Sisters to join support group

(Margaret Canning, Irish News)

Two sisters of Robert McCartney will attend a meeting of a group set up to support the family of murdered south Armagh man Paul Quinn.

Paula McCartney last night (Monday) confirmed she and her sister Catherine would attend the meeting of the group in Crossmaglen on Thursday.

Paul Quinn was beaten to death by a gang of men in an outhouse close to Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, in October.

His family have said they believe the IRA were involved in the killing but Sinn Féin said no republicans were involved and the killing was linked to a criminal dispute.

Robert McCartney (33) was stabbed and beaten to death by a gang outside Magennis' bar in Belfast almost three years ago. His sisters have claimed those responsible were in the IRA and led a high-profile campaign for information.

"We are going there to hear the group's objectives and hear what their views are," Ms McCartney said.

"From what we know, Paul Quinn's murder echoes very much Robert's murder. The statements which Sinn Féin made after Paul Quinn's murder are word for word the same as after Robert's murder. We did say at that time that this would happen again and I just wonder who will be next."

The meeting, the second to be held by the Quinn Support Group, will take place in Crossmaglen Community Centre at 8pm on Thursday.

Four Sinn Féin councillors in the Slieve Gullion area – who a spokesman for the group said had not contacted Mr Quinn's parents – have also been invited.

The spokesman said they had also invited chair man of the Newy and Mourne District Policing Partnership Brendan Curran, the Crossmaglen Community Safety group and TDs and councillors from Co Louth and Co Monaghan.
The group said it would also organise a third public meeting for mid-January while private meetings with political, community and Church leaders on both sides of the border had also been scheduled.

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