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BRADLEY PUTS QUINN MOTION TO ASSEMBLY

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SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley has put a motion condemning the murder of Paul Quinn to the Assembly's Business Office for inclusion in the Assembly agenda.

He said: “This brutal murder has been hanging over all of us for nearly three months and it is time that the democratic representatives of the people get an opportunity to make their voices heard loud and clear.

“It is time to move beyond ritual condemnations and take a stand for a lawful society. Unfortunately, this murder investigation has been distorted from the very beginning by political intervention. Statements were made excluding the main group of suspects within hours of the killing. Attacks were made on the character of the victim when the focus should have been on his killers.

“I believe these diversion tactics may have had a negative impact on the investigation. But I hope that a strong cross-party response in the Assembly will send a powerful message that people should come forward and give evidence without regard to what groups may or may not have been involved in the murder. It is also important for the Quinn family that political representatives should clearly dissociate themselves from the very explicit allegations of criminality made against their son.

“We all have to stand up for decency and against the crowbar brigade in order to ensure that no more young men are abducted and battered until every major bone in their body is broken. Although this murder took place in the Republic, it was planned in this jurisdiction and we have the word of the Chief Constable that all the likely suspects come from this jurisdiction. The continued existence of a local murder machine which can sign and execute death warrants is a direct challenge to all our political institutions.”

That this Assembly condemns the brutal murder of Paul Quinn; notes the clarification by the two governments that they do not hold the view that the victim was involved in criminality of any kind; further notes the assessments of Sir Hugh Orde and the International Monitoring Commission that current and former members of the Provisional IRA were involved in this crime; and calls upon everyone to encourage people to come forward and assist the police investigations north and south.

ENDS

15.01-08

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