

# FACT SHEET

## Extremist Signs and Symbols — Northern Ireland Related Terrorism



**The Irish Republican Army (IRA) (also known as the Provisional Irish Republican Army, Provisional IRA)** (left) was an Irish republican paramilitary organisation that sought to end British rule in Northern Ireland and facilitate Irish reunification. It is designated a terrorist organisation in the United Kingdom. It supported the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and in 2005 it disarmed under international supervision.

**The Real Irish Republican Army or Real IRA** (right) is a dissident Irish republican paramilitary groups which aims to bring about a united Ireland. It formed in 1997 through dissident members of the Provisional IRA who rejected the Good Friday Agreement. It is the largest and most active of the dissident republican paramilitary groups operating against the security forces. It was responsible for the 1998 Omagh bombing which killed 29 people. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.



**Ulster Volunteer Force** (left) is an Ulster loyalist paramilitary group. Its declared goal was to combat Irish republicanism and maintain Northern Ireland's status as part of the United Kingdom. It undertook an armed campaign during the period of the Troubles. It declared a ceasefire in 1994 and officially ended its campaign in 2007 although some of its members continue to engage in violence and criminal activities. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.



**Ulster Defence Association (also known as the Ulster Freedom Fighters)** (right) is an Ulster loyalist paramilitary group in Northern Ireland. It was formed in September 1971. It was extremely active during the period of the Troubles. Its declared goal was to defend Ulster Protestant loyalist areas and combat Irish republicanism. It was proscribed as a terrorist group in August 1992. It declared a ceasefire in 1994 and ended its campaign in 2007 but some of its members have continued to engage in violence.

