

Night of violence marks internment

SPORADIC violence flared in west Belfast and other parts of the province as militant republicans went on the rampage to mark the anniversary of internment.

Four policemen were taken to hospital with injuries — one with a broken ankle.

The RUC made 38 arrests — five for alleged joyriding offences.

Hundreds of petrol bombs were thrown at security forces on patrol throughout the province.

As vehicles were hijacked and set on fire, the most serious attack on police came in Armagh at 1.44 a.m., in the Banbrook Hill area.

Sniper attack

Two blast bombs were thrown at a police patrol car and a sniper opened fire. The RUC crew escaped uninjured.

The sniper fired several

shots but the police did not return fire, said a spokesman. A follow-up operation was launched but there were no arrests, the RUC said.

In Londonderry, a soldier was treated for a bullet wound to an ankle after terrorists opened fire on an army foot patrol in Central Drive at 4.40 p.m. yesterday.

A 24-year-old man was today recovering in hospital after being shot in a leg in Springvale Parade, in the Ligoniel area of Belfast, last night.

And shortly before 4 a.m. another man was taken to hospital with a bullet wound to his ankle. The incident happened in

Hillman Street, in the New Lodge, said police.

Vehicles burned

In Cookstown, a bread van was set on fire in Greenvale drive shortly after midnight.

In Downpatrick, a tractor and trailer were burned at Killough Road, said police.

The RUC said a car was burned in the Markets area and another van was set on fire in Cromac Street, Belfast.

Firemen were called to a house on fire on the New Lodge Road and a Chinese restaurant on Andersonstown Road was set on fire.

Petrol bombs were

thrown at Central Station, but security forces were able to contain most of the overnight violence.

Rioting

A supermarket was extensively damaged and a total of 117 petrol bombs were thrown during five hours of rioting in Londonderry early today, said police.

Security forces were attacked in the city and in the Waterside and 22 plastic bullets were fired by police in a bid to disperse the mobs.

In Newry, two cars were destroyed after being set on fire.

Four fire crews fought the supermarket blaze in

Londonderry for more than seven hours this morning and were hindered by a crowd of youths who tried to prevent firemen getting to the scene.

The fire service was called out at 2 a.m. and smoke was still billowing from the store at 9 a.m.

Police say the fire was started deliberately and forensic experts were examining the damage today.

There were also smaller fires in a mews lane behind Littlewoods' store in the city centre and at a card shop in Waterloo Place although damage in both cases was only slight.

The former Oscar's Nightclub building in Waterloo Street, which was destroyed in a fire more than a year ago, was also set alight but damage was confined to the front of the partly derelict building.