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MAGINNESS : BROWN SHOULD HOLD PROPER INQUIRY INTO FINUCANE MURDER

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SDLP Justice Spokesperson Alban Maginness said incoming British Prime Minister Gordon Brown should draw a line under the shady political decisions of the past and announce a fully independent inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane.

Commenting on the decision of the prosecution service that no soldiers or policemen will be charged in connection with the murder, he said: “This decision is frankly and literally outrageous – it is the mother of all cover-ups. The conclusions of the Stevens investigation are no longer seriously disputed: that members of the security forces were intimately involved in this brutal killing. To state that there is no crime called collusion on the statute books is an utter irrelevance. There is a crime called murder, and it is a crime to procure or facilitate a murder in any way. That is what collusion does.

“This is a bad day for justice. People wanted to see due process in such an important case. Although we know evidence was systematically tampered with, the colluders should have been brought before the courts and the available evidence should have laid out for all to see. Now we are faced with a binding, unchallengeable decision by the DPP.

“There is still one way that justice can be served. Gordon Brown is a man of integrity, and he has an opportunity to draw a line under the dodgy political decisions of the recent past. Instead of standing over the Blair decision to cripple the public inquiry system, Brown could live up to the pledges made at Weston Park and hold a proper, thorough, fully independent public inquiry into the Finucane killing. As a matter of justice and principle he should do this.”

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