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## **Statement by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Ray Burke, T.D. on the Murder of Mr Thomas Oliver by the Provisional IRA**

Mr Ray Burke, T.D., the Minister for Justice, today condemned in the strongest possible terms the murder at the weekend of Mr Thomas Oliver by the Provisional I.R.A. This act, which cut off a man's life in his prime and deprived a young family of their father, is another tragic example of the suffering which the Provisional I.R.A. impose on the people of this island. This is yet another example of the P.I.R.A. appointing themselves as judge, jury and executioner.

The Government are aware of and fully share the sense of revulsion the killing has provoked among the community. The intention of the killers seems to have been to try to intimidate people from helping the Gardai in the discharge of their duty of upholding the law of the land.

We are indeed fortunate in this country to have a police force that enjoys the confidence and support of the community it serves. This relationship of trust between the Gardai and the community is crucial to the well being of the society we all live in. The murder of Mr. Oliver was a cynical

and lawless attempt to subvert that healthy relationship between the Gardai and the community they serve. The Government is determined to ensure that the P.I.R.A. will not succeed in this attempt and is fully confident that the community as a whole likewise will not allow it to succeed.

The killing of Mr. Oliver was a particularly cold blooded and callous murder. It calls for a response from us all. The best and most meaningful way in which we can show our revulsion at what has happened is to do everything in our power to see that the perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with the law. I would therefore appeal to anybody who can help the Gardai with their investigation into this horrific murder to give every assistance they can. The Gardai are devoting all their available resources to this task.

Ends

23 July 1991