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## Politics

### Devlin murder: parents meet first ministers

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

By Deborah McAleese

Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness have joined forces in a bid to break the silence surrounding the murder of Belfast teen Thomas Devlin and to encourage people with information to go to the police.

The First Minister and Deputy First Minister met with Thomas' parents Penny Holloway and Jim Devlin yesterday to offer their support and to hear about the impact of the murder on his family, friends and the wider community.

Schoolboy Thomas (15) was stabbed to death close to his home in north Belfast in August 2005. He was walking home along the Somerton Road with a group of friends after going to a nearby garage to buy sweets when he was stabbed up to five times.

Nobody has been charged with the murder but detectives and Thomas' parents believe his killers may have come from Mount Vernon. They believe that some members of the community are sheltering his killers.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting with Thomas's parents Mr Paisley and Mr McGuinness said:

"The murder of Thomas was a cowardly, evil and completely pointless act. It is important that the community comes together and helps to remove these killers from our streets.

"We would call upon all those with any information about the attack to go to the police and help bring Thomas's killers to justice.

"As parents ourselves, we can only imagine the horrendous hurt Penny and Jim have gone through with the loss of a young child. Thomas was a bright boy with a great future ahead of him and he, like all our young people, should have been able to walk our streets without fear of attack."

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