

# News

# I wouldn't give UDA



**OPINION:** Sir Hugh Orde speaks to journalists on the violence in Bangor  
Picture: Alan Lewis/Photopress

**BY KATE CHAMBRÉ**

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CHIEF Constable Sir Hugh Orde blamed the Ulster Defence Association yesterday for the violent rioting in Bangor and said the group should be stripped of £1.2 million Government cash.

Speaking about Wednesday night's violence, in which police were shot at, Sir Hugh called for the UDA to lose the money allocated to them under the Executive's conflict and transformation initiative.

"If you are looking for funding then you need to give something in return. If you want my personal opinion I wouldn't give them 50 pence," he said.

Police officers had petrol bombs, fireworks, stones and bottles hurled at them by at least 200 men and women from the Kilcooley estate in Bangor.

Six people were struck by baton rounds during the rioting which eventually drew to an end soon after midnight. No arrests were made.

Chief Superintendent Graham Shields, district commander for the area, said seven shots had been fired at his officers in separate incidents.

"Seven rounds were discharged in two separate incidents, the first of which followed the police being lured onto the Clondeboye Road following the report of a vehicle on fire."

He said eyewitness reports and marks on a police vehicle confirmed that real bullets had been directed at his officers.



**MEETING:** Lady Sylvia Hermon  
Pictures: Diane Magill

Speaking just before talks between the PSNI, UDA representatives and Community workers Sir Hugh described the paramilitary group as "thugs" and said there was no justification for what had happened.

"If that was value for money, then the people of Kilcooley got very poor value for their money," he said.

He said that the police had evidence that the paramilitary group were behind the attack on police officers.

"It was the UDA and they should be held to account," Sir Hugh said.

He added that the UDA needed to make it clear that they condemn all criminal activity.

"This was organised criminality by the UDA," he said. "They should wise up and get their act together. It tells me the leadership is not in control of its people."

The riots took place after police

raids on a number of houses in the Kilcooley estate on Wednesday afternoon.

The searches said to be linked to paramilitary-related activity are thought to have fuelled tensions in the area.

Olive Kennedy who has lived on the Kilcooley estate since 1971 told the News Letter that a number of people attending a funeral were held up by the searches.

"A friend of mine was burying her daddy and the police wouldn't even let her go back into her house to get her clothes. They told her 'it's a crap day to have your funeral,'" she said. "She's feeling shaken, bewildered and angry by what has happened."

Mark Gordon, of the Kilcooley Community Forum said he believed that if there had been better communication with the PSNI the "whole nasty affair" would never have reached such a "violent and unacceptable" peak.

"We are extremely sorry to all those people affected by yesterday's circumstances, especially those who lost property but we are very thankful that no individual was seriously hurt," he said.

"We cannot under any circumstances condone violence against the PSNI nor can we sit idly by, remain silent or simply watch our community being put under seize and mourners treated so contemptuously."

But Lady Sylvia Hermon, UUP MP for North Down, said it was vital that police were allowed to do their job.

See Morning View, page 14

## DSD to consider police view on violence

THE POLICE will play an important role in assessing whether the Ulster Defence Association should continue to receive the £1.2m in funding that was pledged to them by the Government.

The money is being administered to them over a three-year period in a bid to free loyalist communities from the influence of paramilitaries.

Department of Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie said: "I condemn outright the appalling violence in Kilcooley. The decent, law-abiding people in Kilcooley have the same right to be free of violence and crime as the rest of us."

She said that she was also "deeply disturbed" at the use of guns against the police.

"I am very concerned at reports of UDA involvement in these serious disturbances, and I will want to consider the PSNI's assessment at the earliest opportunity."

Earlier, a DSD spokeswoman said that the progress of the Conflict Transformation Initiative (CTI) was being closely monitored.

"The assessment of the PSNI will be an important consideration," she said. The UDA yesterday accused the police of carrying out heavy-handed house searches in the Bangor area on Wednesday.

Police said the operation was aimed at dealing with serious and organised

crime linked to the activities of the UDA in the north Down area.

The UDA said in a statement that the way in which the searches were carried out by the police caused major tension in the area.

"The PSNI operation from the outset was heavy-handed throughout the day," the statement said.

"Despite advice from community workers to pull out after their searches they continued to seal the estate off adding to the rising tensions."

"The resulting violence cannot be condoned nor the use of a firearm, be it a blank firing pistol.

"Our position is perfectly clear. The CTI is the only way forward and we call for calm and dialogue in the area."

The UPRG's Frankie Gallagher said yesterday that the violence had nothing to do with the UDA.

"This was a community reaction to an unprecedented search and had nothing to do with tensions within loyalism anywhere else," he said.

Mr Gallagher said that the subsequent rioting was a reaction to the police searches and people were not allowed to get their suits for a funeral.

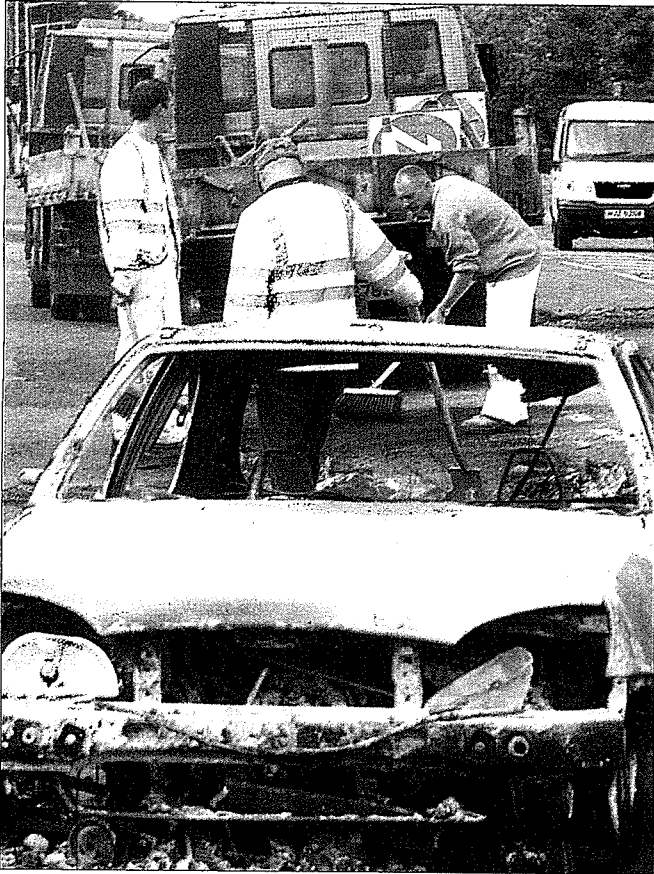
"There is a lot of discontent in unionist communities which are feeling isolated at this time. We condemn all violence and ask people if they have a problem with the police to go through the Police Ombudsman's office."



**REACTION:** UPRG's Frankie Gallagher

# 50p, says Sir Hugh

## Being on Kilcooley was like living in a war zone



**AFTERMATH:** a clean-up operation gets under way in Kilcooley housing estate in Bangor  
Picture: Alan Lewis/Photopress

THE smell of burnt tyres lingered in the Bangor air yesterday morning in the aftermath of Wednesday night's rioting.

As burnt-out cars, broken glass, concrete blocks and other remnants still lined the street where the violence had broken out.

Later in the day several residents living on Clondeboye Road could be seen talking outside their homes, some still traumatised by the events of the previous night.

Each had their own version of events, but no one wanted to be named for fear of recrimination. One lady described the rioting, involving up to 200 young men and women from the Kilcooley estate, like a war zone.

"It was like being in Beirut. Cars were set alight, petrol bombs were being thrown. It was terrifying. We feared for our lives. It seemed as though they would stop at nothing," she said.

"Another woman said she had been warned by a friend living on the estate on Wednesday afternoon that the riots were going start at 9pm.

"Right enough at 9pm on the dot the first car was stolen and burned. Cars were then taken simultaneously from people's driveways, rolled down the hill and set alight," she said.

She said a man living near her even had his work van burnt out.

Another woman said that she had received a call from a friend earlier in the day claiming to have seen youths making petrol bombs in a field near where she lives.

"I was also told loyalists from the Shankill and other areas were drafted in to take part in the rioting."

A majority of the residents living on the Clondeboye Road said they felt let down by the police for not protecting them against the spiralling violence.

"The police didn't even attempt to prevent cars from driving down the road," one man said.

The drivers that did make their way along the road ended up panicking, and trying to do a u-turn, he said. Several car owners were dragged from their vehicle and forced to look on as their cars were set alight.

"It was complete mayhem. We saw boys as young as 12 mooning at the police," another resident said.

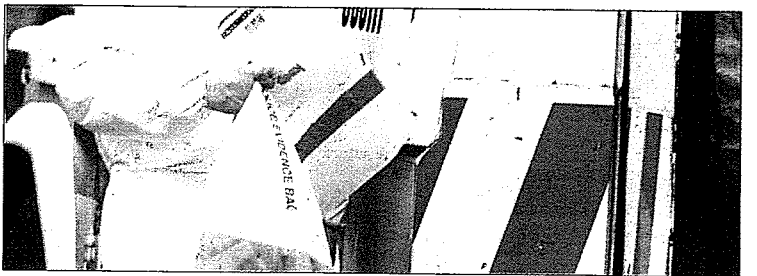
"I'm considering moving away from the area because of the attack on our street. I've never seen anything like it in my life," she said.

A 78-year-old woman said elderly people living in the area had been left deeply shaken by the violence.

"This kind of thing is very upsetting for the elderly. We had to leave our homes yesterday it was so bad."



**DISCUSSION:** Jamie Bryson, Mark Gordon, David Rose, Jim Mark and Jim Rea outside the Kilcooley Community Forum  
Pictures: Diana Magill



**SEARCH:** evidence is removed from a house on the Kilcooley estate

## A 'throwback to worst of our past'

THE gunfire and rioting directed at police was condemned by representatives from across the political spectrum last night.

Alan McFarland said the events were a throwback to the worst of Northern Ireland's past.

The Ulster Unionist MLA said it was vital that the "disgraceful scenes" on Wednesday night did not overshadow the good work, leadership and progress displayed in Kilcooley.

The mayor of North Down, MLA Stephen Farry, said he was shocked and appalled over what

has occurred in Kilcooley.

"The police have every right to go about their business of upholding the rule of law, free from interference or the use violence from others."

Policing Board chairman Professor Sir Desmond Rea said he was relieved no officers had been seriously injured.

"These are the kinds of scenes that we want to see firmly confined to history. Our community has moved on," he said.

"Mindless violence like this achieves nothing but disorder, fear in the community and the diversion of police resources that

could be used elsewhere."

North Down DUP MLA Peter Weir said there could be no excuse for such behaviour.

"These rioters should think of the effect that their actions are having on the people of Kilcooley."

Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward said he couldn't understand how "the very people who have been calling for resolute police action against criminal elements in their midst should respond with extreme violence when this occurs, and then attempt to justify their behaviour."