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Finucane decision latest stage in policy of concealment

Published: 24 April, 2008

Sinn Féin Assembly member Alex Maskey today accused the British Government of continuing with their policy of concealment and cover-up in relation to the murder of Pat Finucane. Mr Maskey's comments come after it was revealed that the NIO took the secret decision not to proceed with the inquiry into Pat Finucane murder.

Mr Maskey said:

"In the years since the murder of Pat Finucane the British government have consistently frustrated every effort to get to the truth. They have deliberately sought to cover up the role of British State Agencies in this murder.

"At Weston Park in July 2001 the British Government finally committed to holding an inquiry into this murder. Since then they have attempted to use the Inquiries Act to limit the scope and nature of this inquiry. This is clearly unacceptable to the Finucane family.

"It has now emerged that the former British Secretary of State Peter Hain took the decision not to proceed with the Finucane Inquiry. The Finucane family were not told of this decision. Given the secrecy surrounding this turn of events and the actions of the British government over the years since the murder it is a logical conclusion to reach that the Hain decision is simply the latest stage in the policy of concealment and cover-up which has marked the British approach to date.

"Sinn Féin will continue to support the Finucane family and other families who have been the victims of British State terror in their pursuit of the truth." ENDS

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