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## SF's silence deafening say Quinn supporters

(Diana Rusk, [Irish News](#))

A group set up to support the family of murder victim Paul Quinn has accused Sinn Féin councillors in south Armagh of "deafening silence" about his death.

The Quinn Support Group last night (Friday) called on the four councillors representing the area to speak out about the killing of the 21-year-old man.

A statement criticised Terry Hearty, Colman Burns, Anthony Flynn, and PJ McDonald for not attending the victim's funeral or a public meeting in Cullyhanna this week.

Mr Quinn's family have said they believe that the IRA was responsible for beating him to death at a farm shed in Co Monaghan last month, but Sinn Féin has insisted no republicans were involved and suggested the killing was linked to a criminal dispute.

A statement from the group said the councillors should state their views on the murder.

"The silence of these four councillors on the murder of Paul Quinn is now deafening," the group said.

"Over the last few weeks they have expressed strong opinions on everything from rates relief to the Warm Homes Scheme and social housing, as they should, but on the matter of brutal premeditated murder they have nothing to say."

The group also questioned why none of the councillors attended Mr Quinn's funeral, a memorial Mass, or a public meeting at which his family appealed for information.

"These councillors knocked all our doors at election times, pledging their support for us if we would give our support to them. And we did," the statement said.

"But when payback time came – when a family was faced with just about the most horrific event anyone is ever likely to face – they were nowhere to be seen."

However, one of the councillors named by the group, PJ

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McDonald, insisted their position was "well known and clear" and that he "fully" supported the Quinn family.

"You can only have one opinion on this murder and that is that it is a dastardly act, whatever the reason behind it," he said.

"We hope whoever carried out this murder is caught and anyone with evidence should go to the guards or the police."

Mr McDonald said he did not attend the group's public meeting because a party decision was made to support the family and not the Quinn Support Group.

He added that he did not attend the funeral because members of the group "made it clear" republicans were not welcome.

Meanwhile, SDLP assembly member Dominic Bradley said Newry and Armagh MP and executive minister Conor Murphy should give police and gardai more information about his party's assurances that republicans were not involved.

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