



Garda Síochána Retired Member's Association (GSRMA)

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Letters to the Editor

Sunday Independent

Sir, Mary Lou McDonald in her Sunday Independent (24/5/2020) interview describes the conflict on this island in the 70's, 80's and 90's as a '*necessary war*' and a '*justified campaign*'.

The GSRMA - *Garda Síochána Retired Members Association* - asks Ms. McDonald to clarify where it was necessary and where it was justified to murder and maim members of An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces and many innocent members of the public?

So, Mary Lou, where was it necessary and justified in a disused farmhouse in Garryhinch in October 1976? Where was it necessary and justified outside Drumree Post Office in August 1984? Where was it necessary and justified in the early hours of the morning in June 1996 on the Main Street in Adare? Where was it necessary and justified in Ballyconnick Quarry in October 1980? Where was it necessary and justified in Derrada Woods in December 1983? I and my colleagues can go on and on and on and on and ask you for these and further answers if you wish?

Mary Lou is well aware that the IRA campaign had a direct impact on the Republic where Gardaí were murdered, banks were robbed, illegal arms were imported and general destabilisation occurred.

There was no '*necessary war*' nor was there any '*justified campaign*' that warranted the killing and maiming of members of An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces or any person for that matter... Full Stop!

Our membership rightly and proudly remembers their colleagues so savagely murdered and maimed by the Provisional IRA in the above instances and on many other occasions. We stand together with their grieving families, colleagues and friends in deploring Ms. McDonald's scant regard for their lives being described by her as being necessary and justified - *Ar eagla go ndéanfaimis dearmad.*

Michael Lernihan,

General Secretary GSRMA

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