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BRADLEY: MURPHY CRIMINALISING QUINN WITHOUT EVIDENCE

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SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley said Sinn Fein's Conor Murphy is continuing to cause distress by criminalizing the memory of Paul Quinn

He said: "Conor Murphy has explicitly claimed – and repeated - that Paul Quinn was involved in criminality and smuggling, but without offering a shred of evidence. He has called Paul Quinn a criminal under privilege - not parliamentary privilege but the privilege of death. Paul Quinn can't sue because he was murdered.

"When Thomas Slab Murphy was arrested in connection with diesel smuggling, Conor Murphy and Gerry Adams rushed to his defence, saying he was a good republican and there was no evidence of criminality. Now, when it suits their political needs, it seems evidence is not necessary and people can be denigrated at will. The notion of a 21-year-old diesel king is ludicrous. Unlike Slab, Paul Quinn wasn't on the Rich List and he was so short of diesel that he had to siphon a couple of pints from the family tractor just to drive the few miles to the place where he was murdered.

"I challenge Conor Murphy to produce evidence or withdraw, instead of compounding grief with unsustainable accusations. We have all the evidence we need that the Provos intimidate, maim and kill, yet Conor Murphy can assure us by some magical means that none of them was involved in the killing. He claims to know South Armagh well, but nobody in South Armagh believes this particular fairy story, which is designed for DUP ears only. Even Sinn Fein people in Cullyhanna are openly saying it is poisonous rubbish."

ENDS

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