

Friday 18 July 2008

## NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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### DUP NEWS

#### Latest News:

## PAISLEY RESPONDS TO PUBLISHING OF OMAGH BOMB INVESTIGATION

DUP Policing Board Member Ian Paisley Jnr MLA has responded to the publishing of the Board's independent Omagh Bomb investigation led by Sir Dan Crompton, David Blakey and Graham Shaw. Commenting on the report Mr. Paisley said,



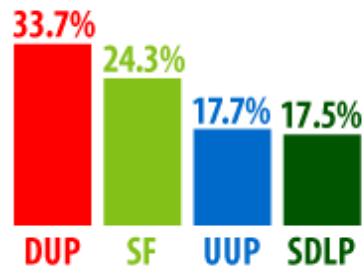
*"As public representatives, we must recognise that the people in Northern Ireland are weary of reports, what they really long to see are convictions.*

*The fact that another report has been published will bring little or no solace to the families of those murdered or injured by the RIRA in Omagh in 1998.*

*The report emphasises the need for those with information about the attack to come forward with evidence. As the report authors suggest, individuals' consciences can develop through time and quite possibly those who once were prepared to retain such information may no longer hold such a view. There is certainly a role for political leadership in encouraging such people to bring their information forward to the*

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*police.*

*It is unfortunate that the comments made by the Lord Chief Justice today were not made a number of weeks ago in advance of the judgement. Such comments could have radically changed the situation. I still hold to the view that the two police officers at the centre of the case will be exonerated.*

*I do not accept the arguments of those who claim this was a whitewash report. The report, commissioned by the Board, serves to investigate a number of important areas in the Omagh case and is an example of the Board holding the PSNI to account.*

*Sinn Fein's reaction to the report demonstrates that the attitude of republicans towards the Courts has changed for the better. Where once republicans failed to recognise the legitimacy of the Crown Courts in Northern Ireland, today they were using the judgements of the Crown as a central pillar of their argument. This is certainly progress. However, it was ironic to see Martina Anderson still addressing the hardline republican gallery when responding to this report."*

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