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## MAGINNESS: OMAGH FAMILIES DESERVE TRUTH

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Speaking before an Assembly debate calling for the establishment of a cross border process to investigate intelligence services information prior to the Omagh bomb, SDLP Justice Spokesperson Alban Maginness MLA stated:

"The Omagh bomb was a dreadful atrocity which epitomised the brutality and futility of all terrorism. We must never forget the horror and the hurt, and honour the memory of all those who were robbed of their lives and their loves on that day.

"We must all acknowledge the grief and grievance of families who suffered the injustice of such carnage but have not seen the promises of justice fulfilled which were made to them ten years ago.

At the time of the Omagh bomb the British and Irish Governments said that no stone would be left unturned in the search for the killers. Ten years on, there has been nothing but a series of false dawns, disappointments and shocking failures. The families deserve more than this.

The recent announcement by the British Government that a review will be held into intercepted intelligence material does not go far enough. A secret review that might lead to no public outcome other than bland claims that the intelligence failure would have made no material difference to events is not what is needed. The bereaved and the injured need a response that is more telling than that. We can not afford the cynicism, frustration and despair that would follow if people thought that all they were getting at the end of this review was a carefully honed and ultimately hollow judgement.

That is why cross border public inquiry would be the fairest and best vehicle for the Omagh families in their search for answers, truth, and justice. The SDLP remains fully supportive of them in that search."

ENDS

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