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## Paisley top of blame food chain says victim's son

By Bimpe Fatogun

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IN THE hierarchy of blame for the bloody deeds of the Troubles First Minister Ian Paisley ranks higher than "some average Joe who planted a bomb", the son of a UVF victim has said.

Psychology lecturer Jude Whyte was voicing his support for an amnesty for those who still have not been brought to justice for killings carried out during the 30-year conflict.

His mother Margaret Whyte was killed in a 1984 loyalist bomb attack on her family's University Street home.

"If I knew the person who was responsible I wouldn't do anything about it, I wouldn't contact the police or any

"I think it is important to draw a line under what happened.

"I think there should be an amnesty and a truth commission.

"There is nothing to be gained from further legal or court proceedings."

Mr Whyte was incensed after he was cut off while making a point about the first minister during BBC radio's Good Morning Ulster yesterday.

"They rang me and asked me to make a comment, I wouldn't have made a comment otherwise," he said.

"Then, as I was speaking about Ian Paisley, they cut me off. There was no explanation.

"There was no reason to cut me off. I have had lots of messages about it this morning from people listening."

Mr Whyte said it was easy but not fair to attribute blame to those

who carried out the physical acts of violence.

"It is hypocrisy to blame some average Joe that went and planted a bomb," he said.

"To me he is so far down the food chain...

"I remember as a student being in Bucknahill in Ballymena in 1981 and seeing Ian Paisley standing in a field speaking surrounded by 500 men holding legally-held arms.

"I remember him standing on the Springfield Road with Reg Empey and said (about a disputed march) 'A fire has been lit that may never be extinguished'."

The recent release of 1977 Cabinet papers revealed discussions, that Ian Paisley was "associated with paramilitaries" and that he might be arrested for conspiracy, took place among senior Stormont officials.

The remarks about Mr Paisley, were made during a meeting between the senior NIO and Stormont civil servants during the United Ulster Action Council strike of May 1977.

The minutes said: "It was pointed out, however, that the person responsible [Mr Paisley] was associated with and had the support of the Protestant paramilitaries and it was queried whether he ought not to be held for conspiracy."

The hope was expressed that when the strike ended there would be no question of a formula being devised "to allow Mr Paisley off the hook".

Mr Whyte has called for Robin Eames and Denis Bradley to move swiftly on a decision on how to deal with the legacy of the Troubles.

"They need to either hold their hands up and say they have found no common ground or set up a truth commission with very clear limits on length and what it is looking at," Mr Whyte said.

"We don't want another long drawn out inquiry like Bloody Sunday."