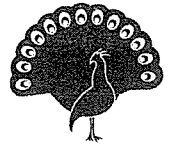


News Letter



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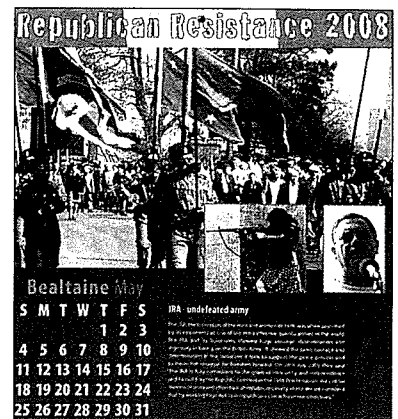
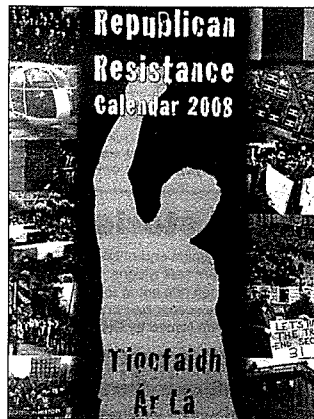
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'Take IRA calendar off shelves'



FROM THE PAST: images from the new Republican Resistance calendar 2008

BY KATE CHAMBRÉ

k.chambre@newsletter.co.uk

A STORM erupted last night over a republican calendar glorifying the IRA campaign, which is on sale in a shop linked to Sinn Fein.

The 2008 Republican Resistance calendar, which has images of gunmen and gunwomen, is being sold in the outlet beside the party's headquarters on the Falls Road in west Belfast.

DUP Assembly member Jeffrey Donaldson said it was a disgrace that Sinn Fein was helping promote "highly offensive" material.

UUP leader Sir Reg Empey said he was appalled that Sinn Fein was making money out of the merchandise, which repeatedly describes the IRA as an undefeated army.

However, Sinn Fein last night told the News Letter that the two unionist parties should see it for what it is - just a calendar.

Mr Donaldson said he intended to ask Sinn Fein MLA Alex Maskey, who is on the Policing Board, how his board membership is compatible with his

party's "intolerable behaviour".

"Sinn Fein has a commitment to support the rule of law and it's unacceptable that they're promoting literature which glorifies terrorism," Mr Donaldson said.

"I think the police need to examine this and decide whether this kind of merchandise breaches incitement to hatred laws."

Sir Reg called upon Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness to order the withdrawal of the calendar from sale.

"At a stage when we are hoping to move forward, trying to put the past behind us, it's quite insulting, and like showing two fingers to the victims of terrorism, to glorify that," Sir Reg said.

A Sinn Fein spokesperson said: "There is nothing new in these calendars, which reflect the tradition of celebrating republicanism. People need to recognise that this is just a calendar and that republicans have played a full role in the peace process and delivered on their commitment to peace."



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