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**Dermot Ahern met family**

MONDAY  
 17/12/2007  
 18:15:11

**Quinn family meet Ahern**

The parents of murdered Co Armagh man Paul Quinn have welcomed assurances from the Irish government that it does not believe their son

had any links to criminality.

Briege and Stephen Quinn met with Foreign Affairs minister Dermott Ahern today to raise concerns about comments made by Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in the wake of the 21-year-old's killing, when he suggested it may have been linked to criminal gangs.

The Quinn family believe their son, who was beaten to death in a shed in Co Monaghan eight weeks ago, was murdered by the IRA because of a personal feud with one of its members.

They say claims by senior Sinn Fein figures that the incident was linked to fuel smuggling are entirely false and merely an attempt to take the focus off potential IRA involvement.

During today's meeting in Dundalk, the Irish foreign minister clarified the Irish government's view and told the Quinns he and the Taoiseach were sure their son was not a criminal.

The Quinns said the meeting with Mr Ahern had provided them with great satisfaction.

"This has lifted a great weight from our shoulders," said Briege Quinn.

"Once we got over the shock of Paul's death, nothing has caused us more hurt and pain than these allegations. It was one thing to hear them from certain political quarters in the north, but when the Taoiseach stood up in

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the Dail and seemed to be backing them up, it made things a lot worse for us.



"Now that we know the government is not backing them up, we care a lot less about what (Sinn Fein`s) Conor Murphy or Gerry Adams say, because we know the truth.

"It means a lot to us to have the minister say this, and we thank him very much for meeting us and telling us so clearly. This actually means more to us than getting someone into court. We know justice will take time, but the truth can be told right away."

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**STARRING:** Don Cheadle, Michael Epps, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Martin Sheen

**DETAILS:** USA / 118mins (15A)

**RATING:** ★★★★★

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