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Local & National

Lisa's family prepare for 1,000th day anniversary

Monday, November 26, 2007

By Stephen Breen

Councillors in North Down are to mark 1,000 days since the disappearance of Bangor woman Lisa Dorrian by making a fresh appeal for information.

The 25-year-old's family will attend North Down Council's monthly meeting on Tuesday after independent councillor Austin Lennon put forward a motion calling on his colleagues to back the family's campaign.

It states: "This council recognises with deep regret the 1,000th day anniversary of the disappearance of Lisa Dorrian.

"The council reconfirms its full support to the family and commends them for the dignity and courage they have shown in facing the last 1,000 days."

North Down Alliance Party Mayor Stephen Farry also pledged his support to the family, adding: "We fully support the Dorrian family and we must all do what we can to keep their campaign in the public eye.

"We must re-focus our efforts in helping the family find their loved one so they can finally get some closure."

North Down UUP MP Lady Sylvia Hermon backed the campaign to have Lisa returned.

Lisa's parents, John and Patricia, made an emotional plea to their daughter's abductors to return her body for a Christian burial and praised representatives for backing their quest for justice.

The grieving parents said the main focus of their campaign was to give Lisa a Christian burial.

"We have had tremendous support since Lisa disappeared and we would again like to thank the council for backing our campaign," Mrs Dorrian said.

"We can't believe it has been 1,000 days since our beautiful daughter was taken from us. The pain we have all endured is still very much as raw now as it was on day one. We all think about her of every minute of every day.

"It may be 1,000 days but we haven't been able to properly grieve because we have no grave to visit. The memorial chair and tree we have are just a substitute for not having a grave.

"If I had a choice of having Lisa returned to us or seeing her killers in court, it would be to have my daughter home.

"It's nearly three years now and it's time we had her back. Every time the phone rings we think it's the police contacting us to tell us they have found her.

"It's hard to believe we have reached this milestone of 1,000 days and we cannot bear the thought of going through another 1,000 days without Lisa."

Lisa's sisters, Joanne and Michelle, also used the 1,000 days milestone to praise people for supporting their campaign, adding: "The messages of support we have received from around the world have been fantastic... The support from people from all walks of life is the motivation which keeps us going."

In the days since Lisa's disappearance, the family have received support from Snow Patrol, Donny Osmond and launched major advertising campaigns in their crusade for justice.

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