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Unionists running scared of debate on collusion

Published: 24 January, 2007

Sinn Féin Assembly group leader, Upper Bann MLA John O'Dowd has accused the DUP and UUP of running away from a debate on collusion after both parties blocked a debate on collusion in the Assembly.

Mr O'Dowd said:

"The absolute cowardice of unionist politicians in the face of clear evidence of collusion between unionist paramilitaries and serving and former members of the police is a disgrace.

"The relationship between the Special Branch, MI5 and the loyalist death squads must be scrutinised and debated. Those engaged in the policy of collusion must be held to account. They can have no place in a modern civic police service.

"The UUP and DUP are running away from what should be a key debate for all of us. Unionists politicians are also letting down their own communities who have and are suffering as a direct result of the policy of collusion.

"The hypocrisy of the unionist parties is breath taking. If any other organisation was involved in this type of systematic illegality and wrong doing these same politicians would be demanding full disclosure and co-operation with the investigation. But their commitment to law and order is distinctly one-sided. They fall silent when those involved in criminality are the so-called forces of law and order." ENDS

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