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MAGINNESS - SDLP FULLY SUPPORT MCCORD CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE

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Speaking before the Assembly debates an SDLP motion on the murder of Raymond McCord Junior on Monday, SDLP Justice Spokesperson and North Belfast MLA Alban Maginness stated:

In the face of explicit and very personal threats of murder Raymond McCord has fearlessly pursued the cause of justice for his murdered son for over ten years. It takes great courage not only to face down a murder gang, but also to force the political and security establishment to face unpalatable truths about their own policies.

“There cannot be an acceptable face of terrorism. There cannot be favoured factions within paramilitary murder gangs, and there can be no more collusion as there was in the past. The Police Ombudsman’s report should be an impetus both to probe into and expose the truth of what state and paramilitary organisations did during the years of conflict and create means to heal the hurts of the past and move forward, on an ethical basis. That is the way to go.

The SDLP hopes that all parties in the Assembly will back our motion and send out a strong united message that truth and justice for victims and survivors remains paramount. After the events of the last week around victim’s issues this is an opportunity for all parties to show their commitment to victims and survivors. That is the kind of message that we need to send out. The search for truth should be one issue that unites all parties and divides none.

The SDLP fully supports Mr McCord’s quest for justice. We want to see the truth coming out about collusion in all its forms.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Motion - Death of Raymond McCord Jnr

Proposed: That this Assembly notes with grave concern the report of the Police Ombudsman into the death of Raymond McCord Jnr and related matters; applauds the work of the McCord family’s campaign for justice; supports the ongoing criminal investigation into these matters; and calls on all individuals and organisations to cooperate fully with the Police Ombudsman and PSNI investigations.

[Mr A Attwood]
[Mr A Maginness]
[Mrs D Kelly]

27-04-08

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