Kennedy supports motion on the 'Disappeared'

Ulster Unionist Party deputy leader Danny Kennedy, speaking at a debate in Stormont on the 'disappeared' has stated that the depth of suffering for families cannot be airbrushed out of history and he called on Gerry Adams to respond specifically to the questions posed. The motion called for full disclosure of any information which may lead to the remains of the disappeared being returned to their loved ones.

In a statement Mr. Kennedy said:

"The aftermath of any terrorist campaign always leads to a search for closure for the many victims of the conflict, not least for the families of those victims who have come to be known as the 'disappeared'.

This is an important part of the healing process after a conflict and it is not something which can be brushed under the carpet as being inconvenient or uncomfortable for the current political set-up. It is something which must, in terms of human dignity and human decency, be addressed.

The depth of the suffering for families of the disappeared cannot be airbrushed out of history. It is very real and our hearts should go out to these families, who have been deprived of even the most basic human right, that of grieving properly for their loved ones. The callousness of these murders was bad enough in the first place. To compound it with a failure to give up their bodies for burial is to add insult to injury.

That is why I support Dominic Bradley’s motion today and I thank him for bringing it before the Assembly. It is most important that we issue this clear and unequivocal call from this Assembly today, as the representatives of a democratic process embedded in human rights and freedom, for every individual and every organisation who can contribute to resolving this issue, to bring forward the necessary information, without any further delay.

I would call on Mr Adams to respond specifically on this issue. He has made many comments recently on the importance of other parties in the Executive adopting the correct attitude towards Sinn Fein. Perhaps, Mr Adams by addressing the issue of the Disappeared in a more effective and committed way would help in one small way to improve how those parties might perceive him."