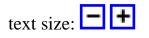
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Skip to content



Skip to content....

- <u>links</u>
- <u>contact me</u>
- about your MEP
- documents
- press releases & speeches

Sinn Fein sustained in government by "sceptics"

11 July 2008

Speaking at the annual 11th Night bonfire at Ladyhill in South Antrim, Jim Allister MEP, reflecting on a year of DUP/Sinn Fein government, said Martin McGuinness was being sustained as joint First Minister in Ulster not just by unionist supporters of joint rule with IRA/Sinn Fein, but, tragically, by some MLAs who privately claimed to be unhappy and opposed to Sinn Fein rule.

Mr Allister said, "As we reflect on three convicted terrorists still in our government and Sinn Fein able to deliver its anti-British agenda by direct deals with Westminster, one of the saddest realities is that without some MLAs propping up a regime they privately claim to oppose, it would neither have come into existence, nor survived.

The murder of Paul Quinn by South Armagh IRA was the perfect opportunity upon which to take a stand and deliver promises made, but even those, like Lord Morrow, who told the Assembly everyone knew the IRA murdered Quinn, turned a blind eye, accepting SF can still be in government while IRA members still murder. Shame on them!

Some say government with Sinn Fein turns their stomach, but ask them to pull out the props that keep Sinn Fein in government, and they go weak at the knees.

Those who in their heart know it is wrong to have McGuinness as joint First Minister and unrepentant terrorists in other key posts, have the most to answer in explaining why, nonetheless, day and daily they prop up this regime. I too could have taken the easy option of claiming I was opposed, while all the time propping it up, but where is the integrity and principle in that?"

NI politics

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Jim Allister



Link to Brussels briefing Archive

Current

- New Brussels Briefing out now
- <u>TUV launches summer offensive</u>
- Sinn Fein sustained in government by "sceptics"
- Allister speaks in Strasbourg on fishing package

Topics

- 2004 EU election
- <u>Agriculture and Environment</u>
- <u>Archive</u>
- Elections
- EU Constitution
- EU Parliament
- Fishing
- <u>General</u>
- <u>NI politics</u>
- Peace Funding
- <u>Terrorism</u>

Archive

- <u>July 2008</u>
- <u>June 2008</u>

Jim Allister

- <u>May 2008</u>
- <u>April 2008</u>
- <u>March 2008</u>
- February 2008
- <u>January 2008</u>
- <u>December 2007</u>
- November 2007
- <u>October 2007</u>
- September 2007
- <u>August 2007</u>
- <u>July 2007</u>
- <u>June 2007</u>
- <u>May 2007</u>
- <u>April 2007</u>
- <u>March 2007</u>
- February 2007
- January 2007
- December 2006
- November 2006
- <u>October 2006</u>
- September 2006
- <u>August 2006</u>
- <u>July 2006</u>
- <u>June 2006</u>
- <u>May 2006</u>
- <u>April 2006</u>
- <u>March 2006</u>
- February 2006
- <u>January 2006</u>
- <u>December 2005</u>
- November 2005
- <u>October 2005</u>
- September 2005
- <u>August 2005</u>
- <u>July 2005</u>
- <u>June 2005</u>
- <u>May 2005</u>
- <u>April 2005</u>

Jim Allister

- <u>March 2005</u>
- February 2005
- <u>January 2005</u>
- December 2004
- November 2004
- <u>October 2004</u>
- <u>September 2004</u>
- <u>August 2004</u>
- <u>July 2004</u>
- <u>June 2004</u>
- <u>May 2004</u>
- <u>April 2004</u>
- <u>March 2004</u>
- <u>Top</u>
- <u>Home</u>
- <u>Accessibility</u>