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Monday, 11th June 2007

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- **Published Date:** 08 June 2007
- **Location:** Derry

## SF plans a 'complete insult to victims' - Campbell



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DUP MLA Gregory Campbell has said that Martina Anderson's call for the records of former political prisoners to be scrapped is a "complete insult to victims."

The East Derry MP and Assemblyman made the comment after the Sinn Féin representative said that her party would be putting pressure on the British and Irish governments to remove the criminal records of those convicted of paramilitary offences.

However, Gregory Campbell said that the DUP would oppose any attempt to remove criminal records. "I think that would be a complete insult to the victims and I don't know how they could stomach it.

Martina Anderson talks about being on a journey but any convicted terrorist, as she is, will have to make a very long journey indeed to make up for their past deeds and removing criminal records is not the way to do it.

"The journey Martina Anderson made from her prison cell in England back to Londonderry is not as long as the journey terrorists need to make," he said.

Mr. Campbell said that he would listen to any serious ideas aimed at addressing the issue of former prisoners. "If Martina Anderson or any other representative comes back with a sensible way forward then we will look at it. If convicted terrorists want to make restitution with victims families then that is something we can explore.

"Some families may not want to become involved in such a project and that is easy to understand but others may be interested in it.

That is the way we need to look at it instead of making ludicrous suggestions about trying to hide the past by scrapping records. That would be a completely retrograde step," he said.

Last Updated: 08 June 2007

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