



Ahern moves to calm fears

(Suzanne McGonagle, [Irish News](#))

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern last night (Monday) said he did not believe the killing would have implications for the peace process.

He said that although he did not know the background of the people responsible, the murder had been condemned by Sinn Féin which had urged people to cooperate with gardai and the PSNI.

UUP Newry and Armagh assembly member Danny Kennedy said there could be serious political consequences if the IRA was involved.

If a link was proved then Sinn Féin should "expose and identify those people responsible", Mr Kennedy said.

"The community will feel utter revulsion at this murder and the manner in which it was carried out, reminiscent of a lynching gang from the deep south," he said.

"I would urge full cooperation from the community with the police in ensuring that those responsible for this disgusting act of murder are brought to justice and thrown behind bars."

The former leader of the Labour Party in the Republic also warned of a major political fall-out if the IRA was shown to have been involved.

Pat Rabbitte, the party's justice spokesman, said the allegations were disturbing.

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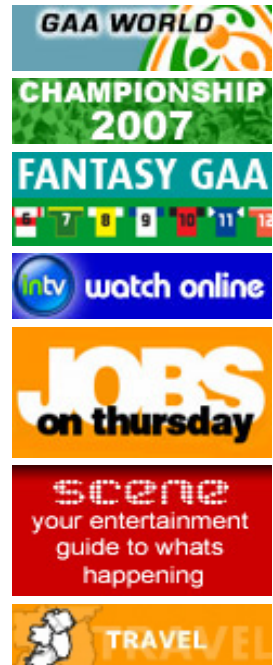
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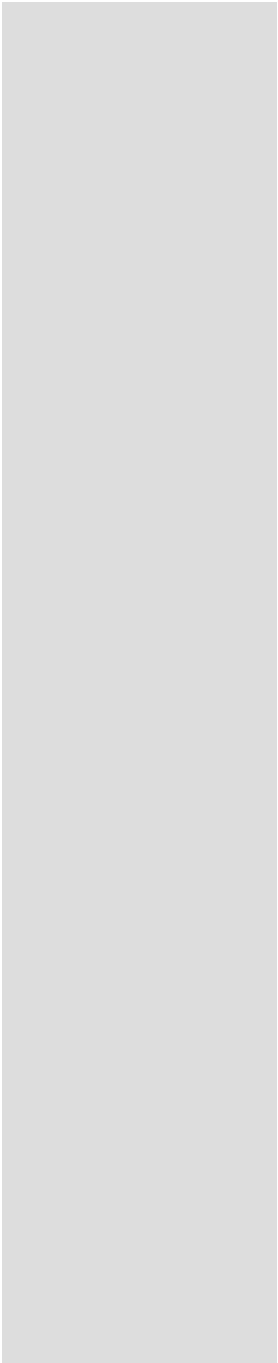
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