF	Non- Paramilitary
1969	0	0	1	0	0	13
1970	5	0	0	0	0	18
1971	16	0	2	0	0	96
1972	58	0	8	8	2	251
1973	28	0	4	6	2	133
1974	14	0	3	2	2	147
1975	9	1	7	7	11	179
1976	14	0	0	4	1	224
1977	5	1	0	4	2	58
1978	6	2	0	0	0	37
1979	4	0	0	0	0	45
1980	3	1	0	1	0	44
1981	11	5	0	3	0	47
1982	7	2	0	2	2	42
1983	2	4	1	1	1	35
1984	11	1	0	1	0	21
1985	5	0	0	0	0	19
1986	5	0	0	0	1	33
1987	14	9	0	3	1	39
1988	4	0	0	0	1	13
Total	221(12)*	26(1)	26(1)	42(2)	26(1)	1494(81)

<sup>o</sup> Source: Statistics 1969-1986, Irish Information Partnership  
Statistics 1987-date, Section records.

\* Figures in brackets represent approx. percentage of total

TABLE 4

Breakdown of fatalities by Agency Responsible, 1969-date\*

	RUC	British Army	UDR	Prov. IRA	INLA	Off. IRA	Other Nat. Para.	UDA/UFF	UVF/PAF	Other Loy. Para
1969	7	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2
1970	0	5	0	6	0	0	12	0	0	2
1971	1	40	0	57	0	3	33	0	0	21
1972	6	69	1	208	1	5	42	3	1	98
1973	1	29	2	111	0	1	17	14	1	66
1974	2	15	0	81	0	3	15	5	3	86
1975	0	7	0	51	3	2	45	8	17	91
1976	3	13	0	81	1	0	62	5	2	106
1977	2	7	0	47	0	0	23	3	2	20
1978	0	11	0	38	0	0	17	0	0	7
1979	0	1	0	50	2	0	38	1	0	12
1980	2	7	0	36	2	0	12	3	0	10
1981	6	11	1	46	11	1	20	3	1	7
1982	7	4	0	40	30	0	3	0	1	10
1983	6	5	1	41	6	0	3	0	1	9
1984	2	8	0	37	3	0	2	2	1	5
1985	1	3	2	43	2	0	0	1	1	0
1986	2	4	0	37	2	0	2	5	3	8
1987	0	9	0	54	10	0	1	3	1	10
1988	0	2	0	24	0	0	0	2	3	7
Total	48	252	7	1088	73	15	351	58	38	577
	(2)**	(9)	(0.26)	(41)	(3)	(1)	(13)	(2)	(1)	(22)

\* Source: Statistics 1969-1986, Irish Information Partnership  
Statistics 1987-date, Section records.

\*\* Figures in brackets represent approx. percentage of total.

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