

**RADIO ULSTER NEWSBREAK: 1PM
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The IRA have said they tried to kill a taxi driver injured in a booby-trap bomb blast near the centre of Belfast this morning. The victim suffered severe leg injuries when a device exploded under his car at Sandy Row. A woman passenger in the car was also injured in the attack. David Morgan reports.

David Morgan: "The taxi driver, who is in his forties, was injured when a device exploded under his Sierra car at Hope Street just before 8 o'clock. The man who is a Protestant from the Westland area of North Belfast was taking a fare into the City when the bomb went off. His woman passenger was also hurt in the blast and is in a stable condition in hospital. The driver who works for 'Call A Cab' based on the Upper Crumlin Road is a married man with 2 children. The Manager of the Company described the attack as a disgrace and said the victim is a quiet man who was simply doing an honest day's work. Detectives investigating the attack have appealed for information about the movements of the Sierra this morning. Anyone with information about the incident has been asked to ring Donegall Pass RUC Station."

The security forces are dealing with bomb alerts in Belfast and Counties Tyrone and Antrim. In Strabane a number of people have been moved from their homes after the discovery of a device at the nearby police station. Gareth Gordon reports.

Gareth Gordon: "The Strabane alert began when a bomb in a coffee jar was found inside the perimeter wall at the back of the local police station. People living in Barrack Street have been moved from their homes; they are being looked after in a community hall. In Belfast police say there is a security operation in the car park of the Chester Park Hotel on the Antrim Road. They have given no further details and the Police say the M1 has been closed at Dungannon between Stangmore and Tamnamore following the discovery of 2 plastic bins with wires attached at the side of a slip road. The IRA earlier warned they had abandoned a bomb in the area and

Toomebridge has been cordoned-off after the IRA said they abandoned 2 mark 12 mortar bombs between a primary school and the police station. Army bomb experts are also examining hi-jacked vehicles left at Agivey Bridge, Kilrea Bridge and Cloughmills RUC station near Ballymoney. All 3 were stolen from a family in Dunloy last night."

The former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Ulster Unionist Councillor, Fred Cobain, says the 2 men who forced their way into his home last night meant to kill him. Mr Cobain wasn't in the house at Premier Grove at the time. His wife and 14 year-old son were there but weren't injured. Councillor Cobain and other City Councillors met the police this morning to discuss security issues in North Belfast. He says the fact that he wasn't at home last night, saved his life.

The incident was raised this morning when an Ulster Unionist Delegation met the Secretary of State, Peter Brooke. The party leader, James Molyneaux, says he is deeply concerned about the incident and the party's security spokesman, Ken Maginnis, has accused the Law and Order Minister, Lord Belstead of naivety after he gave a strong indication that internment wouldn't be used as a measure to combat the recent upsurge in violence. On internment Lord Belstead said the Government wasn't in the business of what he called 'a quick fix'. Mr Maginnis said it was unhelpful for the Minister to send out messages to the IRA and other terrorists. And there has been further criticism of the Minister on the issue of a UDA ban. Speaking to the BBC, Lord Belstead indicated that it was another measure unlikely to be used at this stage. Sinn Fein's President, Gerry Adams, claimed it was part of Britain's need to encourage and sustain Loyalist paramilitaries.

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