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Dominic Bradley MLA
Cllr Sharon Haughey
17th January 2007



SDLP WELCOME HET APOLOGY TO REAVEYS

SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley and Cllr Sharon Haughey have welcomed the news that the Historical Enquiries Team Director, David Cox, has set the record straight about the Reavey brothers, John Martin, Brian and Anthony Reavey, murdered by loyalists 31 years ago and apologised for the way the family was treated.

Mr Bradley said: "The Reavey family had suffered at the hands of loyalist murders losing three brothers in their prime. Their suffering was made worse by the despicable whispering campaign and security force harassment which they were subject to following the murders. It is unacceptable that they have had to wait 31 years for the record to be set straight.

"Ian Paisley colluded in this whispering campaign against the family under the parliamentary protection privilege – he too should do the right thing, and withdraw his remarks, and apologise to the family."

SDLP Cllr Sharon Haughey, who is closely related to the Reavey family, also called on Paisley to withdraw his false allegations. She said:

"At long last someone, somewhere in the British establishment has finally had the decency to do the right thing, to apologise to a mother whose three young sons were brutally murdered. The second crime was the poisoning of community relations by a deliberate campaign to blacken the names and memories of the victims. Worst of all, just when that campaign of lies and vilification had begun to die away, Ian Paisley revived it.

"We still need to get at the truth about collusion in the killing of the Reavey brothers. We have requested a meeting for the Reavey family with President Mary McAleese, and we hope it can take place soon."

ENDS

17/01/07