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The SDLP in Belfast is asking the Parades Commission to think again about allowing the British Army to march through the city centre on Sunday and Sinn Fein to protest against it.

Three other illegal republican protests are being planned against the troop homecoming parade from Iraq and Afghanistan, while loyalists are also mobilising to support it.

Alex Attwood of the SDLP said that a review is needed to avoid potential disaster amid the escalating tensions.



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What are these?

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create tension. Why couldn't a day have been organised for all the troops in a neutral venue in somewhere like Windsor park



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or Ravenhill. It's my opinion that these troops are being used as pawns by Unionist politicians trying to create tensions unneccessarily. All the DUP are trying to do is up the Ante like they've always done. Maybe it's to shore up their own support base since they seem to be hemorreaging alot of their support. Instead of these troops having a pleasent welcome home the occasion will be marred... I only hope that there'll be no violence. This stunt is going to drive foreign direct investment out of Belfast. We need to get rid of these sectarian politicians that keep on getting elected here. Their posturing has ruined and cut short thousands of lives over the last 40 years

Posted by Ed | 29.10.08, 19:28 GMT

THe SDLP are not part of the solution. They lost all credibility when they abandoned their socialism for petty little nationalism and spent the last 30 years criticising the police and army. JerryF - no need to worry, the SDLP wouldn't have a Unionist about the place. With them on side, Sinn Feins counter-demo should be a real hoot. All nationalists together - why not ask the Dissidents to join you too. At least those soldiers who are Catholic or from the Republic can then see what the nationalist community really think of them.

Posted by Paulo | 29.10.08, 18:54 GMT

If SDLP had their way and there were no power sharing, this would be back to a unionist decision.

Posted by JerryF | 29.10.08, 17:48 GMT

Jumping on the IRA/SF bandwagon so as not to lose credibility with the nationalist/republican voters? How pathetic.

Posted by mickey | 29.10.08, 16:43 GMT

The parades commission has been busy recently with those troublesome elephants in Bangor. It mustn't have time for a potentially explosive situation like this!!!

Posted by bannside | 29.10.08, 16:17 GMT

Windy, in every democracy people have the right to protest. It's part and parcel of democracy whether you like it or not. Even though our own model of democracy isn't what you would call conventional.

Posted by Barry | 29.10.08, 16:09 GMT

The Parades Commission has finally lost any modicum of credability which it may have had. Its decision to permit the protest march defies comprehension. I really hope that we don't have cause to regret it's stupid decision.

Posted by Windy | 29.10.08, 15:56 GMT

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