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Dominic Bradley

7th January 2007

BRADLEY WELCOMES ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

SDLP MLA for Newry and Armagh Dominic Bradley has welcomed Archbishop Sean Brady's move, at the request of the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains, to initiative an appeal through Catholic churches throughout Ireland for the return of the bodies of the nine remaining disappeared murdered by the IRA and other paramilitaries - in most cases over twenty years ago. Catholic churches in the diocese of Armagh are to appeal for information on the whereabouts of people murdered during the Northern Ireland conflict, but will cover other dioceses in the coming weeks.

Mr Bradley said,

"All that the families are asking for is that they have the bodies of their loved ones returned to them for burial to help them to bring closure to what has been for them a lifetime of nightmare. In this constituency the Armstrong family have suffered for 25 years while the Evans family, also of Crossmaglen, have waited 27 years for the bodies of their loved ones to be returned. The Ruddy family of Newry also wait. No one can underestimate the torment these families and all the families of the disappeared have had to endure.

"No organisation has the right to deny any family a proper Christian burial for their loved one. Paramilitaries took their lives, they took their bodies and now they must not continue to take away the right for Christian burials for the disappeared. Those who have information must now do what is necessary to put right the wrongs and the Archbishop has provided them with the opportunity to do just that. I sincerely hope that his appeal is heeded and that this opportunity is taken and brings progress on this very sad situation.

ENDS

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