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## SDLP HOPE FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME FOR EVANS FAMILY

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SDLP MLA for Newry and Armagh Dominic Bradley has welcomed the news that the Evans family of Crossmaglen has received information which may help in the recovery of the remains of Gerry Evans, a member of their family who went missing 29 years ago in March 1979.

Gerry Evans, one of the disappeared, is believed to have been murdered by the IRA but his family have had no news of the whereabouts of his remains until information was given to his aunt in March of this year.

Commenting on the news Mr Bradley said,

“The Evans family, like all the families of the disappeared have had to endure years of suffering awaiting news of their brother Gerry. The family has borne their sorrowful burden in an exemplary way, with great dignity and forbearance.

‘One can only hope and pray that their long wait is at last nearing its conclusion and that the news they have received will help bring some closure to decades of waiting.

Councillor Geraldine Donnelly who is a native of Crossmaglen said,

‘This is welcome news which I sincerely hope will allow the family to give a Christian burial to their loved one, Gerry, who has been sorely missed by them over the long years since he disappeared. My thoughts and prayers and those of right thinking people everywhere will be focused on this information bringing a positive outcome for the family in this sad situation.

**ENDS**

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## Notes for Editors

Gerry Evans, is listed as one of the Disappeared. His family have never been told what happened to him, or where he might be buried. He was last seen hitching a lift in Castleblayney, County Monaghan, on Sunday 25 March, 1979.

In March this year, a note and the map were given to his aunt.

Gerry Evans's brother said that his aunt was given the A4 white card with a drawing of where the body was claimed to be and a message which read: "This is where I believe Gerry to be buried. I hope this helps and God bless you all."

The document was taken to the Gardai before being passed on to the Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains. Noel Evans and a Commission representative visited the alleged site, which is being kept secret while tests are carried out. Before a dig can start, demographical maps need to be checked to see if the site, as described, existed 30 years ago.

Scientific equipment will be used to check for any soil disruption and sniffer dogs will also inspect the area. It could take up to a year for this work to be completed.

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