

NI APL RHA/E 01.12.005

STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP EAMES

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All decent people will be shocked and saddened by the news of the death of a soldier at Bessbrook.

I express my sincere sympathy to the family and colleagues of the dead soldier and to the civilian who has been injured.

At a time when the prayers of so many are supporting all efforts at reconciliation and greater understanding this death is a clear challenge to the law-abiding community which has endured so much. I appeal to all involved in loyalism to avoid any action or words which could give credence or encouragement to paramilitary activity at this time. To do so is to fall into the trap and happenings ~~as~~ as this are geared to generate. This is a time for condemnation, sympathy and calm to allow the forces of law and order to uncover those responsible.