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MAGINNESS WELCOMES OMBUDSMAN REPORT ON NELSON

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SDLP Justice Spokesperson Alban Maginness welcomed the findings of the Police Ombudsman on the RUC investigation into threats against solicitor Rosemary Nelson before her murder in 1999.

He said: "This report is a significant step on the path to justice for the Nelson family. But above all it is another indictment of policing practices by the RUC under Ronnie Flanagan, and it underlines the importance of the police reform the SDLP has been involved in since his time.

"Her report is quite specific: the RUC did not properly investigate or even acknowledge the threats, including those allegedly made by its own officers. It did not even acknowledge a threat assessment made by its own Special Branch. It is important to note that where the Ombudsman could not uphold certain complaints, this does not in any way suggest that the policing was perfect. It means that no particular individual could not be held responsible. That is why the Nelson Inquiry, which resumes shortly, is so important. We need it to reveal the whole truth and it should not be delayed by the state or by lawyers.

"I hope that this report will bring comfort to the Nelson family and be of material assistance to the work of the inquiry. It is a reminder of why the PSNI needs full cross-party support and adequate government funding to continue the valuable work it is engaged in. It underlines the importance of truth recovery on all sides."

ENDS

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