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## BRADLEY WELCOMES BROAD CONSENSUS ON QUINN MURDER

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SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley said the Quinn family's campaign for justice has taken a great step forward with the emergence of a clear, broad consensus on the fundamentals of Paul Quinn's murder.

Speaking after meeting Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Justice Minister Brian Lenihan along with Briege and Stephen at Leinster House, he said:

"The whole country is really on the same page now that we have had total clarification from the Irish government. The most immediate and important point for the family is that the statements from the Taoiseach and Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern completely remove the slur of criminality which others tried to put on Paul in the hours after his death and then repeated on television. As the Taoiseach said in the Dail, the only criminals involved in this case are those who murdered Paul.

"The Quinns believe that Paul was murdered by people with definite links to the Provisional IRA. While the Irish government is quite properly concerned with the political ramifications of such links, there is nothing in their assessment which excludes that possibility. The family has never believed that the murder or even a beating was authorised at a high or politically significant level. But that does not alter the fact that the attack which resulted in Paul's murder was carried out by people using the paramilitary structure of the Provisional IRA.

"Those such as Conor Murphy who persist in making allegations of criminality against the murder victim will now have to do it on their own account. They can no longer twist or hide behind the words of the Taoiseach. The rest of us can move on to concentrate on achieving justice through the courts and ensuring that the paramilitary killing machine is dismantled so it can take no more lives and administer no more beatings."

ENDS

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