

## PRESS RELEASE: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### THE DARKEST CORNER OF POLICE/PRESS RELATIONS?

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 4 pm Tom Watson MP (West Bromwich East) will address an adjournment debate in Westminster Hall on "The death of Daniel Morgan". He will outline the background to the private investigator's murder in 1987 and give details of the five failed murder investigations, many of which have never been made public before.

The debate has been called in support of representations by the Morgan family to the Home Secretary seeking a judicial inquiry into the police's handling of the murder. The family's call for a judicial inquiry was supported unanimously by the Metropolitan Police Authority on 31 March 2011, after the then Acting Commissioner Tim Godwin had personally apologised to the Morgan family and publicly acknowledged that there had been a "*repeated failure by the MPS over many years following Daniel's murder to accept that corruption had played such a significant part in failing to bring those responsible to justice*". Mr Godwin also stated to the family that: "*We recognise that we have to take responsibility for the consequences of the repeated failure of the MPS over the years to confront the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice.*"

The family's call for a judicial inquiry follows the collapse on 11 March 2011 of a prosecution of five men (including a former Met police officer) at the Old Bailey as a result of police mishandling of supergrass witnesses. The family were informed at that time by the Crown Prosecution Service and the Metropolitan Police Service that there is no prospect of any further attempt at investigation or prosecution.

For her part, the Home Secretary Theresa May has yet to reach any final decision in response to the family's call for a judicial inquiry. A letter dated 22 December 2011 from Bhatt Murphy, the family's solicitors seeking clarification of her position remains unanswered over two months later.

Daniel Morgan's brother Alastair said today:

*"The seeds of the hacking scandal that is unravelling at the Leveson Inquiry were planted a quarter of a century ago in a car park in south-east London where my brother was murdered. This was the beginning of a deeply corrupt relationship between the Metropolitan Police and News of the World journalists. After his murder, Daniel's private detective agency Southern Investigations became the hub of industrial-scale police and press corruption. We want to know how deeply this interfered with the five murder investigations and the political response to allegations of police involvement in the murder".*

For further information please contact Mr Raju Bhatt of Bhatt Murphy on [r.bhatt@bhattmurphy.co.uk](mailto:r.bhatt@bhattmurphy.co.uk)

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