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Head Office

121 Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 1SH

Phone

028 90 247700

Fax

028 90 236699

E-mail

sdlp@indigo.ie

News Desk



Mark Durkan MP MLA

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DURKAN: STATE FUNDED SERIAL MURDER

Nuala O'Loan's report reveals not just collusion but state funded serial murder, SDLP Leader Mark Durkan has stated.

Calling on Ronnie Flanagan to resign as head of the Inspectorate of Constabulary, Mr Durkan stated:

"Today's report proves that collusion was no myth. It happened - and so often that it could only have been a policy. How else could Mark Haddock - and so many of his informer associates - get away with murder again and again?"

"Mark Haddock was paid at least £79,840 as an informer. So what we are dealing with is state funded serial murder with at least ten and possibly twenty dead. The victims included Catholics, Protestants and even a minister of religion.

"When Nuala O'Loan's investigators went to look into this, they encountered a wall of silence from many retired RUC officers. Those retired officers should be stripped of their pensions - and prosecuted where they have obstructed justice or been involved in murder.

"While most of this was happening, Ronnie Flanagan was Chief Constable. He met with the Police Ombudsman's investigation but was 'unable to assist' her investigation. So either he was not in control of a dysfunctional organisation - or he knew full well but kept the truth hidden. In either event, he should not be heading up the Inspectorate of Constabulary. He should resign.

"Further, those who were responsible must face the law. Wherever there is proof, prosecution files must not be allowed to sit on the DPP's desk to gather dust like those of the Stevens investigation have. And there must be no dirty deal - like the one done between the British Government and Sinn Fein on On the Runs - to cover up the past. Today I have tabled questions to the Attorney General on this issue.

"This collusion did not come to light by accident. It was uncovered because the Police Ombudsman's office has the powers that it needs to get to the truth. But at the end of this year primacy will pass to MI5 - who will not be properly accountable to anybody. So if they were to run a serial killer as an informer, we might never know. That is just one reason why the SDLP is determined not to let Tony Blair away with his plans to expand MI5's role in the North."

ENDS

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