

Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP
House of Commons
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Dear Mr Corbyn,

This weekend marks the 35th anniversary of the bombing of the Conservative party conference in Brighton.

This was an attack designed to wipe out a Government and strike at the very heart of our democracy.

It was part of a bloody campaign of terror waged by the IRA in Northern Ireland and on the British mainland for more than two decades.

During the Troubles, the IRA claimed the lives of more than 1,700 people, and devastated the lives of countless more.

Communities right across the United Kingdom, from Enniskillen to London and Manchester, are forever scarred and families forever broken by the IRA's murderous attacks.

No amount of time can restore what is lost when a bomb detonates or a bullet is fired.

Many politicians on all sides of the divide have worked tirelessly to secure and sustain peace in Northern Ireland and have unequivocally condemned the IRA's acts of terror during this time.

When asked to condemn the IRA's terror campaign, you refused to do so.

You say you are a man of peace and you want people across the United Kingdom to elect you to lead our country.

The rule of law, not the pursuit of violence, is the foundation of our democracy.

True leadership means putting aside your own prejudices and working for the benefit of all, not advancing the cause of some. The peace in Northern Ireland is built on this principle.

So we urge you now, 35 years on from that direct assault on our democracy, to directly and unequivocally condemn the IRA's murderous attacks.

And we ask you to apologise for a career spent giving succour to violent republicanism when you should have been denouncing it. The first role of a Prime Minister is to keep his people safe, how can you expect people to vote for you if you fail to make this clear?

Signed,

1. Mark Tipper, brother of Trooper Simon Tipper, murdered in the 1982 Hyde Park Bomb, England.
2. Anne Travers, daughter of Mary Travers, murdered during the attempted assassination of her father, Thomas Travers, a NI Magistrate, 1984.

3. Jon Ganesh, seriously injured in the 1996 Docklands Bombing, England

4. Stephen Gault, son of Samuel Gault, murdered in the 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

5. Susanne Dodd, daughter of Metropolitan Police Inspector Stephen Dodd, murdered in the 1983 Harrods bombing, England.

6. Justice 371 Campaign, Scotland, on behalf of Dougal McCaughey, Joseph and John McCaig, three off-duty British soldiers murdered in 1971, Northern Ireland.

7. Margaret Sefton, daughter of James and Ellen Sefton, murdered in a car-bomb attack in North Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1990.

8. Catherine Gault, daughter-in-law of Samuel Gault, murdered in 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, and wife of Keith Gault, injured in 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

9. William Flack, injured in the 1989 bombing of Summerhill Court, Northern Ireland.

10. Philip Armour, father of Wilma McKee, murdered in the 1993 Shankill Road bomb, Northern Ireland.

11. Maureen Barratt, sister of Tom Casey, murdered in the 1992 bombing of Baltic Exchange, England.

12. Andrea Brown, injured in the 1998 bombing of the Lisburn Fun Run, Northern Ireland.

13. Amanda Delaney, sister of John Anthony, murdered in 1994 in a car-bomb, Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

14. William Dixon, injured in the in 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

15. Anna Dixon, injured in the 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

16. Serena Doherty, injured in the 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

17. Doreen Elliott, wife of Raymond Elliott who was injured in the 1993 bombing of Shankill, Northern Ireland.

18. Samuel Graham, brother of Kenneth Graham who was murdered in a 1990 Kilkeel car-bomb attack, Northern Ireland,.

19. Steven Clague, injured in the 1993 bombing of Warrington, England.

20. Linda Clarke, sister of Nigel McKee (contractor/civilian) who was murdered in the 1992 Teebane atrocity, Northern Ireland.

21. Ken Funston, brother of Ronald Funston murdered in 1984 in County Fermanagh, near Pettigo border, Northern Ireland.

22. David Kelly, son of Pte Patrick Kelly, Irish Army, murdered in 1983 in the Don Tidey kidnap case in County Leitrim, Republic of Ireland.

23. Karen McAnerney, sister of Terence McKeever, a contractor who was kidnapped, murdered in 1986 and his body left on the South Armagh border, Northern Ireland.
24. Pam Morrison, sister of Ronnie, Cecil and Jimmy Graham, p/time UDR soldiers murdered individually in 1981, 1981 and 1985, in south Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.
25. Neil Tattersall, injured/survivors of the 1992 Manchester bomb, England.
26. James Leatherbarrow, Pte in 1st Light Infantry Regiment injured in the 1988 Ballygawley Bus Bomb, Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. (8 of his colleagues were murdered.)
27. Revd Alan Irwin, son of Pte Thomas Irwin and nephew of Cpl Frederick Irwin (both p/time UDR soldiers) murdered in 1986 and 1979 Dungannon and Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.
28. Gary Murray, brother of Leanne Murray aged 13 years murdered in 1993 in the Shankill Bomb, Northern Ireland.
29. John Sproule, brother of Ian Sproule murdered in 1991 in Castlederg, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.
30. Ruth Forrest, sister of David Harkness murdered in 1992 in the Teebane atrocity, Northern Ireland.
31. Mavis Clarke, Aunt of Baby Alan Jack aged 5 months, youngest victim of The Troubles murdered in 1972 in Strabane, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.
32. Sandra Harrison, sister of L/Cpl Alan Johnston murdered in 1988 in Kilkeel, County Down. Northern Ireland.
33. Marcus Babington, son of Henry Babington murdered in 1989 in Belfast, County Antrim.
34. Margaret Veitch, parents William and Agnes Mullan murdered in the 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.
35. Tanya Bloomfield, survivor of the 1988 bomb attack on her family home and father Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Crawfordsburn, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.
36. Aileen Quinton, daughter of Georgina Quinton murdered in the 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.
37. Pamela Whitley, daughter of William and Bertha Armstrong murdered in the 1987 Poppy Day Bombing, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.
38. Phyllis Carrothers MBE, wife of Douglas Carrothers murdered in 1991 in a car-bomb, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

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