

DR PHILIP MCGARRY

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Dr. Philip McGarry has said that the murder of a man in North Belfast and the shooting incident in Graymoot show how serious are the challenges facing us in the New Year. He has called upon other parties to support Lord Alderdice's call to the Secretary of State for an urgent resumption of the Talks to discuss the deteriorating situation.

"I call upon any person with any information about these incidents to help the police to bring the gunmen to justice.

Three years after the republican and loyalist ceasefires N Ireland remains a deeply divided and fearful society. In 1995 we must do much more to tackle the fundamental divisions which underpin continued violence and sectarianism.

On Tuesday Lord Alderdice called for the Talks to reconvene to discuss the deteriorating situation. I repeat his call today in view of last night's terrible events. While gunmen stalk the streets politicians have a duty to try and do something constructive. The Talks should reconvene next week, rather than being delayed until January 12."