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Local & National

McDowell: McCartney case will be litmus test for SF

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Irish Minister for Justice, Michael McDowell, has said Sinn Fein's attitude towards the murder of Robert McCartney will be the "litmus test" of its support for the PSNI.

Mr McCartney was beaten and stabbed to death in Belfast two years ago today, allegedly by leading IRA members.

Sinn Fein suspended several activists and the IRA also expelled three members in response to the incident, but the republican movement was repeatedly accused of failing to co-operate with the investigation.

Speaking in Dublin today, Mr McDowell said the real test of the movement's recent commitment to policing would be a message urging everyone to co-operate with the Gardai and PSNI, even if it could affect republican perpetrators.

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