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BRADLEY DEMANDS APOLOGY FROM IAN PAISLEY TO REAVEY FAMILY’

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SDLP MLA has said that Ian Paisley should withdraw his remarks made under privilege in the House of Commons in February 1999 in which he named Mr Eugene Reavey whose three brothers were the innocent victims of loyalist murderers in connection with the Kingsmills Massacre.

Mr Bradley said, ‘Mr Reavey has written to Ian Paisley and asked him to withdraw the remarks he made in Parliament in 1999 and to apologise for making them. The latest response from Mr Paisley is that he has no comment to make at this time.

‘This is totally unacceptable. Mr Paisley has defamed Eugene Reavey in the most hurtful of ways, he should now take away that hurt by withdrawing his remarks and apologising.

‘On Devolution Day on the May 8th Mr Paisley saluted ‘... all innocent victims of the terrible conflict’. He now has the opportunity to do something practical to help the Reavey family, who have suffered enough already, by removing the slur on Eugene Reavey’s character.

‘By withdrawing his remarks and apologising to Eugene Reavey Mr Paisley will help to bring the Reavey family nearer to closure in this terrible chapter of their lives.

‘As First Minister Mr Paisley has the duty to lead and here is an excellent opportunity for him to help victims and to give example to others who may be in a position to do the same.

‘If Mr Paisley does not withdraw his remarks and apologise then I will seek to raise the matter on the floor of the Assembly.’

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