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Outrage over laying of UVF wreath at City Hall cenotaph

By Claire McNeilly

15 November 2006

SDLP Assembly man Alban Maginness last night called for an investigation into an alleged wreath-laying ceremony at the Belfast Cenotaph by the UVF.

Mr Maginness was referring to an incident that occurred on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph at Belfast City Hall, when members of the paramilitary group are said to have formed in ranks around 9am.

This is an outrage," he said.

"The UVF may claim some lineage to their historical namesakes, but veterans and relatives of the those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country will be disgusted at this sullying of their good name."

He added that the wreath, complete with the clear lettering UVF was yesterday still on the Cenotaph amongst others laid at official ceremonies.

"Everyone knows their claim to links with the organisation formed in 1914 is a gross distortion and a ruse to fly their flags," he said.

"If it is true that this vile practice has been going on since 1998, I want to know who has tolerated this on city council property for nearly a decade.

"If the UVF want to become an 'old boys' commemorative organisation then we will be expecting them to hand in their guns forthwith."

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