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## **JOURNALIST KILLED IN NORTHERN IRELAND 'TERRORIST INCIDENT'**

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19.04.2019

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Deutsche Welle (19 April 2019)

A journalist has been killed in Londonderry during violent demonstrations in an Irish nationalist part of the city. Police are treating the murder as a "terrorist incident."

A 29-year-old woman who was shot dead during a demonstration on Thursday in Londonderry was a journalist, Northern Ireland police said early Friday.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hamilton said that police were treating it as an act of terrorism.

"We believe this to be a terrorist act, we believe it has been carried out by violent dissident republicans," Hamilton told reporters at a news conference.

Hamilton said a group called the New IRA was likely behind the murder of reporter Lyra McKee.

On Thursday, petrol bombs were thrown at police vehicles in Creggan, an Irish nationalist area of Londonderry, also known as Derry, according to Britain's Press Association. The news agency distributed images of heavily armed police and burnout vehicles near the scene.

### **Flashpoint city**

The murder comes after a car bomb claimed by the New IRA was detonated outside a courthouse in Londonderry in January. Nobody was killed or injured in the attack, which led to the arrest of four male suspects.

Londonderry was once a flashpoint in fighting between Irish nationalists, who want to unite Ireland, and Unionists, who want to keep Northern Ireland within the UK. The nationalist fight was spearheaded by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which ended its armed campaign against Britain in the 1998 Good Friday peace accord. Small splinter paramilitary groups are still active.

Easter weekend is a key time of the year as republicans opposed to a British presence in Northern Ireland mark the anniversary of a 1916 uprising against British rule.

### **Brexit worries**

Leaders of the nationalist Sinn Fein, which once served as the IRA's political arm, and the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), both condemned the killing.

The incident highlighted the threat of militant groups opposed to the 1998 peace deal that largely ended three decades of conflict in Northern Ireland. Concerns over a reinstated border between the EU member state of Ireland and the UK province of Northern Ireland have also risen as London and Brussels set terms for Britain leaving the bloc.

### **A message from the US**

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a congressional delegation to Londonderry earlier Thursday. The trip aimed to show support for the peace agreement, which politicians in Washington helped broker.

Pelosi told a special joint sitting of Ireland's parliament in Dublin on Thursday: "I've said it before and I'll say it again, we must ensure that nothing happens in the Brexit discussions that imperils the Good Friday accord, including, but not limited to, the seamless border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland."

"Let me be clear, if the Brexit deal undermines the Good Friday accord, there will be no chance of a US/UK trade agreement. As you face the challenges posed by Brexit, know that the United States Congress, Democrats and Republicans in the House and in the Senate, stand with you," Pelosi said.

cw,dv/jm (AFP, dpa, Reuters)

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