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## News Desk



### Alban Maginness MLA

11th February 2007

#### MAGINNESS: STATE-CENSORED INQUIRY NOT ENOUGH

All the British Government have offered the Finucanes is a Government-controlled inquiry that will be able to tell only as much of the truth as the Government wants, SDLP Justice spokesman Alban Maginness today stated.

Mr Maginness, who attended the relaunch of the Pat Finucane mural this afternoon, said: "Tony Blair often complains of the lack of trust in Northern Ireland. But if he wants to build trust, he should start by keeping his own word.

"He promised that if Judge Cory recommended an inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, there would be one. In a peace process, if you give your word you should keep it. But he has not kept his word – and he has damaged trust.

"Instead of offering a proper independent public inquiry, he offers the Finucanes an inquiry that will be Government controlled and Government censored under new Inquiries legislation. An inquiry that will be able to tell only as much of the truth as the Government wants – and no more.

"Given that this is the same Government that has for so long denied collusion, how could the Finucanes ever accept this?

"Rather than have the truth about collusion leach out slowly over the coming years, the Government should be brave enough to face it head on. That starts with setting up an proper independent international Finucane inquiry.

"In any other country there would be an outcry that agents murdered again and again and were paid for it - be it Mark Haddock or be it Brian Nelson. In any other country, the system would be shook to its foundations by such revelations. But when it happens in the North, the British Government prefers to remain silent. But why should lives count for less here? And why should victims have lesser rights?"

**ENDS**

11/02/07