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Sammy Wilson labels victims' relatives pro-IRA supporters

(Catherine Morrison, [Irish News](#))

A cross-community delegation of victims' relatives have demanded a meeting with the DUP's Sammy Wilson after he labelled them a "pro-IRA" group at St Andrews.

The row erupted when two Democratic Unionist MPs – Mr Wilson and Jeffrey Donaldson – refused to accept an envelope from the group who had travelled to Scotland to lobby politicians at the talks.

It contained information and photographs of the families and their loved ones who had been murdered during the Troubles.

Witnesses claim Mr Wilson not only refused to accept the documents but launched into a "tirade" against the group, accusing Paul McIlwaine – whose 18-year-old son David was stabbed to death by UVF members – of allying himself with "people who support murderers".

Moira Casement, whose 87-year-old uncle Barney Green was murdered by the UVF in the 1994 Loughinisland bar attack, said the East Antrim MP's outburst was "vitriolic".

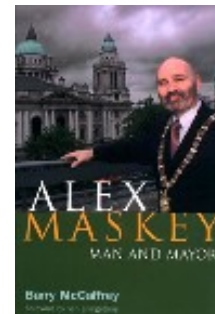
"Mr Wilson launched into an abusive tirade and accused Mr McIlwaine of 'choosing quare bedfellows'," she said.

"His comments are insulting. I personally have never had any part in politics and wish to stress emphatically that I have never been involved in republican or IRA activity, nor has any member of our justice group.

"I simply represent six victims' families whose grief and pain, 12 years after the slaughter of innocents in the Loughinisland massacre, will never be assuaged."

She said the group would welcome a meeting with Mr Wilson to discuss their concerns.

When contacted yesterday (Tuesday), Mr Wilson who is also an assembly member for East Antrim, refused to comment but in earlier reports admitted making the remarks, adding that the group was clearly identified as "a pro-IRA group,



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by Barry McCaffrey

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pro-republican".

Relatives for Justice spokesman Mark Thompson said:
"Senior politicians need to be very careful with their choice
of language. Let's be mature and talk about this, it is
affecting lots of people from all camps.

"All the political parties have a responsibility to deal with
this."

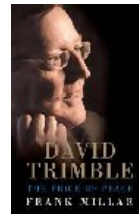
October 20, 2006

This article appeared first in the October 19, 2006 edition of the [Irish News](#).

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