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## Quinn parents press Provos

### Plea after monitors clear IRA leadership of son's murder

by



By Dan McGinn  
Friday May 02 2008

The parents of a 21-year-old man beaten to death near the border have called on IRA leaders to freeze out any members of the organisation involved in his killing.

Briege and [Stephen Quinn](#)'s son Paul, from Cullyhanna, [Co Armagh](#)

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was beaten to death by a gang on a [Co Monaghan](#) farm after being lured over the border last October.

Last night, they issued an appeal after a report by the [Independent Monitoring Commission](#) said the murder could not be pinned on the IRA because it was not sanctioned by the leadership.

In a statement, the Quinn Family Support Group said the report, which claimed the murder stemmed from local disputes and involved current or former IRA members, had vindicated their claims that people in the organisation in south Armagh were involved.

"The issue of [Army Council](#) sanction is a total red herring because it never had any role in giving the green light to specific actions," their statement said.

"The real issue is the level at which the beating was sanctioned locally. There are strong grounds for believing it went to the highest level in South Armagh and has therefore corrupted and tainted the whole South Armagh Command and all its constituent units.

"This is the vital point -- more important even than whether all those involved in the killing were actually members of the Provisional IRA at the time.

"All of them enjoyed the protection of that organisation before, during and after the killing; all of them had access to its experience, expertise and forensic clean-up skills.

"It is now quite clear that the Garda investigation is focused on the access of local people to the command infrastructure.

"We note that the gardai have gone to the quite extraordinary length of refuting a planted story about a criminal gang being responsible for the murder, making it clear that they are not investigating any gang or individual criminals.

"That leaves just the provos."

The statement concluded: "Stephen and Briege, believe that the IMC statement vindicates their claim that Paul was murdered by the south Armagh provos and call on the leadership of that movement to isolate the murderers in their ranks."

The IMC report said: "The fact that some local members or former members or associates of the PIRA were involved in this incident does not justify attributing it to PIRA."

[Democratic Unionist MP Gregory Campbell](#) said: "The only conclusive way for the Republican movement to disassociate itself from such activities is [disband] the [PIRA Army Council](#)".

- *Dan McGinn*

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