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Local & National

SF to seek justice for McCartneys says Paisley

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

By Linda McKee

The sister of murdered Belfast father-of-two Robert McCartney last night welcomed DUP leader Ian Paisley's efforts to secure justice for the family.

Catherine McCartney said the DUP is the only party to have raised the issue publicly "for many, many months" and said she looked forward to a response from Sinn Fein.

Mr Paisley told the House of Commons yesterday he had secured a promise from Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams that republicans would address the need for justice for the family of Mr McCartney, who died after he and a friend were attacked by republicans in a city centre bar in 2005.

The DUP leader was speaking during a Commons debate that saw emergency legislation rushed through to consolidate this week's DUP-Sinn Fein agreement.

"We said it would be a great opportunity for Sinn Fein to do something with regards to Mr McCartney's death," Mr Paisley told the House.

"We did get the promise that something would be done. We look forward to something being done."

Last night, Catherine McCartney said that if Sinn Fein had made such a promise, the family welcomed it.






"Sinn Fein has said in the past that they've done all they can - now they are saying they can do something," she said.

"It would be great if that promise was secured, if something was going to happen. We will wait and see what happens."

Ms McCartney said both the family and the PSNI have written to Sinn Fein within the last few weeks asking for full co-operation with the investigation now that the obstacles have been removed, but neither has yet received a response.

She said she had been assured that the Government has been raising the issue privately with Sinn Fein.

"We have never heard how Sinn Fein have responded to the pressure they have supposedly been put under in private. We will be looking forward to seeing something happen in the next two months," she said.

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