

OUTRAGE AT PROPOSAL TO RELEASE KILLERS

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The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors calls on the Government to issue a statement immediately clarifying the position of the persons who are in prison for the manslaughter of Detective Garda Jerry McCabe.

“We are outraged that we have to learn from media reports that some sort of a ‘deal’ appears to have been done and that the killers of Jerry McCabe are to qualify for early release under the Good Friday Agreement,” said AGSI President Joe Dirwan. “The way this has been handled is totally unfair and distressing to the members of Mr McCabe’s family and to all gardai.”

If the media reports were true then AGSI and all garda representative bodies would be furious, continued Mr Dirwan. “Garda morale and confidence in the Government will be seriously damaged and this will seriously undermine our efforts to enforce law and order in this State.” It was outrageous that people like the McCabe family and the gardai were being used as ‘bargaining chips’, he said.

“The silence to date of the Government is even more distressing. We have in the past had several unqualified statements from the previous Minister for Justice John O’Donoghue, the present Minister Michael McDowell and even from An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, that these prisoners would not qualify for release under the Good Friday Agreement.”

The association is writing to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform enquiring precisely what the position is.