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BRADLEY 'PAISLEY STEPS DOWN ON SHAMEFUL NOTE'

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SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley said First Minister Ian Paisley is leaving office on a shameful note following his refusal to meet, never mind apologise to, Eugene Reavey, whom he named in the Commons as a suspect in the Kingsmills massacre.

Mr Bradley accompanied Mr Reavey who came to Stormont today in a final attempt to seek a meeting with the First Minister before he leaves office.

Mr Bradley said: “Ian Paisley was almost certainly fed false information by someone in the RUC, but he abused parliamentary privilege terribly by publishing it and putting the life of a victim in danger. When the Kingsmill massacre was taking place in January 1976, Eugene Reavey was making arrangements to take home the bodies of his brothers who had been murdered by the Glennane Gang the night before.

“On the day he took office Ian Paisley spoke in moving terms about victims, yet now he is leaving office and leaving the most serious slur possible on the character of a victim who lost three of his brothers to paramilitary murderers. Now in his last days as First Minister it would be most appropriate for him to demonstrate responsible leadership by removing this slur on Eugene Reavey’s character.

“A heartfelt apology would go along way to bring the Reavey family nearer to closure in this terrible chapter of their lives and go along way to demonstrate to the Nationalist community that Mr Paisley is sincere in his commitment to bringing people of all sides closer together.”

““We keep hearing that Ian Paisley is the man who went from saying ‘No’ to saying ‘Yes’ it is now time for him to say sorry to the Reavey family.”

ENDS

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