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BRADLEY WELCOMES IMC ASSESSMENT OF QUINN MURDER

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SDLP Assembly Member for Newry and Armagh, Dominic Bradley has said that the International Monitoring Commission has reiterated its view of 13th November that there was Provo involvement in the murder of Paul Quinn.

Speaking after a special meeting with the IMC in Carrickmacross, he said:

"I was frankly impressed with the directness and frankness of the IMC, which has very clearly established itself as an independent voice. They were at pains to point out that the November statement by John Grieve was made on behalf of the whole commission, even though some tried to portray it as some sort of personal opinion. The commissioners told me that they were 'absolutely resolute' in their view that even though they said that a local dispute lay behind the murder, they still believe that those who were involved in the attack on Paul - in his brutal murder - included people who are members or former members or have associations with members or former members of the Provisional IRA.

"I pointed out to them that some of the debate around the level at which the murder of Paul Quinn was sanctioned was pretty meaningless, since the core of the problem is the existence of a local murder machine. We had a useful discussion on the whole issue of community control by paramilitary groups and how it might be broken down. I also made very clear the SDLP commitment to supporting the campaign of the Quinn family for an end to such control in south Armagh.

"I am encouraged by their determination and honesty and look forward with interest to their report on the Quinn murder and the other issues which is due in April."

Note for Editors: Dominic Bradley MLA and local SDLP Councillor Geraldine Donnelly joined Stephen and Briege Quinn at the meeting with the IMC

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