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Tuesday, 27th May 2008

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MLA's congrats on 'Hunger'

Former hunger striker and Sinn F  in MLA, Raymond McCartney said he is looking forward to seeing the new film about the 1981 hunger strike in Long Kesh which scooped a major international award at the weekend.

'Hunger,' which tells of the story of the final days of Bobby Sands, was awarded the prestigious Camera D'Or prize for best first-time director at the internationally renowned Cannes film festival.

Mr. McCartney met with the film's director, Steve McQueen, a number of times before filming to discuss what conditions were like in the H-Blocks for prisoners at the time of the hunger strike. The Sinn F  in MLA spent 53 days on hunger strike in 1980.

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"I have not seen the film yet but I have no doubt that it will contribute to the legacy of the hunger strikes. I think it is remarkable that 27 years after the hunger strikes filmmakers and historians are still debating the unfolding legacy of the events in 1981.

"I am looking forward to seeing the film and from the clips I have already seen, I am sure it will depict the brutality, particularly the forced baths, and it will give people some insight into the brutal regime which existed in the H-Blocks from 1967 to 1981," he said.

Mr. McCartney said he was impressed by the director and sent his congratulations on the prize.

The full article contains 237 words and appears in n/a newspaper.

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