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## Murphy welcomes Strasbourg collusion ruling on South Armagh murders

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Sinn Féin Newry Armagh MP Conor Murphy has welcomed the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that today ruled that the collusion between the RUC and UDR and loyalists in the murders of eight men, including John, Brian and Anthony Reavey and Joseph, Barry and Declan O` Dowd in South Armagh in the 1970s had not properly been investigated.

Mr Murphy said:

"There is clear evidence of collusion in murders of John, Brian and Anthony Reavey and Joseph, Barry and Declan O` Dowd, Colm McCartney and Trevor Brecknell and wounding of Michael McGrath in South Armagh in 1975 and 76.

"This was also supported by former RUC officer John Weir in 1999 who pinpointed the base of operations used by the Loyalist gang responsible for these murders that was owned by another RUC officer.

"This unanimous ruling today highlights the lack of independence within the RUC investigation into the allegations of collusion but there are many other unanswered questions about the relationship between this Loyalist gang and members of the RUC and UDR.

"Sinn Féin will continue to support the families bereaved as a result of the British State sponsored policy of collusion between the British Army, UDR and RUC and Loyalist paramilitaries.

"The lid must be lifted on the whole issue of collusion. The families of all those killed down the years, not just in South Armagh but all of the victims of British State collusion deserve the truth about their loved ones." ENDS

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