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Sections

1. [The Irish Times](#)
 2. [Breaking News](#)
 3. [Sport](#)
 4. [Business](#)
 5. [Technology](#)
 6. [Weather](#)
 7. [In Focus](#)
 8. [Blogs](#)
 9. [Archive Search](#)
 10. [Family Notices](#)
- [Editions](#)

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- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)

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- [Games](#)
- [Dating](#)
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- [Ancestors](#)
- [Irish Times Training](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Reader Offers](#)

 [RSS Feeds](#)



Friday, December 21, 2007

[Previous Day](#)

- [Home](#) |
- [Irish](#) |
- [World](#) |
- [Business](#) |
- [Sports](#)
- | [News Quiz](#)

[Next Day](#) 

Last Updated: 21/12/2007 12:25

Quinns demand SF withdraws claim

The family of a man murdered in Co Monaghan two months ago today insisted Sinn Fein must withdraw claims he was a victim of a dispute between criminals before it will talk to the party.

Briege and Stephen Quinn's son Paul, from Cullyhanna, South Armagh, was lured over the Border and was beaten to death by a gang at a farm nine weeks ago.

He didn't say he'd do it. So I just left it at that. I told him that whenever he wanted to do that sort of thing maybe we might consider speaking to him
Stephen Quinn

The couple said Sinn Féin MP and Stormont minister Conor Murphy had phoned the family home this week but that they had refused to engage with him until he and party colleagues withdrew allegations of criminality around their son.

Earlier this week, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern said publicly they accepted that Paul Quinn was not a criminal.

Mr Quinn said: "I spoke to him [Mr Murphy] for about half a minute or so. He rang our house and was looking to speak to me but I had some conditions before I would speak - to lift the criminality thing in public and all that.

"He didn't say he'd do it. So I just left it at that. I told him that whenever he wanted to do that sort of thing maybe we might consider speaking to him."

After the couple met Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward, it was claimed the British government also shared that view.

The family of Paul Quinn and a number of people in South Armagh, including former Sinn Féin members, have alleged that IRA members killed him.

PA

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TODAY



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TOMORROW



5-8 °C

SATURDAY



2-7 °C

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