

THE HARP CLUB IT'S OUR THING!
 Enjoy HARP Sensibly **CLICK HERE!**

ADS FOR FREE
 A MUST FOR EVERY BARGAIN HUNTER

FREE ADS HOTLINE 028 **90 43 43 43**
YOUR ONLY LOCAL FREE ADS PAPER NOW ONLINE

ADVERTISEMENT

Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year

Search Site

Advanced Search

- Loadzajobs.co.uk
- Propertynews.com
- Belfast Telegraph TV
- Family Notices
- Ads For Free
- Belfast Telegraph**
 - Home
 - News**
 - Local & National
 - World news
 - Politics
 - Environment
 - Education
 - Letters
 - Opinion
 - Technology
 - Breaking News
 - Northwest Edition
 - Business
 - Business Telegraph
 - Sport
 - Health
 - Features
 - Columnists
 - Entertainment
 - Homefinder
 - Weather
 - Archive
 - Calendar 2008
 - Telegraph Travel
 - Shopping Directory
- Inside Belfast**
 - Jobs
 - Training
 - Dating
 - Casino
 - Bingo
 - Reader Offers
 - Diners' Club
- Services**
 - RSS
 - Media Kit
- Other Titles**

Home > News > Local & National

Local & National

Adams makes telling intervention in biggest test of a new political era

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

By Chris Thornton

Conor Murphy says it wasn't the IRA that killed Paul Quinn.

The Regional Development Minister, a former IRA prisoner from south Armagh, ought to have a good idea. So too should Gerry Adams, who said he did not believe there was "any republican involvement in this murder".

Jim McAllister offered up a different opinion, and he ought to know as well — a Sinn Fein councillor in south Armagh for years, he split with the party during one of the many twists in the peace process.

Speaking on behalf of the Quinn family, he said they believe IRA members were behind the brutal attack that left the 21-year-old dead on Saturday night.

Garda sources also indicated that the killers were IRA members, although they said the intention of the attack may not have been to kill.

Which leaves a conundrum that the DUP — warning of "serious repercussions" in the political process — will look to the Chief Constable and the Independent Monitoring Commission to resolve.

Officially the IRA has stood down its units, but the Provisionals' leadership still exists, at least in the form of the Army Council.

The IMC has said repeatedly that they have not been involved in any paramilitary activity, and IRA members have been ordered to refrain from "all activity".

But south Armagh — touching on the area where Paul Quinn was killed — has been a difficult scene for reconciling developments in the peace process and the traditional activities of republicans.

Weeks after the IRA ceasefire was declared in 1994, members of the south Armagh unit killed postal worker Frank Kerr in Newry. The IRA said the killing had not been sanctioned by the leadership.

Thirteen years later, there is the possibility that Paul Quinn was killed the same way — a breakdown in the IRA's chain of command.

- Email Article
- Print Version
- Search**
- +Most Emailed
- +Most Read

Related Articles

- SF leaders deny IRA murder link
- A village gripped by disgust
- Gardai pin murder on IRA gang
- Viewpoint: Murder revives old IRA doubts

Don't miss . . .

Audio: Liverpool

Rafa speaks ahead of Champions League clash with Besiktas

Video: Loyalists jailed for rioting

Footage of gunmen opening fire on security forces

The final countdown

Film critic Anthony Quinn's 10 best film endings

Obituary: Sammy Duddy

Combining a colourful life as UDA leader and drag act

Chemical Brothers

Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons' chemical attraction

Lift the lid on your PC

Our guide to boosting your PC's performance

Homefinder TV

Helen Carson visits a gentleman's residence in Hollywood

ADVERTISEMENTS

Sunday Life

Ireland's Saturday Night

Community Telegraph

But there have also been important strides forward in terms of policing in the area. The idea that Northern Ireland's police would sit down at a public meeting in Crossmaglen was unthinkable at the time of Frank Kerr's murder.

But it has happened now.

Mr Adams' intervention yesterday was telling. In the morning, soon after the DUP laid out their concerns, he set out to put clear green water between Sinn Fein and the killers.

He condemned the killers as "criminals" and said people with information about the killing have "a duty" to pass it on to gardai and the PSNI.

This was the important matter as far as Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was concerned, underlining recent strides forward in policing in south Armagh.

Unionists are bound to be concerned that Mr Adams is saying what needs to be said to preserve the Stormont Executive. Their solace may be in the actual cooperation Gardai get.

More articles in Local & National

- [Kielty's stage bow 'a dive into deep end'](#)
- [Energy inefficiency costing millions](#)
- [Equality a key issue, forum is told](#)
- [Brave Chelsea has new limb fitted](#)
- [Murder of shopkeeper 'unites area'](#)

**BT Business
Total
Broadband**

Now with **£200**
of extras at no
extra cost.

**Click here
for more**

Terms & Conditions apply



19 Oct - 4 Nov 2007

CLICK HERE



Blogs

[Sleeping Around:](#) Catherine Townsend



Two hot prospects, and only one day off

[He's out there:](#) Cooper Brown



Supercoop manages to track down a 'car vandal'

Video

[Carl Verheyen](#)



Interview with one of the world's best guitarists

[Final moments of Uboat diver](#)



The last dive of Dublin man Michael Hanrahan

[Kate Walsh](#)



Interview with singer who reached No 1 on iTunes

[Open House Festival](#)



Bluegrass musicians come to Belfast

[Big Man's big fry](#)



First Minister's vision is outlined over breakfast

[FashionWeek](#)



Gary Grattan reports from the launch of the show

[Snow Patrol](#)



Ulster rockers play to home crowd in Bangor

[Ulster's boy wonder](#)



Watch our interview with golf sensation Rory McIlroy

[Twelfth parades](#)



Watch the video of this year's parade in Belfast

[Paisley interview](#)



Exclusive: First Minister Ian Paisley talks to Ed Curran

[Portrush Beach Party](#)



Basement Jaxx

whip up a sandstorm in Portrush

In Pictures . . .

News

- [Ulster Fry event](#)
- [The Twelfth](#)
- [Bull Run](#)
- [Award-winners](#)
- [Flooded Ulster](#)
- [Sunny Northern Ireland](#)
- [Devolution Day](#)
- [Assembly Elections](#)
- [Maze tumbles](#)
- [Blair quits](#)
- [Last watchtower](#)
- [Carrick-a-rede](#)

Events

- [Rolling Stones](#)
- [Oxegen 07](#)
- [Beach Party 07](#)
- [Balmoral Show](#)
- [Razorlight](#)
- [St Patrick's Day](#)
- [Mardis Gras](#)
- [Justin Timberlake](#)
- [Brit Awards 07](#)

Sport

- [Windsor win](#)
- [Golf: Rory McIlroy](#)
- [British Open](#)
- [Copa America Final](#)
- [N Ireland v Sweden](#)
- [Six Nations](#)
- [World in Sport](#)

Eye on the World

911: Living amid the dust and debris



Six years on, a health crisis threatens New York

Conquering sectarianism



Can Ulster be the blueprint for Iraq's future?

Forgotten holocaust



The haunting truth of the 20th century's first genocide

Robert Fisk



Even I question the 'truth' about September 11

Our boys deserve better



Families demand a dedicated military hospital

The surge



Patrick Cockburn on the bloody failure

