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Memorial window unveiled

Sunday 12 October 2008 19:40

## **RUC** memorial window unveiled

Hundreds of people gathered at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast on Sunday for the dedication of an RUC memorial window by Archbishop Robin Eames.

The Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, the Secretary of State Shaun Woodward and representatives of the four main churches, were among those attending.

The window illistrates a biblical scene with an image of Jesus with crosses at his feet to represent the 312 serving and 20 retired officers who were killed through terrorism in the RUC`s 80-year existence from 1922-2001.

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The 'memorial window' installed by Archbishop Robin Eames and co in Saint Anne's Cathedral is totally insensitive to the nationalists victims of sectarian RUC violence. The RUC (now the PSNI) has been totally discredited around the world as a paramilitary police force, and for their violence towards nationalist Dr. Houston McKelvey, in his address stated at the unveiling: "This memorial is about pilgrimage and prayer where we continue to pray for peace. There are a lot of people here today who have lost loved ones and know suffering up close and personal." I suppose the irony is lost entirely on the good doctor to whom I can only respond: Houston, we have a problem with that. Archbishop Eames, normally a sensible and sensitive man, should be asked to explain the contradiction of permitting a 'memorial' to a violent police force. Imagine the whinging from unionists and loyalists if the Catholic Church put up a 'memorial window' to the volunteers of the Irish Republican Army. I'm sure their response would be less than Christian...

On 13 Oct at 11:08 - OldSod from Fermanagh said:

No Longer Fooled: How is the suffering and sorrow of nationalist or republican family any different from that of a police family? What makes them unworthy of grief? You must remember that most officers simply did their duty as required by law, they did not take the law into their own hands, despite losing friends, family and husbands and wives to an enemy that hid behind the laws that protect us all. An enemy that murdered from the shadows, who never had courtrooms and who relished the carnage the wrought. A minority of officers crossed that line, but that does not make them all terrorists. All police and law abiding citizens condemn this minority and so would I, but I still bear in mind the following quote from Shakespeare: Hath not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that.

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