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Statement 'meaningless', says murdered postman's mum

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“ It will never bring Daniel back ”

Monday, November 12, 2007

By Jonathan McCambridge

The mother of a UDA murder victim has dismissed the announcement that the terror group is standing down part of its organisation as "meaningless words".

Twenty-year-old postman Daniel McColgan was shot dead by loyalist gunmen as he arrived for work at a sorting office on the outskirts of Belfast five years ago. Nobody has ever been convicted of his murder.

His mother Marie told the Belfast Telegraph that she refused to believe that the UFF has gone out of business, despite the UDA's Remembrance Day statement.

Marie said: "I don't believe and I don't trust anything that those people have to say. It is all just meaningless words and we have heard it all before."

"I don't know how anyone can have any faith in this statement or anything the UDA has to say. No matter what they say it will never bring Daniel back."

Marie McColgan said that she would not believe the UDA was genuine unless it handed over the men who murdered her son.

"The only thing I want to hear from them is that they are handing over Danny's killers. Perhaps they should think about some of the victims."

"You know that in the background the same people will be doing all of the same old stuff on the streets."

However, there was a broad welcome for the UDA statement from political leaders.

The Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said: "The commitments to stand-down the UFF in its entirety and to put all weaponry

beyond use are to be welcomed. The condemnation of crime and criminality is also important, including the recognition of the damage done to loyalist communities by those engaged in drug-dealing."

"This statement is significant and hopefully signals a further step towards the ending of all paramilitarism in Northern Ireland."

Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward welcomed the UDA statement as "very important" - but said it needed to lead on to decommissioning of the paramilitary group's weapons.

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