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Quinn group says Laird claim 'partly inaccurate'

(Claire Simpson, [Irish News](#))

A group set up to support the family of south Armagh murder victim Paul Quinn has claimed a statement made in the House of Lords about the killing was "partly inaccurate".

Ulster Unionist peer Lord Laird used the legal protection of parliamentary privilege to name current or former IRA members he claimed were behind the 21-year-old's murder last month.

During a speech on Monday night he claimed Vincent Treanor from Cullyhanna was a south Armagh IRA leader and his son "asked the republican leadership, which included Peter and Patrick Quinn – no relations – who ran most of the illegal fuel-laundering plants in south Armagh for the IRA, to have Quinn executed".

On Wednesday Mr Treanor denied ever having been a member of the IRA or having anything to do with Mr Quinn's death.

In a statement issued through Belfast solicitors Madden and Finucane, he described Lord Laird's speech as "lies" and insisted there had been no argument between his son and Mr Quinn before the murder.

Mr Treanor also said he was aware that graffiti had been daubed in Cullyhanna linking him to the killing and police had advised him of a possible threat to his life.

Mr Quinn was abducted from the village of Cullyhanna and beaten with bars by up to nine men in a farm outbuilding in Co Monaghan on October 20.

In a statement released yesterday (Thursday), the Quinn Support Group, headed by family friend and former Sinn Féin member Jim McAllister, claimed Lord Laird's statement could damage future prosecutions and said his information was only partly right – although it did not specify what was untrue.

"The naming of individuals under parliamentary privilege by Lord Laird is unhelpful, not only because his information is partly inaccurate, but because it could jeopardise prosecutions," the statement read.

"Protection of the presumption of innocence is essential if the

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justice system is to function properly.

"For the same reason we are looking for ways to have graffiti in Cullyhanna removed and replaced by respectful signs calling for truth and justice for the Quinn family."

The group's statement also called for an end to "public fingerprinting" in connection with the murder.

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