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DURKAN: MASSEREENE MURDERS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DESTABILISE PEACE OR POLICING

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SDLP Leader and Foyle MP Mark Durkan MLA has said those responsible for Saturday night's attack on Massereene barracks in Antrim which left two soldiers dead must not be allowed to shake political stability or subvert the new beginning to policing.

Speaking after a meeting with Gordon Brown, Mr Durkan said:

"On behalf of the SDLP I wish to send my sincerest condolences to the families of the two soldiers murdered on Saturday night.

"In addition we are very much conscious of those who were injured, one of which was a young Polish man. We are aware of the impact this will have on the Polish community who have made such a positive contribution to life here.

"Quite rightly there is much shock across the country and further a field following the events of the weekend. There is also a distinct feeling of anger which must be expressed in a constructive and united manner.

"In this day and age the presence of Massereene barracks is not an affront to Irish people but Saturday night's murderous assault most certainly was.

"Those responsible are steeped in the mindset and means of the past; they must not be allowed to take us back there.

"They must not be allowed to achieve their endgame which is to subvert democratic aims and subvert the new beginning to policing.

"The message we must send out to those who carried out this attack is while they were able to cut down two young men they cannot cut down political stability and the peace it reinforces. Moreover while they have gravely wounded four other men they cannot injure the integrity of the new beginning to policing.

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"I would reinforce the appeal that anyone who has any information on the events of Saturday night it is their abounding duty as a citizen, as an Irish citizen to pass it on to the police."



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