

Local News

'I Still Check Martin's Bedroom Every Day'

By Richard Sherriff

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Yellow balloons were launched into the bright Belfast sky yesterday in a symbolic act to bring home missing Holywood man Martin Kelly.

Four weeks since his disappearance on New Year's Day, the 21-yearold's mother, Karen, attached a deeply personal note expressing her love and concern for her son.

Echoing the saying she used putting her children to bed, it read: "I love you from the tips of my hair to the tops of my toes. I love you."

Attended by several hundred friends and wellwishers, including the father and sisters of missing Bangor woman Lisa Dorrian, the emotional event took place outside the bar where Martin had been drinking with friends on the night he went missing.

Yesterday, as people walked the route he might have taken home, teams of volunteers searched nearby parkland and other areas.

Police conducted a search in the docks area but there was criticism by Martin's mother over the effort put into the case and the support offered to the family in the days since the disappearance.

Flanked by daughters Fiona and Suzanne, Martin's mother said the family was angry.

"I don't want this situation ever to happen to another family. A missing person is a very, very loved member of a family and that family really should be treated with a bit more compassion.

"We were not treated with that compassion and that is why we had to come out today."

Praising those attending the event, she said it had given them strength to keep going.

