

GERRY ADAMS

President of Sinn Féin

51/55 Bóthar na bhFál, Béal Feirste BT12 4PD

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John Bruton TD
An Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Dublin

A Chara *John*

I am writing to you regarding the serious and deteriorating situation we are facing in the north arising from the Orange seige of Garvaghy Road.

It is difficult to express adequately the sense of vulnerability that exists within the nationalist community in this situation, particularly given the close parallels to the circumstances leading up to the 1969 pogroms and the increasing belief that this could happen again.

Against this background, the proposed Orange demonstration on the lower Ormeau Road is also developing into a potentially explosive situation. I would therefore urge you to take a clear public stand against this clearly orchestrated campaign of mass intimidation being waged by the Unionist leadership. This campaign includes the killing of a catholic in Lurgan, the forced expulsion of catholic families, the burning of catholic property, including homes, churches and schools. This mass intimidation, violence and threats of violence must call into question the stated commitment of the Unionist parties to the Mitchell Principles.

The current sense of vulnerability adds to the volatility of the situation. This sense of vulnerability will only be eased if these communities feel that they are not being left isolated and alone.

The Irish government has a clear responsibility to assertively defend the rights of the nationalist community in the north, including the people of Garvaghy Road and the lower Ormeau Road.

Is mise

Gerry

GERRY ADAMS