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## Politics

# Unionist failure to attend meeting prompts angry rebuke from McCord

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

By Chris Thornton

Collusion victim Raymond McCord hit out the DUP and UUP yesterday after the unionist parties didn't turn up for a meeting about his case yesterday.

The SDLP had invited all parties to sit down with Mr McCord at Stormont yesterday to discuss last week's Police Ombudsman report on the murder of his son, Raymond jnr, by UVF informers in 1997.

Sinn Fein and Alliance joined the SDLP at the meeting, but Mr McCord said there were no unionist representatives present to discuss Nuala O'Loan's report.

The meeting took place on the day the Assembly could have discussed the report, but the DUP and UUP blocked a debate.

"I'm tired of having to fight unionist politicians," Mr McCord said yesterday. "All I've heard from them is criticism rather than support.

"They are entitled to criticise Mrs O'Loan. It's a democracy. But they haven't been in touch with me to discuss it.

"It seems to me they run away from issues that embarrass them and embarrass the state.

"I'm not criticising the RUC. There were good policemen who wanted to do their job, but they were prevented. So why have the unionist politicians stayed silent?"


Mr McCord said the DUP has asked him for a separate meeting.


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