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MCDONNELL, NI AFFAIRS MEET QUINNS IN CROSSMAGLEN

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SDLP Deputy Leader Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA and other members of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee at Westminster met with the Quinn family of Cullyhanna in Crossmaglen on Tuesday evening.

Around 50 people attended the invited meeting in Crossmaglen Community Centre. Dr McDonnell said:

"The Committee first met with the Quinn family in Belfast in June and at that time the Chairman, Sir Patrick Cormac, promised that they would visit South Armagh at an appropriate time to express their abhorrence of Paul Quinn's murder and their support for the family's campaign for truth and justice.

"Since that time the campaign has taken a great step forward. The co-operation between the PSNI and An Garda Siochana on this case is absolutely unprecedented. Above all the presence of Gardai and PSNI officers side by side on the streets and roads of South Armagh, knocking doors and gathering evidence, has demonstrated how the atmosphere has changed in the area. That change is due in no small measure to the work of the Quinn family and their support group.

"Members heard how the church in Cullyhanna was crowded on Friday night for the anniversary mass. Nobody could have failed to be impressed by the quiet dignity of Paul's mother, Breege, when she addressed the meeting. But let there be no mistake that the absolute outrage of local people which I remember so clearly from the funeral a year ago is still there, still undiminished. Everyone who spoke praised the policing action north and south, everyone made it clear that they seek justice through the courts and under the law, and that a lawful society is the only fitting tribute to Paul's memory.

"I would like to thank Sir Patrick and all the members who came here. It may be a long way from Westminster to Crossmaglen, but we all have to remember that this is a community which must go about its business every day knowing that there are up to a dozen murderers out there. They and the Quinn family need our support and deserve our support."

ENDS

29.10-08

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