

Go to:

**Guardian
Unlimited**

Advertisement

GuardianUnlimited Special reports

Home	UK	Business	Audio	Podcasts	The Wrap	News blog	Talk	Search
The Guardian	World	News guide	Arts	Special reports	Columnists	Technology	Help	Quiz

**Special
report**
Northern
Ireland

DUP may be urged to quit Stormont after border killing

Henry McDonald, Ireland correspondent

Tuesday October 23, 2007

[The Guardian](#)

Search this site

Go to...

[Special report: Northern Ireland](#)[Northern Ireland archived articles](#)**In this section**[DUP may be urged to quit Stormont after border killing](#)[Obituary: Sammy Duddy](#)[UVF ceasefire architect held in murder probe](#)

A brawl in a south Armagh pub several months ago has escalated into a row that could threaten to bring down Northern Ireland's fledgling power-sharing government. The death of Paul Quinn just across the border in the Irish Republic has prompted demands within unionism that Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party pulls out of the Stormont coalition.

The 21-year-old victim's family and senior Irish police officers believe members of the IRA's South Armagh brigade were behind the killing. Mr Quinn's parents maintained yesterday that the local IRA targeted their son because of a fist fight he was involved in several months ago in Crossmaglen.

The Quinns' story is supported by local sources the Guardian spoke to yesterday. They and the family believe Mr Quinn was the victim of a long-standing grudge held by a senior IRA figure in the area. A local republican, who did not want to be named for fear of retaliation, said: "Paul Quinn got the better of this guy in a fight and humiliated him. After that the Provos tried to force him to leave Ireland but he refused. That is why he lost his life."

A dissident unionist, the Independent MEP Jim Allister, said there had to be "absolutely clarity" from the Police

[Welcome to Ulster's gold coast, where wealthy locals may strike it even richer](#)

[Obituary: Dan Keating](#)

[McCartney sisters lose faith in police](#)

[Plan to bridge faith gap in Northern Ireland schools](#)

[Paisley hails 'miracle' of Sinn Féin's police talks](#)

[RUC ignored death threats against murdered lawyer](#)

[Amnesty faces ban in Northern Ireland's Catholic schools](#)

[Trevor Ringland: The power sport has to heal wounds](#)

[Fury as Basra troops appear in pro-UUVF magazine](#)

[IRA informers still living in fear](#)

[Paisley happy with church decision](#)

[Supercar sales zoom in N Ireland](#)

Service of Northern Ireland and the Irish police about who was responsible. "If a gang of 15 IRA men beat a man to death, then it is an IRA murder... the police, without fear of political consequences, must objectively state their assessment," he said. A spokesman for the Democratic Unionists said conclusive IRA involvement "could mean the collapse of the political institutions".

A senior Garda police officer said the 15-strong gang behind the attack on Saturday night had probably not meant to kill Mr Quinn, who was lured to a farmhouse near the village of Oram in Co Monaghan. When he arrived he was set upon by 10 men wielding iron bars and wooden bats. Jim McAllister, a veteran south Armagh republican and former Sinn Féin assembly member, said he was convinced the local IRA was behind the assault.

The future of the power sharing executive hinges on the assessment by police on who was behind the killing. If IRA members were involved, will Sinn Féin call on them to surrender to the police, or call on the south Armagh community to provide information that could lead to convictions? The latter could cost Sinn Féin some of their most loyal personnel in this republican stronghold.

Conor Murphy, Sinn Féin MP for Newry and Armagh, insisted yesterday that no one from the republican movement was involved. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, denounced the killers as criminals. Speaking at the Northern Ireland assembly yesterday, deputy first minister Martin McGuinness described the killing as "dastardly" and "disgusting".

Special report

[More on the Northern Ireland assembly](#)
[Life in Northern Ireland](#)

Political Alerts

[Get the day's top headlines straight to your mobile](#)

Sign up for the Backbencher

[Our free weekly insider's guide to Westminster](#)

What do you think?

[Email comments for publication to politics.
editor@guardianunlimited.co.uk](mailto:editor@guardianunlimited.co.uk)

Useful link

[Northern Ireland assembly](#)

[Printable version](#) | [Send it to a friend](#) | [Save story](#)



[Privacy policy](#) | [Terms & conditions](#) | [Advertising guide](#) | [A-Z index](#) | [About this site](#)
[Join our dating site today](#)

Guardian Unlimited © Guardian News and Media Limited 2007

[Read today's paper](#) · [Jobs](#)

Search:

Guardian Unlimited
Web