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MAGINNESS: EXCESSIVE DETENTION COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE

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Commenting on the High Court's order quashing the detention of six suspects beyond seven days, SDLP Justice Spokesperson Alban Maginness MLA said:

“Excessive detention always will and always should raise grave issues of civil liberties because the right to freedom under the law and presumption of innocence must be cornerstones of justice systems in all democratic societies.

“These detentions seem to have been struck down on procedural grounds, but they demonstrate the real possibility of abuse when the facility of extended detention exists. That is why we opposed 28-day detention as well as earlier proposals for 42 days and three months.

“Seven days is an adequate period within which to charge or release. In fact, it is at the upper end of the scale of international practice and other jurisdictions faced with significant security threats have much shorter detention periods.”

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