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## O'LOAN CONDEMNS PROPOSED MAIREAD FARRELL AND SAS EVENTS AT STORMONT

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SDLP MLA Declan O'Loan has condemned Sinn Fein for requesting a commemoration event for Mairead Farrell at the Long Gallery in Stormont, and the DUP for proposing an event commemorating the SAS in retaliation. He said that the proposals are very worrying for the future of the Assembly.

He said “These proposals were not necessary. The Sinn Fein proposal was brought forward in the full knowledge that it would cause grievous offence. There has to be respect for every person who has died and for any family who have lost a relative. But we are entitled to say that the circumstances of that person’s death make a difference to the type of public recognition that is appropriate.”

“The same criticism applies to the DUP event for the SAS. The role of the SAS is highly controversial. Much has been revealed of their clandestine activity which has broken human rights standards. The DUP knew that such a proposal would be deeply offensive to nationalist people and not only them.”

“I am beginning to be very worried about the future of the Assembly. A house when it is being built needs support. If those who should be building it up instead start to pull it down, it will not last.”

ENDS

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