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## **Northern Ireland Prison Officer brutally assassinated on Thursday 1 November**

**Brussels (Belgium), 05.11.2012**



**David Black, prison officer, father of two, who was planning to retire next year after 30 years of duty in the Prison Service, was brutally ambushed and killed on the motorway on his way to work in Maghaberry top-security prison in Northern Ireland.**

His job included the guarding of 41 prisoners from dissident republican groups. Those prisoners demand to be recognised as political prisoners and have already tried to obtain this through violent protests.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland stated that an armed anti-peace-process republican terror group was to blame for the killing.

Politicians from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom have condemned this act of crime in the most strict and resolute words. All underline that, although small dissident groups continue to pose a threat to the peace process in Northern Ireland, the determination of all to ensure that the terrorists will not succeed, is great. "There will be no return to the dark days of the past".

Eurofedop joins its member organisations, the POA of the United Kingdom and the POA of Ireland, in their unconditional disapproval of the senseless murder committed on their colleague. Our feelings of sympathy go to the family, colleagues and friends of the deceased.

The funeral service for prison officer David Black will take place tomorrow 6 November in his home town Cookstown.

Members and member organisations of Eurofedop who wish to express their condolences or sympathy are herewith invited to send their message to the secretariat of Eurofedop. We will take care of forwarding your expression of solidarity to our member organisations in the United Kingdom and Ireland.