

Wednesday 5 November 2008

**NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY**

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**DUP NEWS****Latest News:****MCCAUSLAND SPEECH REGARDING THE DISAPPEARED**

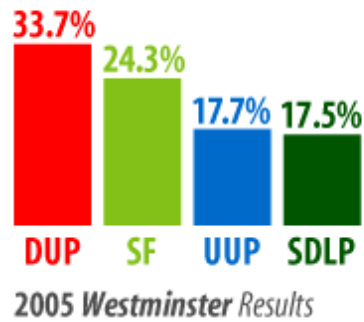
Below is the text of the speech given by Nelson McCausland MLA in the Assembly debate on The Disappeared at Stormont today:

*“The story of the Disappeared starts in West Belfast on 2 October 1972 with the disappearance of Kevin McKee and Seamus Wright and their subsequent murders. They were both republicans in West Belfast but they were accused of being informers and they were both murdered by the IRA.*

*The next murder came in December and the victim was Jean McConville, a widow and a mother of ten children, who was taken from Divis Flats by the IRA and shot dead. Up until 1972 the IRA had a policy of shooting any suspected informers and then leaving their bodies by the roadside as a public warning to others who might be tempted down the same path. But in 1972 that changed and there is one man in this Assembly who knows only too well how that came about.*

*This man joined the IRA in 1966, at the age of 18, and he went with the Provisionals in 1970. The following year he was the IRA commander in Ballymurphy. He became second in command in the Belfast Brigade staff and then in 1972 the Belfast commander of the IRA. He was in command of the IRA when McKee, Wright and Jean McConville were murdered. In the wake of the Four Square Laundry affair, he set up two secret IRA units, each with four members, one in West Belfast and one in North*

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**Belfast. They were known in IRA folklore as ‘the unknowns’ and they were to carry out special tasks such as the murder of suspected informers and the disposal of their bodies.**

**Apart from Captain Robert Nairac and the case of Lisa Dorrian, all of the Disappeared were members of the nationalist and republican community and apart from Seamus Ruddy they were all murdered by the IRA.**

**At a conference in Carlingford to mark the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights movement, the former Stormont MP Austin Currie spoke of an elderly mother who went to her grave mourning her son, who was one of the Disappeared, and he described the murders and the disposal of the bodies as ‘the worst violation of human rights’ during the Troubles. That is why Sinn Fein support for human rights is simply hypocrisy. Republicans have been guilty of some of the most appalling human rights abuses in the history of this country.**

**Of course Gerry Adams has always tried to distance himself from the whole gruesome episode, but we don’t believe him. More than 3,600 people died during the Troubles and almost half of them died at the hands of the IRA.**

**The violence is over and for that we are glad but is it not time for Gerry Adams to show some remorse for these crimes? Is it not time that he showed some remorse for the evil that was inflicted on so many families by the IRA?**

**On 25 September Gerry Adams called for an independent international truth commission on the Troubles. He says that he wants the truth. Well then today perhaps Gerry Adams will tell us what he knows about the Disappeared. Perhaps he will tell us what he knows about the perpetrators of these crimes for they are the people who know where the bodies were buried and it is only their information that can see the bodies of the Disappeared brought home for burial.”**

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