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**News**

**SF 'must hand over McCartney dossier'**

Sunday, February 04, 2007

By Alan Murray

Sinn Fein has been challenged to give the PSNI the dossier the IRA compiled on the Robert McCartney murder to demonstrate its support for policing.

The DUP's Euro MP, Jim Allister, said handing over the file would serve as a clear demonstration that Sinn Fein genuinely intended to assist the police with their inquiries into the gruesome pub killing.

Mr Allister said that, in the aftermath of the McCartney murder, the IRA issued statements saying it had conducted inquiries about the involvement of its members and had expelled three 'volunteers'.

He said: "In February 2005, the IRA issued statements in which it confirmed it had conducted inquiries into the McCartney murder and had interviewed witnesses who had not come forward to the police.

"I am saying that those files could be very helpful to PSNI detectives investigating the murder and Gerry Adams should pass them to the chief constable."

In a statement at the time, the IRA leadership said that "along with the leadership of the Belfast command" it had initiated disciplinary proceedings through courts martial.

It said that the proceedings were only directed against IRA volunteers and had concluded in "the dismissal of three volunteers, two of whom were high-ranking volunteers".

The IRA statement was issued after Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met the family of the 33 year-old father-of-two from Belfast's Short Strand district.

SDLP deputy leader Alasdair McDonnell claimed that up to 12 IRA members were involved directly in the murder, or in the destruction of forensic evidence at Magennis's bar, after the killing.

A number of members of Sinn Fein who were in the bar also witnessed the altercation that led to the murder, but they provided no evidence to detectives.

The IRA said then that no one should hinder the McCartney family "in their search for truth and justice".

Added Mr Allister: "Now that the only remaining impediment to supporting the McCartney family and turning in the killers has supposedly been removed, the IRA and Sinn Fein could demonstrate clearly that they mean what they said last Sunday [at the ard fheis].

"Gerry Adams has uttered words since then suggesting that Sinn Fein will support the PSNI in 'civic policing', as he calls it, so lets see the IRA investigation file into the McCartney murder handed over."

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