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McCord challenges DUP

FRIDAY
29/02/2008
08:06:46

McCord challenges the DUP and PUP

The father of a man murdered by a loyalist gang is set to become the first person from a unionist background to address Sinn Fein's annual

conference.

Raymond McCord, whose son also called Raymond was murdered by an Ulster Volunteer Force gang, will address Sinn Fein members in Dublin on the issue of security force collusion.

A report last year by the former Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan alleged Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch officers running informers in the gang based in north Belfast allowed them to kill over a dozen people including Raymond McCord Junior.

And as he prepared to address Sinn Fein, Mr McCord challenged Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and the UVF-linked Progressive Unionist Party to offer him the same platform to discuss collusion at their party conferences.

"My politics and Sinn Fein's politics are vastly different," he said.

"I am not going down to this conference to appease Sinn Fein.

"However I will use whatever platform I am given to raise the issue of security force collusion.

"Irrespective of who the party is, if they invite me to address them on what happened to my son and on the issue of collusion I will not turn my back on that opportunity.

"So I am challenging the DUP and also the PUP to give me an opportunity

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to address their party conferences."

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FILM: VANTAGE POINT

DIRECTOR: Pete Travis

STARRING: Matthew Fox, Sigourney Weaver, Forest Whittaker

DETAILS: USA / 90mins (12A)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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