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Martin McGuinness pays tribute to Francis Hughes

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May 12, 2007

Sinn Féin MP for Mid-Ulster Martin McGuinness today sent his support and solidarity to the family of IRA Hunger Striker Francis Hughes on the 26th Anniversary of his death in Long Kesh.

Mr McGuinness said:

"Francis Hughes was one of the most fearless and formidable IRA Volunteers to emerge in this phase of the Republican struggle. Today marks the 26th Anniversary of his death after 59 days on Hunger Strike in Long Kesh.

"Our struggle

has changed greatly since the difficult summer of 1981 but we remain committed to our republican goals and we remain committed to delivering the sort of society which is demanded by the sacrifice of Hunger Strikers like Francis Hughes.

"At this time I would like to send ongoing support and solidarity to the Hughes family.

"Preparations are already well advanced for a major commemorative event marking the deaths of Francis Hughes and his cousin Tom McElwee on Hunger Strike along with all of the patriot dead from that area which will take place in August and I would encourage people to play their part in ensuring that this event is a success." ENDS

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