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BRADLEY WELCOMES REAVEY RULING IN STRASBOURG

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SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley welcomed the finding of the European Courts in Strasbourg that the murder of the Reavey brothers in 1976 was not properly investigated by the RUC.

He said: “This finding was absolutely inevitable once the case came before a court beyond the influence of the British government and all the people and shadowy organisations it has protected down through the years. The facts about the Glennane gang have been known for a long time, as is the record of the RUC in investigating such crimes. In case after case, no proper investigation was made, witnesses were not interviewed, evidence was not collected or was lost in the barracks, records suddenly went missing. One of the few honest Englishmen to get involved in this whole sordid mess, Sir John Stevens, came to the stark conclusion that nationalists could not rely on the RUC for the protection which is an essential ingredient of any civilised society. We, of course, already knew that.

“This is not the end of the Reavey case. Even at this late stage the British government must face up to its responsibilities. The Historical Enquiries Team should complete its investigation and if necessary a full public inquiry must be held, not a sham one under the current rigged rules.

“It is also well past time that unionist politicians came out of their state of denial on collusion. The First Minister must withdraw the infamous false allegation he made against Eugene Reavey under parliamentary privilege and apologise to the surviving Reavey family. The Director of Public Prosecutions should also meet with all the families involved and explain the conduct of court proceedings in relation to the attack on the Rock Bar in Keady (Granemore) and the dropping of charges in a number of cases. ”

ENDS

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