

SAOIRSE



Irish Freedom

The Voice of the Republican Movement

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The real face of British rule

THE arrest by British Forces of the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton and Vice-President Fergal Moore in Lurgan, Co Armagh on July 6 on a charge of participation in a protest march is clearly part of a campaign to silence Republican Sinn Féin by both the British and 26-County States.

This campaign has seen the banning of marches including the Easter 1916 parades in Lurgan and Armagh. In May Republican Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Cáit Trainor (Armagh), along with a member of the Thomas Harte Cumann in Lurgan, Seán Maloney, were arrested and charged in connection with a political interview given to Channel Four News in September 2010.

During the protests in Dublin against the visit by the Queen of England in May last the Secretary of Dublin Comhairle Ceantair Diarmuid Mac Dougláis and another member of Republican Sinn Féin were arrested solely for their participation in the protests.

On June 30 the home of the newly-appointed National Publicity Officer of Republican Sinn Féin Geraldine McNamara in Tipperary was raided by the 26-County Special Branch who refused to let her read the search warrant and took her mobile phone. Again this was intended to silence and intimidate Republican Sinn Féin members and supporters.

On July 8 Cáit Trainor was once again arrested at



prisoners in Maghaberry Prison forcing them to embark on yet another dirty protest, while Republican veterans such as Martin Corey and the gravely-ill Brendan Lillis are being interned without trial. The attitude adopted by the RUC/PSNI in relation to the riots caused by the loyalist/Orange marches in July in Belfast and other parts of the Six Counties also tell us that nothing has changed.

in which Ronan Kerr was killed. A case of 'round up the usual suspects'. All of this paints a picture of an abnormal and anti-democratic statelet and exposes the true face of British Rule in Ireland as experienced by the nationalist people of the Six Counties.

In his blog *thesinglame* Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton wrote: "Its obvious Republican Sinn Féin has something to say which Westminster, Stormont and Leinster House don't want to hear or more importantly don't want the rest of the

Apologies are issued to loyalists for the removal of a Union Flag which led to riots in Ballyclare, Co



• **Lurgan RUC barracks, where Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton and Vice-President Fergal Moore were held overnight on July 6-7.**

her home in Armagh and charged with breaking her bail conditions, claiming she attended the picket on Lurgan RUC station on the night of Des Dalton's arrest. She was taken straight to Craigavon courthouse and new bail restrictions placed on her.

The opposition of the RUC/PSNI and the Public Prosecution Services (PPS) to bail for both Des Dalton and Fergal Moore was clearly an attempt to intern both by remand. Coupled with this the Stormont regime has reneged on the August 2010 Agreement with the Republican

Antrim. When loyalists attacked nationalist homes in Belfast's Short Strand the RUC/PSNI arrested two nationalists and within days the Stormont First Minister was negotiating with the UVF who carried out the attacks.

In the last week in July five nationalists were arrested in a high profile swoop which the British colonial police trumpeted as being linked to the death of RUC/PSNI man Ronan Kerr in April.

All were released within two days without charge. One of the men was in the US at the time of the attack

Irish people to hear. What we have to say is simple. British Rule in Ireland and its various institutions are an obstacle to a New Ireland and a lasting settlement. Our message has roots deep in the psyche of the Irish people.

"It is the same message delivered by Wolfe Tone, Emmet, Davis, Lalor, Pearse, Connolly, Mellows and Sands. In short we want:

"To break the connection with England the never failing source of all our political evils." You can lock up the messenger but not the message."

30th ANNIVERSARY OF H-BLOCK HUNGER STRIKE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
NATIONAL MONUMENT,
CORK CITY
(CORNER OF GRAND
PARADE & SOUTH
MALL)



Wreath-laying
ceremony, 1pm
Performance of songs
of the Hunger Strikes;
Readings of the Poetry of the Hunger
Strikers.

Organised by Republican Sinn Féin
Speaker: Des Dalton
All Welcome.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 3pm
REPUBLICAN GARDEN OF
REMEMBRANCE
OLD JAIL, HILL STREET
WEXFORD TOWN

Sponsored 24-hour fast beginning at 3pm
on Friday, August 19 in aid of CABHAIR,
Republican Prisoners Dependents.
POW picket at the Bullring prior to the
Commemoration from 1.30pm-2.30pm on
Saturday, August 20
Speaker: Matt Conway

Arrests political attacks on Republican Sinn Féin

IN A statement on July 8, the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann Republican Sinn Féin Newry expressed outrage at the arrests on July 7 of President, Des Dalton, Vice-President Fergal Moore and on July 8 of Ard-Chomhairle member Cáit Trainor.

"Presumably this is what is meant by 'normal policing' on the part of the RUC/PSNI British political police.

"The ludicrous charges against our leading members stem mainly from the determination of our organisation to oppose British rule in Ireland and to defend the rights of Republican POWs to political status while held by the British government. This right

was sold out by the Provos as part of the Stormont betrayal. In a bizarre irony, the charge against Des Dalton and Fergal Moore results from their participation in a parade calling for the release of Martin Corey - himself held without charge.

"How many others we wonder, have been charged with "arranging and taking part in an 'illegal parade'?"

Cáit Trainor, meanwhile,

has been rearrested for 'breach of bail conditions', and had even more draconian bail conditions imposed. It is understood that she is still graciously permitted to stay alive and breathe - for the moment!

"Does anyone seriously believe that these arrests are anything other than political attacks on true Republicans? They are an attempt to decapitate the leadership of the one organisation they fear, Republican Sinn Féin.

"For our part, we serve notice that we will not be intimidated by these tactics. Republican Sinn Féin will continue to demonstrate in

support of the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons, and to expose the reality of British rule in the occupied Six Counties, as well as the servile antics of their puppets of the Adams-McGuinness clique.

"In Bundoran on August 27 we will again remember the valiant sacrifice of the heroic 1981 Hunger Strikers, and support their inheritors today in Maghaberry.

"We invite all faithful Republicans and all genuinely opposed to British Rule to join us there", the statement from the PRO concluded."

More hardship for pensioners

THE PRO of Republican Sinn Féin Geraldine McNamara said on July 13, 2011 that the changes to the social welfare packages scheme will cause further poverty for pensioners and it is an absolute disgrace to see people suffering further in their older years when they should have security in their pensions.

"From September 2011 the free electricity allowance is to be reduced from 400 units every two months to 300 units every two months. This allowance reduction will also affect those on a gas allowance.

"This is going to cost the pensioner an extra €16 over a

two month billing period. When a person is already on a low income this is a great burden to find the extra money and many will be afraid over the winter to turn on electric heating appliances. This could lead to hypothermia or death.

"No society should do this

to their vulnerable older and disabled people Geraldine said.

"The free telephone line rental allowance has also been reduced from €25.91 to €22.22 effective from September 2011. The monthly call allowance has been reduced from €2.47 to €1.50 and the handset rental will no longer be covered under the allowance.

"For those pensioners who live in towns the smokeless fuel allowance is going to be abolished from September which benefited the elderly at the weekly rate of €3.90."

Geraldine said "our society should be protesting on the streets and supporting the pensioners against these draconian measures" the continued mismanagement of our finances by the present administration in Leinster House has to be highlighted and our older population should be cared for properly by the state.

"We are sick of bank bailouts and the most vulnerable having to pay for their criminal mismanagement of finance."

True cost of British citizenship

THE PRO of Republican Sinn Féin, Geraldine McNamara, said on July 7 that Martin McGuinness has shown his true colours in his statement in the Belfast Telegraph in which he is seeking legislation to make it easier for Irish people to get British citizenship and passports.

Geraldine continued: "The 'back to the Empire' mentality shows exactly what Provisional

Sinn Féin is all about. They no longer have a United Ireland without British rule on the



• Republican Sinn Féin PRO, Geraldine McNamara.

agenda and have sold out on their Republican principles long ago.

"Martin McGuinness said he 'was fully supportive of Gregory Campbell of the DUP in demanding changes to the law in relation to the purchase of British passports for Irish citizens. This change he said would save money for people wishing to obtain a British passport who are citizens of the 26 Counties.'

"Martin McGuinness got

his position in the British-run Stormont administration by hoodwinking his followers into believing that this was the way to a united Ireland. I hope that even at this late stage people see the light and realise he is administering British rule in the Occupied Six Counties of Ireland and his only agenda is to continue that rule through getting people from nationalist areas to join the RUC/PSNI and uphold British colonial power in Ireland."

She continued "True Republicans continue to fight for a united 32-County federal Ireland free from British rule and do not want a Commonwealth situation. This was not what the leaders of 1916 fought for. Republicans gave their lives to fight against the setting up of the present 26 and Six-County States.

"It is a long time since the Provo's went into the funnel of institutionalised British politics and surrendered their Republican ideals of a united Ireland. This is just another stepping-stone to normalising British rule in Ireland", she concluded.

Gearrscéalta 300 RUC/PSNI members leave force

A REPORT in the *Newsletter* on July 26 said that the threat from Republicans has contributed to almost 300 members leaving the British colonial police after no more than five years' service.

Sixty-three left after just one year. Figures obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) show that in total 274 members left after up to five years' service - 154 Catholics, 108 Protestants, as well as 12 "undetermined".

Of the 63 who left after one year, 35 were Catholic, 24 were Protestant, and four were "undetermined".

The areas where the largest number of members were based before leaving were B district, which incorporates south and east Belfast, followed by E district which includes Newry, Armagh and the border area, then G district which includes Derry.

One of the priorities of the so-called new police force when it was formed in 2001 was to attract more Catholic members than had been in the RUC, using the controversial 50/50 policy which ended last year.

The figures obtained by the *News Letter* also reveal that RUC members tended to serve longer careers than those who joined the so-called 'new' force.

The average length of service in 2011 was just over a decade, down from 16 years in 2001.

US observer logs and then queries parade violations

A VETERAN parades' observer from the USA is to write to the Six-County Parades Commission asking what action will be taken over a series of parade violations by loyalist bands marching past Short Strand on the Twelfth, according to the *Andersonstown News* on July 21, 2011.

Steve McCabe of the Brehon Law Society of New York - who cut his spurs at the fiery Drumcree Orange stand-offs - said the RUC/PSNI and Parades Commission chiefs are well aware of breaches he witnessed.

"...the vast majority of bands, both in the morning and the evening of the Twelfth, played loud, prohibited songs such as *The Billy Boys* and *The Sash* while passing the grounds of St Matthew's chapel, thus," Steve McCabe said, "removing the burdensome task of interpreting just what does and does not constitute a hymn."

Steve McCabe (70) has been a standard-bearer for civil rights in the Six Counties.

"The [RUC/PSNI and Parades Commission observers were present as the Orangemen passed St Matthew's and observed these breaches. We were told that video evidence would be presented to the Public Prosecution Service for appropriate action. But of course this is nothing new and it remains to be seen what sanctions, if any, will result."

On visits to Tullycarnet in East Belfast, the Irish American rights stalwart has brought cash gifts from the Irish American Partnership in Boston to local community bodies.

"The working class loyalists have lost the traditional jobs and the only answer to their problems is education, but it's clear they're not getting the education they need. That's not good for their community and it's not good for wider society."

"I thought the days of observing parades were over," he adds, "but when I saw the outbreak of trouble in East Belfast and the UVF attack on the district, I wasn't surprised to get a call to return. However, I'll be happy if this is the last time I get the call."

Paint attack at Catholic Church in Harryville

THE Catholic church at Harryville in Ballymena, Co Antrim was damaged when paint was thrown on it on the night of July 8. The attack happened at the Church of Our Lady on Larne Road. Damage was caused to the door and adjoining glass panelling. The church has been the target of loyalist vandals over many years.

Results of Dublin raffle

AUGUST Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 485; 2nd prize 094; 3rd prize 546; 4th prize 647; 5th prize 247; 6th prize 567; 7th prize 542; 8th prize 021.

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Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta (National Irish Freedom Committee)



• is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
• is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

We need your support. Our website address is:

<http://irishfreedom.net>

Gearrscéalta

Jim Toner

REPUBLICANS in Donegal and Dublin were saddened to hear of the death of Veteran Republican Jim Toner in July. His funeral took place in Letterkenny, Co Donegal on July 30.

The graveside oration was delivered by Seosamh Ó Maoileoin, Co Iar Mhí. The staff of SAOIRSE extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends. His obituary will be carried in the September edition.

Security for Queen and Obama visits cost €36m

THE cost of Garda security for the visits of the Queen of England and US President Barack Obama to the 26 Counties is now estimated at €36 million.

"At a time when the 26-County Administration is implementing cuts in services and welfare payments, they think nothing of paying out €36m to police the visits of the Queen of England and President Obama", a spokesperson for Republican Sinn Féin Leinster said on July 13.

"Thousands are losing their jobs, homes are being repossessed, with all the resultant effects of that not least a rise in homelessness, (Focus Ireland supported 6,500 people in 2010, up 1,000 from the year before), and services in education and health are being slashed".

Josephine Hayden continued: "The fact that €35m was spent on security, €24m of that to "protect" the British Queen, shows the abnormality of her visit. What also showed the abnormality of the visit was the lack of people on the streets to welcome her. However there were plenty of protestors on the streets to tell her how unwelcome she was."

Over the three-day visit by the Queen of England hundreds of protestors clashed with the Gardaí when they were refused access to the streets of Dublin.

Two members of Republican Sinn Féin were among the many arrests and they will appear in court in September. The protests centred on British Occupation in the six north-eastern counties in Ireland.

A&E at Roscommon

Hospital closes

THE Emergency Department at Roscommon County Hospital closed on July 11 leading to angry protests by locals. Ambulances now take patients to hospitals in Galway, Ballinasloe or Castlebar.

Hundreds of people have protested, and continue to protest at the closure of the A&E department. It's been replaced with a minor injuries unit for adults only which will be supported by medical assessment facilities and a new of hours GP service

The closure has had a knock on effect on the Midlands Regional hospital in Mullingar where some patients were brought to from Roscommon.

Two Fine Gael members have resigned from the party whip in Roscommon County Council in protest at the failure of the Taoiseach and Minister for Health to honour a pre-election commitment to keep A&E services at the hospital.

Leagan Gaeilge ar lean

CONRADH na Gaeilge welcomed the report from An Coimisinéir Teanga published on July 5, with regard to the review of the Official Languages Act 2003.

"The recommendations made by the Commissioner in the report are sensible, logical and practicable. The Commissioner is the person who monitors the implementation of the Act most and therefore the 26-County Administration should accept enthusiastically his recommendations in any review of the Act".

According to Donnchadh Ó hAodha, President of Conradh na Gaeilge:

"Conradh na Gaeilge has been seeking a review of the Act since our Ard-Fheis in April 2011. We are delighted that the problems we identified with the Official Languages Act 2003 have been included in the Commissioner's report and that there are comprehensive recommendations as to how to solve them.

"Amongst those recommendations are:

- Public bodies be obliged by statute to provide their services through Irish in Gaeltacht regions and that such services should be of a standard equal to those provided elsewhere through English;

- To address the confusion about services provided by language schemes, a new 'standards' system based on statutory regulations be developed;

- And that Statutory language obligations should be clarified in situations where a public body appoints or authorises a private company or any other type of agency to function on its behalf in dealing with the public.

Orange marches lead to riots

THE annual marching season of the loyalist Orange Orders led to riots across the Six Counties beginning on July 8 in Belfast.

There were also riots in Magherafelt, Co Derry, Newry, Co Down; and cars were burnt out in Armagh, South Belfast and Ballymena Co Antrim.

Following a night of rioting in Ballyclare, Co Antrim on July 9 the British colonial police (RUC/PSNI) apologised to the Orange Order for removing a Union Jack flag. Assistant RUC/PSNI Chief Constable Alistair Finlay met with community representatives and politicians in Newtownabbey on Sunday July 10 amid criticism that the RUC/PSNI had not "consulted with local residents" before taking down "a limited number of flags" in the Grange Drive and Doagh Road areas of the town.

This is in contrast with the attitude shown by the RUC/PSNI to the nationalist residents of the Ardoyne in Belfast, even when the Short Strand was attacked by a loyalist UVF mob on June 20 and 21.

Up to 100 people gathered in Ballyclare at around 11.30pm on July 9, throwing petrol bombs and other missiles at the RUC/PSNI. Trouble also erupted in Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus.

The RUC/PSNI say 15 vehicles were hijacked, including two buses. A number of these were set alight and used to attack police lines. Five members of the RUC/PSNI were hurt when their vehicle was rammed with a hijacked bus in Ballyclare. Another was injured when he was hit with stones.

The RUC/PSNI fired baton rounds and used water cannon in the town before calm was restored at around 2.30am on July 10.

As Orangemen and loyalists gathered at "eleventh night" bonfires, hundreds of nationalists started rioting in areas of west and north Belfast. Twenty-four members of the RUC/PSNI were injured during the disturbances in the Broadway area of west Belfast and in the Oldpark in north Belfast. There was also trouble in North Queen Street. The RUC/PSNI fired 51 plastic bullets at nationalists who threw petrol bombs, bricks, stones and other missiles at them.

As loyalists marched through Belfast city centre, the Republican residents amassed along Berwick Road to protest against the Orange parade passing by their district.

Dozens of RUC/PSNI Land Rovers were deployed along the Crumlin Road. On the same spot last year, about 80 RUC/PSNI members were injured during three days of rioting that followed protests against the loyalist parade.

The loyalists marched behind a banner accusing local Republicans of imposing "cultural apartheid" due to their continued opposition to the Orange Order march.

In the early hours of July 12, plastic bullets were fired and water cannon deployed to deal with a crowd of up to 200 youths in the Broadway area in the west of Belfast.

by the RUC/PSNI.

Local nationalists said their homes across the peace-line were a target. Local people said the violence flared after loyalist

released pending a PPS report. One man aged 21, charged with riotous behaviour is expected to appear in Craigavon Magistrates Court on August 5.

Patrick Faloon, Cupar Street, Belfast, was arrested, charged and granted bail on July 19 with riotous assembly and throwing a petrol bomb over the Twelfth of July Orange parades. He appeared in court the following day and was remanded on continuing bail until September.

On July 26 a 16-year-old teenager charged with rioting on July 11 and 12 nights in the Ardoyne and Oldpark area of Belfast was banned by Belfast's Magistrates Court from going within a half a mile of any parades. He was also prohibited from possessing gloves, balaclava or being with more than four people in public. He also has to observe a curfew and was electronically tagged.

Two men were charged on August 1 in connection with rioting in Belfast's Ardoyne on the Twelfth of July. The pair, aged 18, are charged with rioting, possession of a petrol bomb and throwing a petrol bomb.

On July 27 over 30 members of Portadown LOL No.1 were able to make their way for over 300 yards from Drumree Church before 8pm to the edge of the nearby nationalist Ballyoran estate before stopping to block traffic in defiance of a Parades Commission order that the Orangemen could not proceed beyond the bridge at Drumree.

In a statement on July 28, the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition accused the RUC/PSNI of colluding with the Orange Order in Portadown in an attempt to create a confrontation with nationalist residents.

The GRRC said: "Despite the [RUC/PSNI] being aware of that determination which ruled that the Orangemen could not proceed beyond the bridge at Drumree, no PSNI personnel were present to enforce the Commission's ruling.

"It was only as nationalist residents came from their homes that the [RUC/PSNI] arrived on the scene.

"One is forced to conclude that, although being aware of the planned Orange protest march and the Parades Commission ruling in respect of the same, the [RUC/PSNI] deliberately choose to ignore both the Orange protest march and the restrictions placed upon it. The only explanation for this is that both the [RUC/PSNI] and the Orange Order had hoped to draw nationalist residents into physical confrontation.

The RUC/PSNI in Portadown said on July 1 that they are "anticipating that further arrests will be made" in connection with trouble in Corcrair and Edgartown, in Craigavon, Co Armagh.

The British police came under attack from petrol bombs and bricks on July 15. There were minor disturbances the following evening. Four men appeared at Craigavon Magistrates Court on July 28 on conspiracy to riot charges.



• The scene in Ballyclare, Co Antrim after a night of loyalist rioting. The RUC apologised to them for removing a union flag.



• Rioting in Belfast over the Twelfth period.

The rioters attacked police lines separating the area from the loyalist Village district close to the M1 motorway.

On July 12 the British colonial police were out in riot gear against nationalists protesting in the Ardoyne before, during and after an Orange Order parade passed by the area.

The RUC/PSNI fired plastic bullets and used water cannon which led to a reaction from the nationalist residents. Stones and petrol bombs were thrown. A number of cars were hijacked and burned out by nationalists.

The Greater Ardoyne Residents' Collective (GARCC) staged a protest in the area at about 7pm. While nationalists were banned from entering the Crumlin Road, the Orange Order feeder parade marched through with a band and up to 80 members at 7.20pm.

The RUC/PSNI mounted the rooftops of shops to try to prevent rioters using them as a vantage point. They were later forced to retreat from their vantage points as some nationalists climbed on to the rooftops to fire missiles at them.

A few hundred loyalists gathered near the top of Twaddell Avenue, close to the Ardoyne shops flashpoint.

Items believed to be used to make petrol and paint bombs were seized in two house searches in Portadown on July 19. Two 20-year-old men were arrested during the searches.

There were disturbances in the town on 15 and 16 July in which four people were arrested and CCTV footage is being reviewed to identify those involved in the rioting.

A crowd of about 70-100 people threw 12 to 15 petrol bombs as well as bricks, fireworks and bottles in the loyalist Corcrair Road area. The rioters attacked police land rovers with sledgehammers. 19 plastic baton rounds were fired

flags were removed close to a peace line.

On Friday, July 15 a large number of people throughout the Six Counties were charged with rioting during the disturbances connected with the Orange marches. A 46-year-old man appeared at Belfast's magistrates Court charged with riotous assembly over the Twelfth. A 19-year-old was charged with disorderly behaviour and will appear in court on August 3 along with a 45-year-old man charged with assault on the police.

A 16-year-old was charged with riotous behaviour and will appear in court at a later date. A 24-year-old man was charged with riotous behaviour, possession of an offensive weapon and resisting arrest and a 22-year-old woman with disorderly behaviour, resisting arrest and assault on police. In east Belfast a 19-year-old man was charged with provocative conduct and will appear in Belfast Magistrates Court on August 8, while four other men aged between 15 and 18 were released pending further enquiries.

A 49-year-old man arrested on July 14 was released on bail pending further enquiries. In Derry 12 people, 11 men and one woman, were arrested for public order offences in the city on July 12. An 18-year-old charged with riotous behaviour and throwing a petrol bomb will appear at Derry Magistrates Court on July 20.

A further six males (three of whom are 14, 16 and 17) were released pending Public Prosecution Service (PPS) reports. Three other males, aged 16, 18 and 28 and a 16-year-old girl were released on bail pending further enquiries. In Portadown three people, including a 14-year-old girl, were arrested; the teenager was

For The Record

SAT. JULY 2: The RUC/PSNI took possession of 0 new Land Rovers. That brings the number of Land Rovers in their possession to 400.

One in five Stormont MLAs are landlords, including Gerry Adams's replacement, Pat Sheehan, who owns four residential premises in Belfast.

SUN. JULY 4: A house in Newry was damaged by a pipe bomb. No one was injured.

The RUC/PSNI is examining the evidence in the Saville Report before committing to a full investigation or not which could result in prosecutions of British army personnel.

A pipe bomb was found in Glengormley, Co Antrim.

A full inventory of the decommissioned weapons by the Provos, the UDA and the UVF will be held by the State Department in Washington and will not be made public.

MON. JULY 4: The Justice for Magdalenes campaign group, which has researched the laundries in the 26 Counties, will investigate the laundries in the Six Counties.

The Minister for Finance in the 26 Counties has indicated that the budget adjustment for 2012 may be higher than the €3.6 billion agreed with the EU-IMF.

A legal challenge to repossession of homes taken by New Beginnings resulted in court cases being adjourned in a Dublin court.

Yingluck Shinawatra, the woman who won a landslide victory in Thailand, is to form a five-party coalition. Her Peua Thai Party took a majority of 265 seats in the 500 seat Parliament on July 3.

WED. JULY 6: The President and Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton and Fergal Moore, were arrested in Lurgan.

Plans to include strong legal protection for whistleblowers to prevent them being sacked or penalised for reporting wrongdoing, as part of the Criminal Justice Bill 2011, were announced by the 26-County Administration.

A van and a car were burned out in Lurgan, Co Armagh as the RUC stepped up patrols in nationalist areas. A man and a woman were arrested. Trouble followed the visit of the Minister for justice at Stormont David Ford. Several of the POWs on protest in Maghaberry jail are from the Lurgan area.

Peter Robinson rejected a deal that would end the prison protest at Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim. He said his office "could not be seen to be negotiating with dissident republicans". [He has no problem meeting with loyalists.]

A culture of prison officers in the Occupied Six Counties working beyond retirement age means that around 600 will be entitled to apply for a redundancy package costing the British state £50 million to implement.

THURS. JULY 7: A lorry and a car were set on fire in Craigeavon, Co Armagh.

Des Dalton and Fergal Moore appeared in Craigeavon Court on a charge of taking part in an illegal march in Lurgan in January in support of Political hostage POW Martin Corey.

The *News of the World* newspaper will close its doors after the next weekend's edition.

The healthcare company Glaxo-SmithKline are letting 130 of their staff go in Dungarvan, Co Waterford.

Michael McKeivitt and Liam Campbell failed in their bid to overturn the civil case verdict which found them responsible for the Omagh bombing in 1998. Colm Murphy and Seamus Daly were successful in their appeals.

The Book of Lismore, written in the 15th Century, seized during a raid in Kilbrittain in the 17th Century and later taken to England, is now on its way back to University College Cork but only on loan. It is written in Irish on vellum and made of calfskin.

FRI. JULY 8: Andy Coulson, former editor of *News of the World* was released from police bail after being arrested over the phone-hacking scandal at the paper.

A man was arrested and charged with assaulting an RUC/PSNI member after nationalists staged a protest at Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh. Witnesses said the man was assaulted by the RUC.

Cars were burned out as an Orange Parade marched through Lurgan, Co Armagh.

The prosecution in the case of Michael Campbell, on remand in jail in Vilnius, Lithuania charged with attempting to import arms to Ireland in 2008, called for a 16-year sentence to be imposed on Michael Campbell.

SUN. JULY 10: Supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have attacked the US embassy compound in the capital, Damascus.

Disturbances in Magherafelt, Co Derry involved



• A vehicle is burned out in Derry's Bogside on the Eve of the Twelfth, July 11.

up to 50 people

Cars were set alight in the Ballyduff estates in Newtownabbey, Co Antrim and 15 vehicles, including two buses, were hijacked in the area. Rioting also took place in Carrickfergus.

Loyalist UVF flags were flying in Ballyclare, Co Antrim.

Paint was smeared on the Catholic Church in Harryville, Ballymena, Co Antrim. The church has been damaged in several attacks by the loyalists over the years.

Anti-poverty group ONE accused the G8 leaders of neglecting a pledge to fight poverty and hunger in poor countries as the worst drought in 60 years hit east Africa.

A shot was fired into the home of a Polish family on the Larne Road.

MON. JULY 11: Roscommon Hospital lost hits 24-hour A&E cover. Mallow Hospital in Co Cork and Loughlinstown Hospital in Dublin will lose their's in November while a further seven hospitals are targeted for cutbacks.

Vehicles were burned out in the Bogside in Derry.

TUES. JULY 12: Twenty-six people were arrested during rioting in nationalist areas of north and south Belfast and Derry City after the Orange Order Twelfth of July marches. Trouble also broke out in parts of Derry city, Ballymena, Armagh, Strabane and Newry.

A Slovak family left their home in Chichester Park West, Ballykeel, Ballymena, Co Antrim after arsonists set alight a shed attached to their flat. The family escaped through an upper window. It was the second attack on foreign nationals in Ballymena within three days.

WED. JULY 13: The Commission of Investigation Report into the Catholic Diocese of Cloyne was made public. It stated that a decision by the Vatican to brand a framework document on child sexual abuse, agreed by the Irish Bishops Conference in 1996, as "not an official document" effectively gave individual Irish bishops "the freedom to ignore" the guidelines; and that the Vatican was "entirely unhelpful" to any bishop who wanted to implement procedures for dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse in the Irish Catholic Church.

THURS. JULY 14: Chief Constable Matt Baggott defended assistant RUC/PSNI chief constable Alistair Finley's apology to the Orangemen and loyalists which followed loyalist rioting in Ballyclare, Co Antrim. Rioting followed the removal of loyalist and Union Jack flags by the RUC from outside a Catholic Church. Justice Minister at Stormont David Ford said the removal of the flags was "right".

The cost of repairs to Strabane Grammar School will be in the region of £50,000. The school was petrol-bombed and 70 windows are also smashed.

Rupert Murdoch dropped his £8 billion bid to take over BSkyB.

FRI. JULY 15: Up to 50 masked loyalists erected flags along the interface of Corcoran Road in Portadown, Co Armagh and threw bricks, stones, bottles and fireworks into the adjoining nationalist area.

Rebekah Brooks, the News International chief executive, resigned after eleven days of mounting political pressure over the phone-hacking scandal. Former Chairman of News International for 12 years and current chief executive of News Corp's Dow Jones & Co Les Hinton also resigned.

Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State announced at a meeting in Turkey of the international contact group on Libya, that the US recognised the rebels National Transitional Council in Libya as the legitimate government of that country. The Istanbul conference attended by more than 30 countries and international bodies, also agreed a "road map whereby Col Gaddafi should relinquish power and plans for Libya's transition to democracy under the National Transitional Council".

Campaigners against US drone strikes in Pakistan called for the arrest of the CIA's former legal chief John A Rizzo. They want him charged with murder "for approving attacks that killed up to 2,500 civilians".

An ex-British navy commando, jailed for stealing

military weapons – including an assault rifle he passed on to loyalist paramilitaries – has gone on the run after he failed to return to Magilligan prison after weekend temporary release. John Hickman, Carrickfergus, was stationed at the Faslane naval base when a SA80 assault rifle and a 9mm Browning pistol were stolen. His Browning – issued as his person protection weapon – was later recovered in Carrickfergus during a search of a UDA house. At his trial it emerged that more than 65 assault rifles and automatic pistols have been stolen from military bases since 2000.

New evidence has come to light in the case of Paul McCarthy who was attacked by a gang of loyalists in the Waterside area of Derry in 2006 and is in a coma ever since.

SAT. JULY 16: A woman was pulled from her car in an attempted hijack in the Moyola Drive area of Derry. A man walked up to the vehicle and grabbed the woman by the arm but ran off with another man when she refused to get out of the car.

SUN. JULY 17: The father of Kevin McElhinney shot dead on Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972, died at his home aged 86. He was the only parent of those murdered on Bloody Sunday who lived to see the publication of the Saville report.

MON. JULY 18: Two men were returned for trial in Mauritius for the murder of Michaela Harte McAreevy in Mauritius in January.

A monument erected in memory of Seán Sabhat and Fearghal O'Hanlon near Roslea, Co Fermanagh, was smashed.

A nationalist man was stabbed in a sectarian attack in Chapel Street, Derry. He received wounds to his face and arms when two men got out of a car and attacked him.

A 21-year-old Ballycastle man, Co Antrim, was seriously injured after he walked across the road in front of a Twelfth parade in the town.

Joan Burton, minister for social protection in the 26 Counties said that up to 43,000 people signing on the dole could be abusing the system. Up to €44 per week could be cut from peoples' dole money if they refuse to accept a job [any job] or training opportunities.

Nelson Mandela celebrated his 93rd birthday.

Seán Hoare, the journalist who broke the scandal of the phone hacking in the *News of the World* newspaper was found dead in his home in England.

TUES. JULY 19: The Palestinian Centre for detainees reported on July 19 that a prisoner at Ramla prison hospital in Israel has become seriously ill. Yousef Skafi, 42, has been on hunger strike for 38 days and refuses to take any medicine. His health has seriously deteriorated in recent days. Skafi went on hunger strike to protest against the medical neglect of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and against the inhumane treatment of prisoners by Israeli authorities.

WED. JULY 20: The funeral took place of the last Bloody Sunday parent in Derry City Cemetery. Laurence McElhinney was laid to rest beside his son Kevin who was shot dead by the British paras in 1972.

A 22-year-old Portadown man was arrested in the town on suspicion of possessing items for use in the making of petrol bombs and for criminal damage.

A 41-year-old man appeared in court in Derry charged with making a hoax bomb warning call.

The total bill to provide security for the visits of Queen of England and Barack Obama to the 26 Counties was €35.8m. Of that the visit by the Queen of England was €24.2m.

Analog Devices, a US electronics firm, is to create up to 100 jobs in Limerick.

THURS. JULY 21: Samuel Kevin Devlin, Mountjoy Square, Dublin was sentenced to seven and a half year imprisonment in the Special non-jury Court in Dublin. He had earlier been found guilty of possession of an improvised explosive device.

Robin Masefield, who stepped down as Director of the Northern Ireland (sic) Prison Services, received almost €160,000 when he left the post. His tenure was dogged by controversy and there was speculation that he was "pushed" into early retirement.

FRI. JULY 22: Shell E&P Ireland began construction work on the final phase of the Corrib gas project with clashes between a number of protesters and a cordon

of 75 security personnel. The clashes occurred when equipment was moved into the construction site for the gas pipeline and tunnel at Aughoose.

Industrial action by workers at one of the Republic's most popular tourist attractions, the Cliffs of Moher, was suspended. This follows the acceptance by Siptu of an invitation from the Labour Relations Commission to attend talks in an effort to resolve the long-running dispute. At the core of the dispute is Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd's refusal to implement a 2010 Labour Court recommendation giving centre employees the same terms and conditions as their council counterparts.

British agent Peter Keeley, was described as "a spacer" by Det Garda Tom Fox at the Smithwick Tribunal in Dublin. Fox also said that Keeley "was a person who could not be trusted". Keeley also used the names McCann and Kevin Fulton, the tribunal heard. The tribunal is examining allegations of Garda collusion in the killings of RUC chief superintendent Harry Breen and superintendent Bob Buchanan as they returned from a meeting in Dundalk Garda station in 1989.

McNemey Builders is to go into receivership after the Supreme Court rejected their US-backed rescue plan. The group reportedly owe €113million to Anglo Irish Bank, the Bank of Ireland and KBC.

The National Assets Management Agency (Nama) appointed a receiver to properties within developer Seán Dunne's DCD Group over loans totaling in the region of €350 million with the State agency.

SUN. JULY 24: Over 70 people were confirmed dead after twin attacks in Norway on Saturday July 23, one in the capital Oslo and another at on the nearby island of Utøya. Up to 100 more were injured. The tiny island of Utøya is north-west of Oslo and was hosting a camp for around 600 young members of Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg's Labour Party. A 32-year-old Norwegian, Anders Behring Breivik, was charged with terrorism.

There are 139,929 legally held guns in the Occupied Six Counties. The guns are shared out between 61,565 owners.

MON. JULY 25: Fifty-nine people have now been arrested in Belfast, Derry and Portadown in connection with rioting over July 12 while not one arrest has been made in Ballyclare, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey according to the *Irish News*.

Charges against Gary Donnelly, from the Creggan area of Derry were withdrawn by the RUC/PSNI. He was charged with assaulting members of the RUC in Derry city in February.

The British government has again delayed the inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane by loyalists in 1989.

TUES. JULY 26: Members of the McNally family in Co Antrim were arrested for questioning in connection with the killing of Ronan Kerr, RUC/PSNI member in April this year. Also a house in Ballyronan, Co Derry was searched, as were houses in Coalisland, Co Tyrone and in Bellaghy, Co Derry.

The PSNI/RUC released a three-minute clip showing images of rioting in the Ardoyne over the week of the Twelfth from images taken from the RUC helicopter.

THURS. JULY 28: The Provisionals raised and spent three times as much as other parties in the Occupied Six Counties. Their income was €1,289,335 and they ended the year with a profit of €76,960.

The National Assets Management Agency (Nama) paid €30.2bn for 11,500 loans in 2010.

A viable pipe bomb was dismantled in Ballymena. Over 100 people protested outside the Belfast City Hospital over the planned closure of its A&E department.

The 26-County Administration gave the go ahead for a new prison in Thornton hall in north County Dublin.

Some 9,630 people sought help from hospital A&E after self-harming in the last year according to the annual report of the national Registry of Deliberate Self-Harm.

FRI. JULY 29: The former director of the Community Restorative Justice Ireland Jim Auld has set up a rival group Conflict Resolution Services (Ireland). It has five volunteers and will not work with RUC/PSNI.

Anthony Sloan, Belfast and Dundalk appeared in the non-jury court in Dublin on charges of possessing equipment to make counterfeit money and membership of an illegal organisation.

Two men arrested in connection with the attempted murder of Paul McCauley in Derry on 2006 by the loyalists, were released.

SAT. JULY 30: A pipe bomb was discovered near a County Down village after a security alert. People living near the scene of the alert at Drummaconagher Road close to Annalogue were asked to leave their homes after a suspicious object was found. Republicans in Derry have claimed there has been an upsurge in searches of their families' homes. The claim was made after a number of search operations in recent days, including one on Beechwood Avenue this morning.

The Orange Order plans to organise two major marches next year, one on the Twelfth as usual and another in September 28.

News from the Occupied Six Counties...News from the Occupied Six Counties...News from the Occupied Six Counties...

POWs refuse to accept criminalisation policy

THE situation in Maghaberry jail has worsened over the last several months while David Ford, British minister of justice in the Stormont regime sat on a report that would solve the impasse in the jail, Josephine Hayden of the Republican Sinn Féin POW Department said on July 19.

For eight months this report has been with Ford, and no doubt his bosses the First and Second Ministers Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness, but he has refused to act on it and tries to justify his inaction by blaming the Republican prisoners.

First Minister Peter Robinson said his office could not be seen "to be negotiating with dissident republicans

(sic)".

His comments were reported on July 7 — just two weeks after representatives of the UVF met the DUP leader at Stormont in a bid to bring an end to rioting at an east Belfast interface.

The full-body humiliating and unnecessary strip search of the POWs is a major stumbling block to bringing about a conclusion to the protest and

a major one in the commencement of this action by the POWs. The men were driven to take such drastic measures because they refuse to accept the British Government policy of criminalisation. A policy that was discredited by hundreds of POWs culminating in the deaths of Bobby Sands and his nine comrades in the H-Blocks in 1981.

For the past 13 days, (the 'dirty' protest commenced on June 5, alarmingly reminiscent of the notorious H-Block conditions) the prisoners have been locked-down 24-hours a day and were refused visits

because of their refusal to be classified as criminals, similar to the stand taken by as Sands and his comrades. Relatives are now being victimised and used to add extra pressure on the prisoners, including the ending of all visits until they capitulate on their principled protest.

The POWs are not allowed out of their cells even for a shower or exercise in the yard. They have been living in a 'tomb' for two weeks and it looks likely to continue. Everything except their mattress has been removed from the cells.

The BOSS chair is a modern device which scans the prisoner's body for concealed items without the POW having to be forcibly stripped naked and one is in use within the prison already.

However in a bazaar twist, prisoners leaving and entering the prison, whether to courts or hospital, are still subjected to this vile naked body search. What is the rationale? There is a hidden agenda here. Is it policy or disguised sectarianism?

The answer may lie in the mindset of the prison administration, the warders, all

the way up to the British government itself. The day-to-day running of the jail is done almost exclusively by men and women of a loyalist/unionist mindset with the express purpose of making life as difficult as possible for the Republican POWs. The very same mindset pertained at the time of the H-Blocks.

This, the 30th Anniversary of the H-Block Martyrs, is a grave indictment of the British and Stormont authorities that they still continue with the attempted criminalisation of Irish Republican political prisoners.

No release for Brendan Lillis

A Belfast Chronology

Saturday, July 2, 2011. A man sustained serious injuries after falling from a 60-ft-high bonfire structure in the New Mossley estate.

A teenager was seriously injured in an attack on the Stewartstown Road.

Friday, July 8, 2011. A judge in the High Court in Belfast granted leave to lawyers for Gerry McGeough to seek a judicial review in a bid to obtain a royal prerogative of mercy.

Monday, July 11, 2011. The PSNI claim that 22 of their members were injured in rioting in Belfast.

A Spanish student, Roger Jarro Costa was sentenced to four years imprisonment after pleading guilty to attempting to commit grievous bodily harm to an RUC member at last year's twelfth riots. Costa dropped a concrete block from a roof of a building and hit a female member of the RUC on the head.

A union jack was removed from Belfast City Hall in the early hours of Monday morning.

Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Rioting erupted in north Belfast after an Orange parade went past the shops in nationalist Ardoyne. Rioting continued for several hours and petrol bombs, bricks and fireworks were thrown at the RUC/PSNI after water cannon and baton rounds (plastic bullets) were used against the protestors. The RUC/PSNI fired up to 56 plastic baton rounds and it was a miracle no protestors were seriously injured. Riot police moved into the Ardoyne at least an hour before the Orange feeder parade was due and hemmed in protestors in side streets. Residents were unable to leave their homes for hours as RUC/PSNI land rovers blocked the entrances to the estates. There were disturbances in the east and south of the city also, in the Markets and Stewart Street. In the west of the city a bus was hijacked and driven at a PSNI cordon. In the North Queen Street and Old Park areas of the city nationalists also clashed with the PSNI.

Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

Four members of a north Belfast soccer team were seriously injured after an attack by a loyalist mob. The team was returning home having played a match in Dundalk and had just got off a bus at Alliance Avenue when they were attacked by up to 30 loyalists armed with golf clubs, knives and sticks.

Thursday, July 14, 2011. In Ballysillan, north Belfast a number of youths threw petrol bombs onto the road.

Two men appeared in court charged in connection with the rioting in Belfast. Kyle Patton, Derry is charged with riotous behaviour, resisting arrest and possession of a long pole. Paul Turner, no fixed abode was charged with riotous behavior in the Brompton Park area of Ardoyne. Both were granted bail to appear in court in August.

Friday, July 15, 2011. Journalists at the BBC staged a 24-hour walk out across Britain while in Belfast members of National Union of Journalists (NUJ) picketed the BBC's headquarters on Ormeau Avenue in protest at the corporations' compulsory redundancy plans.

Six Northern Bank branches are to close in Belfast in Dundonald, on the Ormeau Road and on Dargan Road. Three other branches will be closing in Crossgar, Rathfriland and Whitehead.

Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Belfast City Hospital is in danger of losing its A&E Department according to Edwin Poots, minister at Stormont. A protest was held outside the hospital.

A gun stolen in a west Belfast home was later used in a so-called punishment shooting. Seán Megaw, Dunmurry was charged with possession of the weapon and ammunition in suspicious circumstances.

Thursday, July 21, 2011. A man was arrested for questioning in relation to a "significant viable mortar device" found in Etna Drive, north Belfast.

Nineteen-year-old James Brophy who was allegedly identified from CCTV footage involved in rioting on the



• The scene in Belfast following Orange marches in north Belfast on July 12.

Twelfth night in the New Lodge area of Belfast was charged in Belfast's magistrate's court with riotous behaviour and throwing a petrol bomb as well as assaulting a man and

he faces no charges. He was arrested in October 2009 and his licence was revoked but later all charges against him were withdrawn.

Friday, July 22, 2011. A

Etna Drive area of Ardoyne.

Saturday, July 23, 2011. Up to 30 youths have been involved in disturbances in north Belfast in which stones and other missiles were thrown at houses and cars. The trouble broke out at around 2am early on Saturday in the Manor Drive, Oldpark Road, and Rosapenna Street areas of the city. Windows were broken and vehicles damaged during the trouble but nobody was injured.

A 41-year-old man was charged with having explosives and a gun, at Belfast Magistrates' court. Raymond James Wootton, of Brompton Park in the Ardoyne area, faces seven charges, including possession of explosives, a fire arm and CS gas. One of the charges is linked to the discovery of a bomb in the Ardoyne area on Thursday. Wootton denies he charges. He was remanded in custody. He was remanded in custody to reappear by video link next month.

Sunday, July 24, 2011. St John's GAA Club in west Belfast was badly damaged by fire after an arson attack. There were three other arson attacks over the weekend, in south Belfast a large warehouse in University Street was almost destroyed; an 18-year-old was arrested following a fire in Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh at a listed building and in Strabane, Co Tyrone two men were arrested in connection with an arson attack on a bookmakers shop in Butcher Street.

Two men, arrested and charged last Saturday, appeared in Laganside Court in

connection with rioting in Belfast on July 11.

Homes at a north Belfast interface around the Lower Oldpark Road, Manor Drive and Rosapenna Street area were damaged in attacks during the night.

Monday, July 25, 2011. Two men appeared in court charged in connection with rioting on the Eleventh night in Belfast. Anthony Marley and Roy Lillis, both of Belfast, face charges of riotous assembly and criminal damage.

Marian Price from Belfast was charged in connection with the killing of two British soldiers outside Massereene Barracks in Antrim in March 2009. She was charged with "providing property for the purposes of terrorism". She is currently the only woman held in Maghaberry jail on charges of "encouraging support for an illegal organisation" and had her life sentence revoked - she was released from prison over 30 years ago - which is due for review in August. Her lawyer Peter Corrigan called her arrest and charge an abuse of process as no new evidence has emerged in the 18 months when she was first questioned on the same charges.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011. A 38-year-old man arrested in connection with a viable mortar bomb in north Belfast last week was released without charge.

Lagan Valley Hospital's 24-hour A&E will be cut from August 1.

Friday, July 30, 2011. A project to build 200 social houses at the former Belfast British army barracks was scrapped by Nelson McCausland, minister for social development.

Two youths, aged 12 and 15 appeared in Belfast court in connection with rioting in east Belfast on July 12. Two men aged 18 and 25 appeared in court charged with riotous assembly.

A controlled explosion was carried out at the scene of a security alert which forced a number of people from their north Belfast homes. The alert at Upper Meadow Street began at about 11am.

Call for the immediate release of Brendan Lillis

IN A statement on July 18, the POW Department of Republican Sinn Féin called for the immediate release a seriously ill Republican prisoner in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

"The continued incarceration of Republican prisoner Brendan Lillis in Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim is just further proof of the bloody-mindedness of the British state to Irish political prisoners.

"When Brendan Lillis was arrested and charged his licence was revoked. Yet when the charges against him were dropped he was not released. If the charges were genuine then he would surely have been taken before the Diplock court - as is considered "normal" by the British state. But the charges were not proceeded with, and yet Brendan Lillis is still in Maghaberry.

"Brendan has been very ill for some time and is now just five and a half stone in weight. To continue to keep him in jail constitutes cruel and inhuman treatment.

"Republican Sinn Féin calls for the immediate release of Brendan Lillis, if for no other reason than on humanitarian grounds. To continue to keep him in jail is nothing other than vindictive".

threatening to commit criminal damage to his home. He was refused bail as the RUC/PSNI opposed bail.

Róisín Lynch, partner of Brendan Lillis - a seriously ill Republican prisoner in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim - began a three-day hunger strike in Belfast calling for his release on compassionate grounds as

suspicious object found close to The Oval football ground in east Belfast was an incendiary bomb. People living in Harkness Parade and Banbury Street had to leave their homes for a few hours.

A large bomb was found in north Belfast. A 41-year-old man was arrested following the discovery of the device in the

Unholy alliance of Church and State

THE recent Cloyne Report just like the Ferns and Murphy reports are a shocking indictment of the institutional Catholic Church and its response to the heinous crime of child sexual abuse carried out on the children under its care.

These reports paint a picture of an institution more concerned with its own protection than the well-being and protection of the young and innocent victims of clerical abuse.

However we must not allow the shrill grandstanding of Enda Kenny in Leinster House regarding the relationship of the 26-County State with the Catholic Church and the Vatican blind us to the reality of the 26-County State's

culpability in all of this.

Kenny can rant all he likes about the "industrial-school Ireland or Magdalene Ireland, where the swish of a soutane smothered conscience and humanity and the swing of a thurible ruled the Irish-Catholic world."

The reality is that Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, the Labour Party and the rest of the 26-County political establishment were more than happy to use the Bishops's crozier and the



• *President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton.*

clerics collar to whip people into line within their state. Need we remind you of the various Bishops Pastorals used to condemn Irish Republicans over the decades? In 1929 in Dungloe, Co Donegal the Garda Superintendent spoke to the local Catholic clergy about the Anti-Land Annuities campaign. This resulted in the Bishop of Raphoe William McNeely delivering a withering condemnation of the campaign while administering confirmation in the parish. The Gardai reported it had "a good effect locally".

In an unholy alliance with the Catholic Church a "Gulag Archipelago" for the poor of Ireland was run through a

system of industrial schools and Magdalene laundries. The Ryan Report of May 2009 merely skimmed the surface of this dark chapter in our history. Church and State rigorously applied the policy of 'out of sight out of mind' when it came to the children of the poor and dispossessed.

Enda Kenny gets no plaudits for slaying a dragon that expired a long time ago and one, which in the past he and his ilk were more than willing to use against their own people.

— **Des Dalton, July 22**
(Follow his blog at <http://thesingingflamedesdalton.blogspot.com/>)

Pat Finucane inquiry decision delayed again

A DECISION on whether or not to hold a public inquiry into the death of solicitor Pat Finucane has been further delayed by the British Parliamentary recess.

Following an extra day to debate phone-hacking, MPs finally left Westminster on July 20 without making an announcement, and will not return until September 5.

British Six-County Secretary Owen Paterson launched a consultation in November 2010, and then announced in January he would take a further two months to reach his decision.

Now a spokesman for Paterson said a decision would be taken "very shortly".

Pat Finucane was shot dead by a British-backed loyalist death-squad at his Belfast home in 1989. With persistent claims that the British Crown forces had a hand in the murder, it was one of the most notorious killings of the war in the Six

Counties.

The previous British Labour government committed to holding an inquiry in 2004, but none took place.

Pat Finucane's widow Geraldine said that British Secretary of State for the Occupied Six Counties, Owen Paterson, had earlier this year promised he was close to a decision on the case, but she said the issue had been delayed once again without proper explanation. The British army, police and intelligence service have been implicated in the 1989



• *Pat Finucane*

murder, which was carried out by loyalist paramilitaries who included Crown Force agents among their ranks.

In January 2011 Owen Paterson had initiated talks with the Finucane family in a bid to bring "closure" to the long-running case.

Geraldine Finucane said: "The Secretary of State, Owen Patterson, told me in March this year that he would make his decision after the Northern Ireland Assembly elections [in May] as he was in the final stages of taking that decision."

She said she was

disappointed by his handling of the issue: "I am also very unhappy that no reason has been provided to me for this delay."

"Neither correspondence nor contact has been made to the family's legal representative or me informing us that the decision has been put back and will be dealt with after the House of Commons recess."

"It is an untenable and insensitive situation and confirms my belief that the policy of delay continues."

Attracta Connolly Kasten

ATTRACTA Mary Connolly, who died in the United States on May 27 was born into a Republican family in Omagh, Co Tyrone in 1926.

She joined the Republican Movement in her teens. When her family moved to Dublin she continued her work. As a member of Cumann na mBan she worked as required with all branches of the of the Movement. She joined An Cumann Cabhrach and worked with people like Seán Óg Ó Tuama, Tom Doyle, Maggie Langsdorf (nee Doyle), Rita McGlynn, Peadar Timmons, Alfie White and many other well-known Volunteers.

Many gatherings were held in the family workshop in North King Street. She helped with the weekly Céilí in No 9 North Frederick Street with Con and Nan Dillon, Cathleen Timmons, May McLoughlin and Clare Doyle. This was her life's work until she immigrated to Canada in 1956, where she was a founder member of An Cumann Cabhrach in Toronto.

Having moved into the USA she met and married William Kasten in 1964. Later known by her friends as Jackie, she never forgot the POWs at



• *Attracta Connolly Kasten*

home and helped through her sister Peig (King). When she came home she always met her friends and helped in any way possible.

Having nursed her husband through his illness in later years, she suffered heart and lung trouble and passed away on May 27, 2011. She was buried with her husband in America.

He is sadly missed by her sister, brothers and relatives and all who knew and worded with her.

IMEACHTAÍ

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF H-BLOCK HUNGER STRIKE LIST OF EVENTS CORK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
NATIONAL MONUMENT, CORK CITY
(CORNER OF GRAND PARADE & SOUTH MALL)
Wreath-laying ceremony, 1pm
Performance of Songs of the Hunger Strikes.
Readings of the Poetry of the Hunger Strikers
Organised by Republican Sinn Féin - All Welcome.

WEXFORD
30th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
HUNGER STRIKERS REMEMBERED
REPUBLICAN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE
OLD JAIL, HILL STREET, WEXFORD TOWN
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 3PM
Sponsored 24-hour fast beginning at 3pm on Friday, August 19 in aid of CABHAIR, Republican Prisoners Dependents.
POW picket at the Bullring prior to the Commemoration from 1.30pm-2.30pm on Saturday August 20
Speaker: Tomás Ó Cléirigh
DONEGAL: BUNDORAN: AUGUST 27.

GOSS & GAUGHAN COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7
ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY, DUNDALK, CO LOUTH
Assemble: Lisdoon Arms, 2.30pm:

1798 REMEMBRANCE DAY
FORDTOWN MEMORIAL SITE, CO MEATH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Assemble Fordtown, 3pm
Organised by Republican Sinn Féin, Co Meath
Contact: 086-732 6922

JOIN NA FIANNA ÉIREANN IRELAND'S REPUBLICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

TEAGMHALACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

Cork: Mac Curtáin/Mac Swiney Cumann: 086-3352006 or rsfcork@gmail.com

Kerry: 087-097 0835

Dublin: 01-8729747 or e-mail saoirse@iol.ie

Meath: Niall Fagan/Thomas Allen Cumann: 086-7326922

Wexford: contact Mick at 0876150484

Kildare: desdalton@eircom.net, 086-329 1809, www.rsfc-kildare.ie

Longford: 087-2240061 or 086-3384017

Westmeath: 086 124 3265;

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Enniscorthy: 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com

Newry: Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann: rsfnewry@aol.com

Roscommon: Kevin Coen Cumann: Joe Murphy, 086 1281 861

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 0926420

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Griofa: Tomás, 087 2933 782; Seán at 091 525 977, text: 0871496885; rsfgaillimh@live.ie

Leitrim: Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454

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Dumbarton: John Torley/Séamus McElwaine Cumann dumbartonrsf@live.co.uk

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irish-solidarity@gmx.net, 0664 170 02 92
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Tom Maguire commemorated in Mayo

ON July 5 Republicans from all over the West and further afield gathered in Cross Cemetery, Co Mayo for the 18th anniversary of the death Comdt-General Tom Maguire, last faithful survivor of the Second All-Ireland Dáil Éireann.

The crowd assembled behind the Tricolour and a piper and made their way to the graveyard in Cross. The event was chaired by Dan Hoban who welcomed the people to the event. Seán Mac an Iomairé recited a decade of the Rosary.

Wreaths were laid by Maura Harrington on behalf of Connacht Republicans and Seán Lynch on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

The oration was delivered by Chris Kilcommins, Galway who said:

"This man was a true hero of Ireland. His family had fought at the Battle of Aughrim in 1691. Another ancestor joined the United Irishmen and fought in 1798. Tom's own father was in the Fenians.

"Tom himself joined the Irish Volunteers shortly after they were formed in 1913. In September 1920 he was appointed O/C of the South Mayo Brigade of the Irish Republican Army. On March 7th 1921 they ambushed a lorry load of British troops, capturing

weapons and taking prisoners.

"On May 3, 1921, 30 men of the South Mayo Brigade of the Irish Republican Army fought against 600 Black and Tans at Tourmakeady. The British losses at that battle were 10 killed with 13 wounded. The Mayo Brigade lost two men that day, their Brigade Adjutant, Michael J. O'Brien and Volunteer Pádraig Feeney. Pádraig Feeney was brother to Tom's future wife Christina.

"Comdt Maguire suffered a gunshot wound to the arm that day while another Volunteer was slightly wounded. The British even used aircraft to tackle the Brigade. The Maguire family home here in Cross was demolished by the Black and Tans as a reprisal for that attack at Tourmakeady.

"On May 19, 1921 Tom Maguire was elected to the Second Dáil Éireann. Some time after this Tom was appointed to the rank of Comdt-General of the Second Western Division, under a commission signed by Cathal Brugha, the



• **Comdt-General Tom Maguire.**

All Ireland Minister for Defence.

"On January 7, 1922 at the debate on the Treaty of Surrender, Tom remained loyal to the Republic he had pledged his loyalty to by stating (Ni toil) I do not agree.

"Tom Maguire was captured in Headford by Free Staters late in 1922 and court-martialled in Athlone in January 1923, but was not executed as he thought he would be. On April 11 1923 while Tom was still incarcerated, his younger brother Sean along with six others were executed in Tuam by the Free State. These men we know today as the Tuam

Martyrs. On June 10th Tom escaped along with five others and while on the run was elected by the people of Mayo South in the General Election of August 1923.

"In December, 1938, Tom along with the surviving members of the 2nd Dáil delegated their executive powers of Government to the Army Council of the Irish Republican Army in accordance with the resolution passed at the First Dáil Éireann meeting of March 11 1921.

"In 1969 and again in 1986 Tom's loyalty to the All Ireland Republic was tested by those who thought they could turn stones into bread like the tempter in the desert, by taking seats in Leinster House and Stormont.

"In 1969 he recognised The Provisional Army Council of the Irish Republican Army as the legitimate successor to the 1938 body. The Army convention had 'neither the right nor the authority' to pass a resolution recognising the British and two partition parliaments" he declared.

"Again in 1986 he held true to the Republic by stating 'I do not recognise the legitimacy of any army council styling itself the Council of the Irish

Republican Army which lends support to any person or organization styling itself as Sinn Féin and prepared to enter the partition parliament of Leinster House.'

"In 1987 Comdt-General Tom Maguire stated in a statement of recognition 'I hereby declare that the Continuity Army Council are the lawful Executive and Army Council respectively of the Irish Republican Army, and that the governmental authority, delegated in the Proclamation of 1938, now resides in the Continuity Army Council and its lawful successors.' Comdt-General Tom Maguire served Ireland and Ireland alone.

"Some in Ireland today would have us believe that all Irish people are fit for is to serve foreign monarchs and rich financiers at lavish banquets, stud farms or casinos.

"Marie Antoinette never had it so good. Suck it up, pay homage, you are all to blame we are told. But we should not pay any heed to them. They are the same kind of people who tried to tell Tom Maguire and his ancestors that their loyalty was to the crown and to acts of British parliaments.

"Also today in Ireland the new history books being

circulated in our schools and colleges would try to diminish the deeds and authority of this great man. Some might be fooled into thinking that new might mean true and that the publishers at Oxford and London are impartial. Our brave brothers and sisters of the Six Occupied Counties know full well the true meaning of British impartiality just as we do in the West of Ireland.

"When the torch of Irish Freedom was passed to Comdt. General Tom Maguire he guarded it from all who would try to extinguish it, and lit the pathway for future generations of Irishmen and women. Tonight we leave the graveside of a patriot who can hold rank among our greatest.

"I will finish now with a quote from the man himself 'The Irish Republic proclaimed in arms in Easter week 1916 and established by the democratic majority vote of the people in the General Election of 1918, has been defended by Irish Republicans for several generations. Many have laid down their lives in that defense. Many others have suffered imprisonment and torture. I am confident that the cause so nobly served will yet triumph.'

Cork solidarity with Republican POWs

ON July 16, 2011 members of MacCurtain/McSwiney Cumann, Corcaigh distributed over 1,000 pamphlets highlighting the conditions at Maghaberry and the failure to implement the improvement in the prison conditions agreed last August with the intervention of intermediaries.

The organisers informed the public that the prisoners in Maghaberry are faced with the continued deterioration of their conditions on a daily basis, creating concern for the long term consequences on the prisoners' themselves.

This protest was held at

Daunt Square in Cork City where banners were displayed calling for withdrawal of the British Forces of Occupation and no collaboration with those who administer British Occupation in Ireland.

The pamphlet also carried

the address of both prisons, Maghaberry and Portlaoise calling on people to write to the Republican prisoners in both jails - Portlaoise jail, Portlaoise, Co Laois and Maghaberry Prison, Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn BT 28 2 PT.

The protest was considered a success with the number of people especially foreign visitors asking for further information on the Republican Prisoners. Those enquiries were directed to our websites.

Glasgow protest in support of Maghaberry POWs

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin in Scotland participated in a demonstration on July 16 in the centre of Glasgow to highlight the plight of Republican prisoners incarcerated in Maghaberry prison.

They are enduring ongoing abuses of their rights as human beings and are being abused by the British state for daring to have the guts to question the right of Britain to be on Irish sovereign soil.

These men have asked their own questions in many ways — by bearing arms, by participating in the political process. Most have found themselves in prison simply for having a Republican ethos. It is little wonder that the imperialist occupying force remove those perceived as the most dangerous

to their regime. It is little wonder that the most ardent of our comrades find themselves removed from circulation, removed from their families; and removed from the sphere of influence that that could interfere with the game between the British state and their subsequent former foes.

However, this demonstration was not about calling our former comrades to task but only about highlighting the plight of the men who continue to be held behind the wire. A special mention should and was made about Brendan

Lillis who has endured a terrible and slow torture under the gaze of the prison chiefs, the wardens and the so-called medical staff.

We would like to highlight the efforts of the political apparatus that made sure that this brave mans plight was endured in secret. A disgrace, like all those who have endured hunger strike before him; like the genocide that was the famine, we will continue to be inspired by his and their selfless sacrifice. We are right to stand up for justice. We are right to stand up for the rights of the Irish people to be masters of their own destiny. The Prisoners of War are at the sharp end of the stick right enough. In a very small way we were glad to honour them on July 16.

UN say Garda Síochána should not investigate itself

ON June 17 the Celtic League drew attention to a recent report from the United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) which outlined concerns about the complaints and investigation mechanisms available to prisoners and those detained by the police in the 26 Counties.

Whilst welcoming, in its most recent report, the appointment of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission some years ago, the CAT express reservations about its ability to refer matters back to the Garda Síochána "thereby allowing the police to investigate itself".

The Committee also express concerns that a series of complaints about ill-treatment

involving prisoners at several jails in the State have not been independently investigated:

"18. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party with regard to the investigation of complaints by prisoners against prison staff relating to incidents which allegedly occurred in the following prisons: Portlaoise, on 30 June 2009; Mountjoy, on 15

June 2009 and 12 January 2010; Cork, on 16 December 2009; and Midlands, on 7 June 2009. The Committee notes with concern that in all these cases there have been no independent and effective investigations into the allegations of ill-treatment by prison staff. The Inspector of Prisons, in his report of 10 September 2010 entitled "Guidance on best practice for dealing with prisoners' complaints", concluded that there is no independent complaints and investigation body to investigate prisoners' complaints and that present procedures followed do not accord with best practice, and



recommended the establishment of an independent mechanism to receive and investigate complaints against prison staff (arts. 2, 12, 13 and 16).

"19. The Committee

welcomes the establishment of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) in 2005, the members of which cannot be serving members or former members of the Garda Síochána (Police Force). GSOC is empowered to investigate complaints of torture and ill-treatment against members of the Garda Síochána. However, the Committee regrets that GSOC can also refer complaints to the Garda (Police) Commissioner, who can proceed with the investigations independently or under the supervision of GSOC, except complaints concerning the death of or serious harm to a person in

police custody.

"The Committee is also concerned at the information that GSOC has submitted in proposals for the amendment of the Garda Síochána Act of 2005 in a number of areas, including the power to allow GSOC to refer investigations back to the Garda Síochána, thereby allowing the police to investigate itself (arts. 2, 12, 13 and 16)".

The Committee made a series of recommendations to both of the above which can be read, as well as the full CAT report on Ireland, on the UN OHCHR website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/index.htm>

Martin Hurson remembered in Longford

DESPITE the bad weather Republicans turned out in Mostrim, Co Longford on Sunday July 17 to remember the 1981 hunger strikers and Martin Hurson in particular.

During the general election in 1981 in the 26 Counties, Martin Hurson stood as a candidate in Longford-Westmeath constituency where he obtained 4,573 (10.1%) first preference votes. Martin Hurson, a Volunteer in the East Tyrone brigade of the Provisional IRA, was from Cappagh, Co. Tyrone. He died on July 13 after 46 days on hunger strike aged 26 years.

The assembled crowd marched behind a colour party and a piper from the town to the entrance to the train station where a plaque is erected in his honour. The proceedings were chaired by well-known Longford Republican Seán Lynch. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Mary Casey.

Wreaths were laid by Stephen Fulham, Peter Rogers and Ciaran Dolan. Séamus Kiernan read the Roll of Honour.

Des Dalton, President Sinn Féin Poblachtach, in addressing the crowd said: "I am honoured to be asked to speak here in Co Longford which has such a proud history of resistance to British Rule.

The hunger strikers of 1981 take their place alongside the martyrs of 1916 and all of those who have given their lives for Irish freedom. Today in Maghaberry Prison there are young men imprisoned by the same enemy

engaged in the same struggle for the same principles. Just as the people of Longford/Westmeath showed their support for Martin Hurson and his comrades we must rally in their support"

Seán then introduced the main speaker Tomás Ó Curraoin, Gaillimh who began his oration: "Starting off with Bobby Sands in May and finishing up later that year with Mickey Devine, the hunger strikers made the supreme sacrifice. A sacrifice beyond the call of Irish duty, for the love of their country and for the love of the Irish people, Catholic Protestant and Dissenter."

He spoke of the inspiration the got from the likes of Thomas Ashe from Kerry the first hunger striker to die in 1917 – the first of 22.

"It continued on right into the forties when Seán McNeela of Ballycrooy, County Mayo and Tony Darcy from Galway. Continued there again at Michael Gaughan who died at Parkhurst Prison in 1974. And Frank Stagg of course, and all Republican and nationalist minded person need to know what happened when his funeral was hijacked, who died in Wakefield prison in Yorkshire in 1976.

"But today we commemorate Martin Hurson who is associated with this county here Longford in the



• **Republican Sinn Féin held a hunger strike commemoration in Mostrim on July 17.**



• **Seán Lynch.**

elections and who the people of Longford and Westmeath gave a massive vote for in the Free State election of that era. Martin Hurson was one of the lads who took on the mighty crown of the British Empire, a crown that still occupies our six north eastern counties and will until they are driven out someday.

"Many of those friends that Martin Hurson had that time have taken the

slippery slopes to Leinster House and to Stormont. I would like to mention here today about Martin McGuinness and Mr. Adams that have gone into these institutions, accepted the money and forgot about the Republicanism.

"Martin McGuinness called us cowards after a peeler who was a part of the British Crown in Ireland was blown up in County Tyrone, but indeed we are no cowards Martin because regardless of religion these peelers took allegiance to the Queen of England and carried the Queen's gun the very same as the first peeler that was killed in my own county at Carnmore Cross at the Easter Rising of 1916.

"He was a Catholic too but it made no difference and nearly 98% of all the RIC were Catholic but they still carried out England's dirty work here on their own people until they were disbanded after the Free State was founded in 1922. And indeed what came in 1922

were no better than those who preceded them. One from each province was brought out and executed. I am talking about Liam Mellows and Joe McKelvey and Rory O'Connor and Dick Barret. Four different counties, four different provinces."

Tomás outlined the murders of Irishmen down the years by the Free State from many counties including Tom Harte from Lurgan in the early 40s and the effect that would have had on the young men who found themselves in the H-Blocks fighting the same fight in the now 1980s.

He concluded: "After 1922 that was the beginning where Irishmen were divided and we come together as Irish people regardless of religion or creed and tell the Brits to get the hell out of our country for once and for all. They say they need more time but they are here since 1169, is that not enough time? But they will leave but sad to say the only way they were ever driven out of any country was through the barrel of a gun and I am sure that when they leave Ireland it will be no exception."

Seán Lynch thanked everyone for attending and the crowd marched back to Mostrim where the piper closed the proceedings with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann. During the commemoration passing cars hooped to show their support.

Tea and sandwiches were supplied by the Mostrim Arms following the commemoration.

Carlow remembers the hunger strikers

CARLOW Republican Sinn Féin held a very successful picket at the Liberty Tree 1798 Monument in Carlow Town on Saturday, July 9.

The picket was held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in which Bobby Sands and nine Republican prisoners died.

The picket was also to highlight the present campaign of the Republican prisoners, who are on protest, in Maghaberry prison for the right to political status.

During the protest leaflets were distributed explaining about the protest in Maghaberry as well as the plight of veteran Republican Martin Corey who is at present interned without trial in Maghaberry where he has been held since April of last year.

The picket was addressed by the Athy based President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton who said that



• **Republican Sinn Féin members at a hunger strike commemoration in Carlow on July 9.**

the events of 1981 were not merely a matter of history:

"Today young Irishmen in Maghaberry prison are engaged in the same struggle against the same enemy on the same principle of political status.

"Like Bobby Sands and his comrades the present Republican prisoners are resisting the attempts of the British Government and its surrogate at Stormont to criminalise the historic and noble struggle for Irish freedom."

Hunger strikers remembered in the West

Republican Sinn Féin marked the 30th anniversary of the 1981 H-Block Hunger Strike in Long Kesh with a commemoration in Carrick-on-Shannon on Saturday, July 23 at 3.p.m.

The parade formed up at the bridge and led by the Raheen Pipe Band marched to the junction of Bridge St and Main St opposite the Costello Memorial Chapel – the site of the old Court House where 19 United Irishmen were held before execution by British forces in 1798. The ceremony was chaired by John McGrath who called on Sean Fitzmaurice and Michael McDonagh to lay the wreaths on

behalf of the Republican Movement and Comhairle Chúige Connacht. Dermot Mullooly, Roscommon recited a decade of the Rosary. Seán Fitzmaurice read the roll of honour of the 22 Irish Republicans who died on hunger strike between 1917 and 1981.

In his oration Dan Hoban, Mayo said that Bobby Sands and his comrades were in succession to the men and

women of 1798 who also laid down their lives for Irish freedom. "There are those who have betrayed the cause of a free Ireland who would pretend that we have settled our argument with England. Our message is clear: as long as there is a single British soldier in Ireland there can be no settlement.

"We remember the today the martyrs of 1981 and we salute the young men in Maghaberry today who are resisting the attempt by the British to criminalise them and their comrades. We believe like Pearse that 'Ireland unfree shall never be at peace'."



• **Members of Dublin Republican Sinn Féin members held a picket in Dublin's O'Connell Street support of the POWs in Maghaberry on July 16.**

Forty Years of Éire Nua

THE French Revolution in the late 18th century challenged the divine right of monarchs and introduced the concept of the sovereignty of the people, expressed through a Republican form of government. This idea of democracy has been accepted and developed in many countries since that time.

It took decades for France herself to accept that the Rights of Man she proclaimed extended to black people in her colonies and women did not get the vote in France until 1945. Our own 1916 Proclamation had already guaranteed votes for women on an equal basis with men.

Whether by revolution or evolution, change comes slowly, as ordinary people, some of them visionary, struggle to achieve liberty and equality through fraternity, most times against powerful and selfish interests. Democracy involves not just rights but also duties and responsibilities. Without taxation there can be no public services, for instance.

Democracy works best at the local level, where people can identify with their own local community. On the larger scale, people of the same nation have a sense of a common national identity and can accept laws which might seem restrictive but which are necessary for the common good.

In Ireland we were colonised and have maintained a stout resistance and sought to establish our national rights over many centuries. This struggle is not yet over. There is still foreign rule in six of our 32 counties, and England must be persuaded to withdraw and let the people of all Ireland rule themselves.

The freedom struggle is complicated by the alienation, deliberately fostered by English divide and conquer tactics, of a powerful and substantial number of people from the idea of a 32-County Irish Republic. They are mostly Protestants.

The aggressive and even brutal tactics of the British army on the streets of the North and the introduction of internment in August 1971 changed the nature of what was a campaign for civil rights into a renewal of the freedom struggle — an outright war against English rule.

Shortly after that, the Republican Movement launched its Dáil Uladh initiative. It sought not merely a British withdrawal from Ireland, but a united province of Ulster within a free and united Ireland. A nine-county parliament would still have a Unionist majority, of about 5% and would have considerable power, more than the Stormont six-county state ever had. A conference was held in Monaghan and attracted much interest and set up Comhairle Uladh to promote this novel idea.

The other three provinces joined in and soon the comprehensive object of a four-

province federal Ireland was developed and given the simple title of ÉIRE NUA. In a federal system power and even sovereignty are shared between the national state and its semi-autonomous provinces.

A number of supportive and idealistic people outside of Sinn Féin contributed to the Éire Nua project and helped to promote it. Federal states as big as the US, Canada and Germany and as small as Switzerland were studied carefully. Sinn Féin activists were provided with literature which explained how such federal systems were successful in some of the best-run countries in the world which have different languages, cultures and religions.

This was not an easy task, nor is it now, as all the powerful interests who have a stake in the old system, the political and other elites, always resist change. The following is a good example of this phenomenon.

When British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, quietly suggested in 1974 that he would consider a withdrawal from the Six Counties a grand coalition of the Unionists, SDLP, Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour asked him to drop the idea, which he did. This is recorded by Garret FitzGerald in his memoirs and by Merlyn Rees, MP, in a letter to *The Guardian*, 19th July, 1983.

He wrote: "The option of withdrawal was seriously considered in Cabinet sub-committee between 1974-76. As Secretary of State I was firmly against such a policy and was supported by the elected Irish government in Dublin, the SDLP," The sub-committee was chaired by the Prime Minister.

The core value of Éire Nua is power to the people and that places it in opposition to the over-centralised modern states, even some nominally federal states. As we have seen in recent times, many states now play a subservient role to the interests of the faceless people of big business and international capital. And governments run scared before powerful media corporations. Such states and their governments thus betray the interests of their own citizens.

The European Union came into being, and Irish people voted in a series of referenda to weaken national defences and thus enable transnational capital to have a free rein. We now live with the consequences of this and we need to proclaim the sovereignty of the people again.

The partition of Ireland in 1922 created not one, but two unnatural entities, not just a

"Protestant parliament for a Protestant people" in the Six Counties, but also a Catholic state in the 26 Counties.

The Unionist majority in the North behaved very badly in their gerrymandering of electoral boundaries and in discrimination against the minority. The, mostly hidden, hand of the Orange Order was behind serious civil rights abuses.

Westminster consistently refused to intervene and the whole thing blew up in all our faces in 1969. This would not have happened in a 32-County pluralist Ireland which guaranteed equal rights and equal opportunities to all her citizens.

The same unnatural partition affected the 26 Counties also. A 32-County state with its balance of different religions could hardly have brought about the controversy over the appointment of a Protestant librarian in Co Mayo in 1931; the banning of Edna O'Brien's short novels; the hounding from office of Dr Noel Browne, Minister for Health in 1951; the scandals of the Magdalene Laundries and the Industrial Schools, for examples.

Republicans have never advocated the achievement of a united Ireland by adding the Six Counties to the 26, under either the 1922 or the 1937 Constitution. We have never proposed or recommended a 32-County Free State. We have never accepted either state but seek to restore the All-Ireland Republic which was overthrown in 1922.

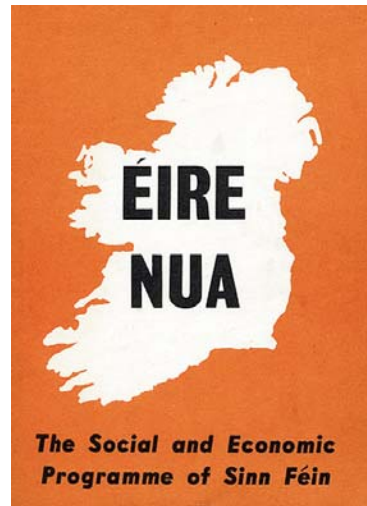
If the Unionists perceived their possible fate as incorporation into an extended 26-County state, as advocated by some Northern nationalists, then they were probably right to decline the invitation. Their attitude in this respect is at least understandable, but their treatment of the minority was shameful and unworthy of the descendants of the first Irish Republicans of the 1790s period. Republicans of today have not succeeded, alas, in making plain what their objective is, a totally New Ireland with power to the provinces, regions and districts.

One Unionist, David Adams, writing in the *Irish Times* on 3rd December 2009, criticised the failure of nationalist or Republican Ireland to propose a blueprint for a united Ireland. He wrote:

"Clarity is what the people of Northern Ireland (sic) need."

"Those who believe that, if it comes to it, the six Northern counties could simply be tacked on to the Republic (sic), and Unionists would fit neatly in with a 32-County version of how things are in the South at present, are kidding themselves. That would be a recipe for perpetual instability across the island."

He criticised the Provos (Adams and McGuinness) for having no more than a half-



baked notion of how to get a united Ireland, and then declared:

"In fairness to Sinn Féin (sic), none of the southern-based political parties has been forthcoming with anything like a detailed post-unity plan either."

"The Éire Nua document, authored by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Dáithí Ó Conaill in the 1970s, remains the only serious bid by any strand of nationalism or republicanism to address the issue at all."

Indeed, the Éire Nua proposal is the only one in which Unionists have ever expressed an interest.

When the Adams-McGuinness faction declared Éire Nua to be merely "a sop to Unionists" and got the 1981 Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin to drop it as a policy, and a subsequent Ard-Fheis to delete all reference to a federal Ireland from the Sinn Féin constitution, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Dáithí Ó Conaill stood down from the leadership. They were not going to renege on something they had created and in which they believed passionately.

Following the breaching of the Sinn Féin constitution by Adams-McGuinness in 1986 the newly reorganised Sinn Féin Poblachtach redrafted and republished Éire Nua. It has remained a core policy since and has been supplemented by the SAOL NUA Social and Economic Programme.

The men and women of the First Dáil Éireann (1919) and the Second Dáil Éireann (1921) were leaders of a brilliant and exceptional generation of Irish Republicans. They set up an administration with government departments, local government, a police service and courts of law and fought a war of independence. The pace must have been hectic.

It was not until the 1970s, however, that Republicans formulated a proposal that would clearly outline structures of government that would guarantee the rights of Unionists, who were afraid of being swallowed up in an all-

Ireland state, and that would give them access to real power. And this real power would be accessible to every community in all four provinces.

Some research needs to be done now to discover if the Unionists would still have a majority in a nine-county Dáil Uladh, given the population changes since 1971. Irrespective of how the figures would come out, however, they deserve nothing less than their full rights and access to real power. Their place in an Irish Republic was bought dearly in their own blood in the Rising of 1798 and we need them and they need us.

Might not the Irish banks be in better shape now if there had been some God-fearing Presbyterians in the upper echelons of management? And more women too? A blend of the better characteristics of Christianity could be a refreshing, progressive and formidable force for good. A combination of the Protestant Ethic and the Catholic Ethic.

There is also another major element emerging. The Scots, Welsh, Cornish and even English nationalisms or nationalisms are asserting themselves once more. The ties which bind the "Union" are fraying, a certain momentum is building up and we all need to be planning for a better future. What better basis on which to build than a free, united, federal Ireland of over six million people?

Éire Nua includes a Draft Charter of Rights and the right of Petition or Initiative. This right of Initiative is much used in Switzerland. It is a constitutional *modus operandi* whereby a referendum can be resorted to on an issue of importance if a sufficient number of signatures are collected. This can be done at local, provincial or national level. Issues like Shell to Sea or the M3 motorway near Tara come to mind. This is direct participative democracy at work, as distinct from

representative democracy.

For all this to work smoothly and satisfactorily we need a good system of education which encourages young citizens to think things through and develop their critical faculty, rather than learning material by heart in order to gain points.

Ireland, as a nation, has many other resources too. She has some of the finest land and fisheries in Europe. She could feed Europe with organic food. She has an ancient history and culture and a potentially high productive capacity.

In retrospect, the only problem with Éire Nua was that it was produced by the "wrong" people, those who have been labelled disturbers, subversives, dissidents and terrorists — all undesirable in the eyes of the Establishments. Yet, it has been admired and praised by many scholars and academics. It needs some new maps, particularly in light of the results of the 2011 local elections in the Six Counties. It also needs to be promoted vigorously.

The old order is being questioned more and more, people are receptive to new ideas and the circumstances are opportune again.

There is also a Plan B, as there should always be, because Sinn Féin Poblachtach says in a footnote to the Programme:

"The above proposals are not definitive; they can and inevitably will be modified. Sinn Féin Poblachtach would in fact welcome constructive criticism of these proposals."

This then is the Éire Nua programme. But how do we get it put on the agenda for creating a New Ireland, fashioned by the people of Ireland themselves? This can best be done by convening a Consultative Assembly, representative of all shades of opinion in all 32 Counties. Sinn Féin Poblachtach would bring Éire Nua to this Consultative Assembly as its proposal, in the hope that it, or some version of it, would prove acceptable.

Such a Consultative Assembly will never be convened without the build-up of a public demand for it. Bringing this about calls for a mighty campaign among the Irish people. This is an admirable and worthy task. The alternative is a continuation of the running sore of the two artificial states with all the consequences we know all too well, civil strife, unemployment and emigration.

Sinn Féin Poblachtach is shouting STOP and is presenting a viable, feasible alternative, ÉIRE NUA — A New Democracy.

— Seán Ó Brádaigh

Israel detains 835 Palestinian youths

OVER the past five years, Israel's military has detained more than 800 Palestinian youths and children for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers, and has interrogated and jailed many of them, a rights group said in a new report published on July 19, 2011.

Drawing on military statistics and interviews for its 70-page report, the Israeli rights group B'Tselem counted 835 minors who were taken into custody from 2005 to early 2011, including 34 children who were 13 or younger.

B'Tselem said an eight-year-old was seized in the West Bank in February. Soldiers released the boy after realising he was not the child they were after. They wanted his nine-year-old brother. Troops handcuffed the 9-year-old, blindfolded him and took him to a detention centre where he was interrogated and held for five hours. Israeli forces released the boy after it was determined he was a minor.

Of the more than 800 minors charged with throwing stones, one youth was found guilty in a trial. The other 93% were given jail terms after making plea bargains, agreeing mostly because they feared being detained while they waited for their cases to reach trial.

Testimonials and events documented by human rights organizations show the abuse of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons to be regular and widespread. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, torture, threats and intimidation as well as the denial of basic human rights, such as access to education are the most common forms of abuse, documents show.

In 2009, a report from the UK-based children's rights group Defence for Children International found, there were 305 Palestinian children being held in Israeli jails. The US-based NGO Save the Children further estimates, that over 6,700 children were arrested between October 2000 and April 2009. Both organizations confirm Israel routinely prosecutes Palestinian children as young as 12, describing the ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children as "widespread, systematic and institutionalized".

Nearly all children surveyed by DCI, 97 percent, were held for hours with their hands cuffed, and 92 percent were blindfolded for long periods of time. Twenty-six percent said they were forced to remain in painful positions.

Despite being a State member of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Israel identifies a "child" as any person below the age of 12, "youth" as any person between 12 and 14, "young adult" as any person between 14 and 16 and "adult" as any person above 16. Israeli citizens however, are legally considered an adult at 18. This denies Palestinian children many of the basic services granted to Israelis of the same age.

Israelis attack monitoring boat in Gaza waters

ON July 20 the Israeli Navy attacked Palestinian fishing boats and the *Oliva Boat*, which monitors the situation at Gaza seashore.

According to investigations conducted by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) *Oliva* started sailing at 7:45 in the morning as part of its mission to monitor the situation at Gaza seashore. Approximately two nautical miles off Gaza coast, two Israeli gunboats approached the boat and from a distance of approximately five meters attacked it using water hoses. One of the gunboats hit *Oliva* causing its propeller to be damaged.

The damaged *Oliva Boat* and crew were pulled to safety by a number of Palestinian fishermen's boats.

Oliva started its work on April 20, 2011 under the umbrella of the Spanish Civil Peace Service. It carried out the first monitoring mission in the Gaza Strip on 8 June 2011. This project is aimed at monitoring and documenting Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen while fishing, which constitute a violation of international law and amount to possible war crimes. PCHR, Fishing and Naval Sports Association, Union of Agricultural Work Committees and the Coordination Committee of Popular Resistance participate in the project, which is sponsored by dozens of local and international organizations. The monitoring team includes international solidarity activists from Italy, Sweden, USA and Britain.

Martyrs remembered at rally A RALLY to commemorate the death of a man killed by a bomb took place in Abergele, Wales on Saturday July 5, 2011.

Alwyn Jones 22, was killed along with George Taylor 37, in 1969 after a bomb they were carrying exploded prematurely killing both men, while supposedly involved with Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru (Movement for the Defence of Wales MAC), a group that operated in the 1960's and 70's in Wales and committed to achieving full Welsh independence. It is thought that the two men were planning to disrupt the investiture of Charles Windsor, while he travelled to Caernarfon by train.

An annual rally to commemorate their deaths was held every year between 1970 and 1999. After a suspension of ten years the rally was restarted again at the fortieth anniversary of the event by the group Balchder Cymruin 2009. The rally has continued ever since, but at the request of Mr Taylor's family the event has preceded in the name of Mr Jones only.

Leading the parade in the town was John Jenkins who was arrested in 1970 and sentenced to 10 years for commanding MAC. Among the speakers were Adam Philips of Balchder Cymru and general secretary of the Celtic League, Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, a college lecturer from Redruth in Cornwall. Representatives from the SNP and Plaid Cymru were also in attendance.

In his speech the Rhisiart Tal-e-bot said: "All of the Celtic countries have their martyrs who died in an attempt to gain greater autonomy and independence for their respective nations. It is important that we remember every one of these people who have died in this struggle, so that we don't forget them."

WORLD NEWS



• *The Oliva boat, which monitors the situation on the Gaza seashore, was attacked by Israel gunboats on July 20.*

US claims untrue

CLAIMS by President Obama's chief counter-terrorism adviser John Brennan that 'there hasn't been a single collateral [civilian] death' in Pakistan since August 2010 are found to be untrue, following a major Bureau investigation, according to published reports on July 19.

According to Brennan, Barack Obama himself has 'insisted' that US drone strikes are 'exceptionally surgical and precise' and 'do not put... innocent men, women and children in danger'. Yet a detailed examination by the Bureau of 116 CIA 'secret' drone strikes in Pakistan August 23, 2010 and June 29, 2011, has uncovered at least 10 individual attacks in which 45 or more civilians appear to have died.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which is seeking public scrutiny of CIA drone strikes, said: 'It is absurd that senior US government officials would state that there have been no civilian casualties in drone strikes in Pakistan, and at the same time refuse to confirm or deny the existence of civilian casualty data.'

The Bureau has identified and can provide the family names for six children among those killed. At least 15 additional strikes warrant urgent investigation, with many more civilian deaths possible.

Despite the Bureau's evidence, US intelligence agencies insist that no civilians have died.

Prisoners allowed contact with families after 20 years

FOR nearly two decades, a group of incarcerated men in Ohio blamed for leading an infamous 1993 prison riot have been held in strict solitary confinement 23 hours a day, denied so much as having any sort of physical contact with loved ones.

After launching a hunger strike earlier this month, however, that's all going to change.

News of the victory came on Saturday, January 15. In a statement relayed to the crowd, hunger striker Jason Robb thanked supporters, chalking the victory up to the fact that "our protest went viral", receiving national media attention and coverage from a number of blogs dedicated to reforming the criminal justice system.

Robb and the other hunger strikers are on death row for allegedly being complicit in the deaths of the 10 men – nine prisoners and one guard – who were killed during the 1993 Lucasville uprising, spurred by overcrowding and abuse at the hands of prison officials. Promised they would not be retaliated against after helping negotiate an end to the uprising, Ohio authorities reneged on their promise, holding them in what can only be termed cruel and unusual conditions ever since, with O'Hearn noting that their limited time outside of solitary confinement consisted of walking in a cement-walled room with a steel grate roof. That was what passed for "outdoor recreation".

As Change.org's reported, Siddique Abdullah Hasan, Bomani Shakur and Jason Robb started their hunger strike two weeks ago, but the prisoners weren't just denied physical contact with their loved ones, but also basic necessities like appropriate clothing to keep them warm during the cold Ohio winters and adequate medical treatment.

The men will now be provided greater recreation time, access to legal databases they need for their cases and the opportunity to purchase more goods like food and clothing.

— Charles Davis - January 21, 2011; <http://news.change.org>

Mass grave found in Iraq

A MASS grave was discovered in Diwaniyah, Iraq containing the remaining bodies of 222 Kurds who were massacred under Iraq's former regime in 1987.

"We have found 222 bodies and we have transferred them to the morgue in the province of Najaf," said Kerim Ziad, the official in charge of mass graves at the Department of Human Rights.

Iraqi authorities announced on July 6 that they had discovered

another mass grave containing the remaining bodies of 900 Kurds in the Shanafiyah region near the city of Diwaniyah. Ziad said several factors suggested that the victims, most with bullet wounds, were Kurds killed during the regime of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

The mass graves are made up of six trenches, and we have worked on only three of them," he said, suggesting the number of victims could be much higher.

Dakhil Saihoud, provincial head of the Justice and Accountability Commission which investigates issues relating to the former regime, said he was informed there were 17 trenches at the site.

"The mass graves are crimes against humanity committed in 1987," said Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. "This is one of 84 sites listed at our ministry, and we have completed work on 34 of them," he told AFP.

Widad Hatem, director of the Committee for Human Rights in Diwaniyah's provincial council, said women and children were among the victims.

Maghoul Abdullah (90), said he remembered people being rounded up in town. "The security forces of the old regime evacuated the area and forced us to leave the place. After a few days, large trucks took away people at night, and we even clearly heard their cries," he said. It should be pointed out that within the process of the systematic killing of the Kurds known as 'Anfal', the Iraqi former regime killed 182,000 civilian Kurds, and destroyed 3,000 Kurdish villages.

<http://www.rojhelat.info/english/kurdistan/>

Protest at Iranian Embassy in London

AROUND 150 people staged a protest outside the Iranian embassy in London on July 24 demanding an end to the ongoing bombardment of PJAK bases by Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The attacks have recently wounded and displaced Kurdish civilians in border villages between Iran and Iraq.

The protest was organised by Freedom Umbrella, a Kurdish activist group based in London. In a statement the group condemned the bombardments, calling them an "illegal crime".

Nearly 50 people had gathered outside the Iranian embassy when the protest began in the early afternoon. They were soon joined by 100 more demonstrators who came from a protest in front of the Turkish embassy against the jailing of Kurdish MPs in Turkey.

Peace protesters detained by police in Sweden

ONE hundred and seventy international peace activists from 17 countries entered the North European Aerospace Test range on July 27 in a massive act of nonviolent civil disobedience in the north of Sweden.

Some 28 activists were confirmed as arrested or detained, among them activist from Venezuela, Spain, Germany, UK and Finland. Police kept ten non-Swedish activists detained, and interrogated them at the police station of Lulea. Then a decision was taken to keep these ten activists detained for 72 hours, according to Swedish law.

A total of 201 people took part in the action, which aimed to expose the hidden role of the massive test range in the preparation for wars, including the testing of new military equipment such as drones, missiles and fighter planes.

The North European Aerospace Test range (NEAT), in the north of Sweden includes a bombing range the size of Belgium together with a larger restricted airspace. It is used for testing missiles, combat aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). Last summer the US Air Force used it for live fire bombing practice, and in 2009 the NATO Response Force used the area for the nuclear alliance's largest air exercise that year. Among the weapons tested at the range are the unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) such as those used in extra-judicial executions in Pakistan and elsewhere.

Sweden is not a member of NATO, but is collaborating in the war in Afghanistan through hundreds of soldiers being part of the ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), through which Ireland deploys at least 7 staff in Afghanistan. For a supposedly 'neutral' country Sweden has many connections to wars across the world. In 2009 Swedish arms exports amounted to 13.6 billion kronor (about €1.4 billion), an increase of €1 billion, or 350%, since 2001. Some of the countries include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the US and Britain. These countries have taken part in the death of a million people in Iraq and suppressed democratic revolts in their own countries. All this while the guide lines for arms export states that Sweden should not export to countries involved in warfare or have systematically committed acts contrary to human rights. Clearly that would exclude all the above countries, but so called 'exceptions' are used to justify the greed of the arms companies.

<http://www.wri-ing.org>

Hiroshima Day, August 6

ON Hiroshima Day, August 6, the Irish CND will hold its annual commemoration at the Cherry Tree in Merrion Square, Dublin 2 at 1pm.

Roger Cole, Chair of PANA said: "We urge all those who can, to attend Irish CND's commemoration in Merrion Square on Saturday August for those who died at Hiroshima. Between 150,000-246,000 men, women and children died as a consequence of the nuclear bombs dropped by the USA on Hiroshima & Nagasaki.

"Today the USA and it's vassal states such as Ireland are taking part in wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Libya. The political elites in these countries are spending €billions on these wars while their own people are suffering massive cuts in health, education and social welfare.

"What they want is jobs at home, not war abroad. These wars, especially the use of Shamon Airport in them need to end immediately. It would be the best of news not just for the people in these war zones but also for the people of the USA, Ireland and the rest of Europe."

WHAT THEY SAID

So what do the contradictory messages, north and south, tell us about where Sinn Féin (sic) is headed – on course for revolution or reveling in the trappings of power and privileged?

— Patrick Murphy, Irish News, June 25, 2011.

In the South [Provisional] Sinn Féin is not in power but in the North its Gilbert and Sullivan-type titles have been accompanied by an increase in unemployment, rising retail prices and a decline in public services.

— Patrick Murphy. So why is the party so electorally successful? Two reasons: political populism rooted in the peace process and selling success as a political commodity.

Its main argument for a united Ireland appears to be improving the administrative efficiency of both Irish States rather than the concept of nationhood. Sinn Féin (sic) sees – and sells – itself as the administrative glue in a new system. But administrative glue cannot cement political differences – particularly those enshrined in British law and reflected, for example, in the party's support for Ulster Scots as a language.

— Patrick Murphy. Surprisingly Gerry Adams said in Dublin that a federal Ireland (regional, provincial assemblies under a national government) is now worth considering. It was surprising because the idea was thrown out at the 1982 Ard-Fheis. Will he resurrect it again at today's Irish unity conference in Cork? This appears to be another rebranding of Republicanism.

— Patrick Murphy. [Provisional] Sinn Féin tends to use political power for its own self-advancement.

Oddly it does not hinder its electoral success because the party does not electioneer – it markets. It sells itself by offering

the opportunity to be associated with success, rather like an English soccer team.

— Patrick Murphy. Putting party before people to produce electoral success is a triumph of image over substance. How long can that last in a recession? Long enough to extend the rebranding of Republicanism to redefining the concept of an Irish nation?

— Patrick Murphy. Loyalist bands played sectarian songs and Orange standard *The Sash* outside a Catholic Church during Twelfth parade yesterday...

The Sash and sectarian songs including *The Billy Boys* were played on both the outward and return leg of the parade.

— Claire Simpson [journalist] writing in Irish News, July 13, 2011.

Speaking on RTÉ Radio One's Morning Ireland this morning, Burton said her department would be targeting those who were claiming welfare payments as a "lifestyle choice". She said that those who refuse to take up job or training opportunities would have their payments cut by as much as €44 per week.

— www.thejournal.ie, July 18, 2011.

The police have CCTV cameras placed at vantage points on top of armoured vehicles, not to mention the eye-in-the-sky helicopter and the static security cameras which adorn most interfaces.

So why do they need media footage they could see anyway by buying a paper or watching the news like the rest of Joe Public?

— Irish News, July 22, 2011. Alison Morris column on a ruling by Judge Burgess in Belfast that the media had to hand over footage of the riots in July as "disclosure of such material by the media was in the interest of the public".

Is it really in the public interest to have a stifled media unable to cover events for fear of their lives?

How can the media report independently if the press are used by the police and prosecution services as unofficial evidence gatherers?

— Alison Morris. This is incommunicado



• Members of the RUC/PSNI riot squad armed with plastic bullet guns during the riots which took place over the Twelfth of July Orange marches.

detention in the classic sense, they don't have any meaningful contact with anyone other than their captors.

— Seán Devine, Barrister for Michael Johnston in Maghaberry jail who is on protest and is refused all visits, phone calls, and letters. Irish News, July 26, 2011.

David Ford is a man who has the power to use common sense rather than political manoeuvring to solve such problems. Yet, to date, he has failed to take advantage of that power, spending so much time sitting on the fence he could get a job walking tightrope in Duffy's circus.

— Irish News, July 27, 2011. Alison Morris column writing on the need to release Brendan Lillis and conditions in general in Maghaberry jail.

Standing up to those elements resistance to positive change could see him remembered as a minister who made bold, brave moves for the good of cementing peace.

— Alison Morris. "Speaking to the Irish News Mr McNally said the actions of the PSNI had "slandered his personal reputation" and caused "untold damage" to his business.

This may have been carried out by the PSNI but it was an RUC-style raid with an RUC agenda".

— Irish News, July 29, 2011.

Declan McNally speaking on the raid on his business premises by the PSNI on July 26. He and four others were arrested for questioning on July 26 in relation to the killing of RUC/PSNI member Ronan Kerr and released without charge the following day.

I was taken away in handcuffs and held overnight without so much as a single shred of evidence against me.

— Declan McNally. My family home has been shown on the television with six Land Rovers parked outside. Now what does this look like to people in this area?

— Irish News, July 29, 2011. Barney Campbell, father of Brian who was arrested for questioning on July 26 of the killing of Ronan Kerr. Brian was in the USA when the killing occurred and his father claim's that the RUC pulled his son's name "out of thin air". Brian was released without charge the following day.

Several ministers are convinced that the state should not have to repay unguaranteed and unsecured senior bonds in the two defunct banks.

There is some €2.8 billion of unguaranteed and unsecured debt remaining in Anglo, and some €600 million in Irish Nationwide.

The government has said it will seek to negotiate with the

European Central Bank (ECB) in the autumn to impose losses on the owners of these bonds, though the ECB has so far been firmly opposed to "burning" senior bondholders. Funds loaned by the ECB currently support the rest of the Irish banking system.

However, ministers are becoming increasingly opposed to repaying the bonds in full, conscious of the political fallout from continuing to meet the costs of the Anglo debts, while imposing harsh austerity measures on ordinary citizens.

The state has paid out over €1 billion to unsecured unguaranteed bondholders in Anglo so far this year, and a further €1 billion falls due later this year, just weeks before the budget.

— Sunday Business Post, July 31, 2011

"Their achievements in healthcare are extraordinary.

"The entire system, which caters for over 11 million people, is run on the same annual budget as Beaumont, about €280 million per year, yet they have better healthcare indices than Ireland.

"Every child is vaccinated against 11 diseases - in inner-city Dublin, around 23 per cent of kids aren't even vaccinated against the common diseases.

"They've turned the system completely on its head by focusing on health promotion and disease prevention," he says. "In the western world we wait until people get sick, and then try and cure them. It's a totally different system.

"They have set up a pancreas transplant programme based on training that some of their surgeons did with us, and we've sent about 30 of our medical students to rotate over there as a result of our connection. "We've also sent over some perfectly good medical equipment that we are no longer allowed to use here.

"That has been very important for them, because the American blockade still affects their ability to purchase medical equipment or drugs manufactured by US companies."

— Dr David Hickey, speaking about Cuba to Harry Leech in the Sunday Business Post, July 31, 2011..

Letter of protest from Brehon Law activist

THE RUC/PSNI's decision to seek sensitive archive information about the Troubles gathered by US academics, "are causing ripples of concern" outside of the Six Counties.

Former US Army General James Cullen, acting on behalf of the Brehon Law Society – an influential Irish-American legal group – presented the British police with a letter of protest, outlining concerns over the RUC's desire to get their hands on interview tapes with some of the most high-profile combatants of the conflict, including former IRA leader Brendan Hughes.

A retired Brigadier General in the US, where he served as one of the military's top legal

advisors before becoming a Judge for court marshal hearings, Cullen was "frank" during a meeting with RUC/PSNI Chief Superintendent Alan Todd, about why the force should refrain from seeking the Boston tapes with a subpoena through the US Attorney's Office.

He stressed that the desire to access the records, which were the basis of the 2008 book by Ed Moloney *Voices From the Grave*, could boost perceptions of "inherent bias" in the

RUC/PSNI.

In his letter, General Cullen said: "We are sufficiently practical to know elements of the old RUC remain in the PSNI with their own malevolent agendas."

The letter of protest hand-delivered on July 31 to the RUC/PSNI's Knock HQ has also been sent to the head of the British Public Prosecution Service, and other influential figures, including British Secretary of State Owen Paterson, and senior jurists both here and in the States.

Speaking to the *Andersonstown News* immediately after the Knock meeting, Brig Gen Cullen –

who had originally sought to meet Chief Constable Matt Baggott, who was unavailable – said the discussions were "positive" but stressed that the force's fight to get hold of material gathered in confidence was causing "ripples of concern" far beyond the Six Counties.

"Americans can be known for their frankness, and I was exactly that with CS Todd about the feelings of the Brehon Society, and Irish America in general over this issue," he said.

"Have the [RUC]/PSNI really considered the impact that seeking to access these tapes will have? People are beginning to ask – is this a

legacy of the old RUC creeping back?"

"I would have hoped the senior leadership would have been more aware of what this could stir up. The news reporting of this in Boston and even New York is causing alarm, especially in academic circles, and is seriously risking the image of the [RUC]/PSNI as a neutral force as opposed to the old RUC, which many saw as an armed wing of loyalism.

"The subpoena will make those in universities who wish to conduct valuable research into the conflict here, research that can even aid peace and reconciliation, impossible.

"If the police are really keen on investigating the past and getting prosecutions, why not start with the direct attacks on the rule of law by rogue British state forces in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings for instance.

"In light of claims over how the [RUC]/PSNI are handling the aftermath of recent riots here, and that they are going easy on loyalists while clamping down on Republicans, well the whole attitude of the organisation must be questioned. Their actions are causing ripples of concern that go far beyond Northern Ireland."

Thanks From CABHAIR

A chara
CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependant's Fund) would like to extend a special word of thanks to one of our staunch supporters in northern England. Her regular donations and her concern for Republican prisoners is very much appreciated by the Central Committee and by the Republican prisoners and their dependants. She never forgets their sacrifice and the sacrifice of those who went before them, including the ten H-Block hunger strikers, and sends a wreath each year to the Bundoran hunger strike commemoration.

Beir Bua agus Beannacht
PEIG KING
Cathaoirleach

POWs Situation Critical

A chara
The Republican prisoners in Roe House, Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim are now into their third week on 24-hour lockdown. All visits are denied, family and legal. Some of the POWs have upcoming court cases and they are unable to consult with their legal representatives. Families are worried as they have no contact with their husbands/sons/brothers and the conditions the men are living in are a major cause of concern.

Relatives have been informed by the jail that there will be no visits while the men are on protest.

Their ongoing lock-up will take a serious toll on the health of the men. Lack of air/exercise; contact and stimulation contributes to a run-down of physical and mental well being.

Long-term incarceration causes long-term health problems.

The installation of another BOSS chair would go a long way towards solving this crisis. One chair is already in the jail, what's the delay in installing another one? The installation of the extra chair has already been suggested in the report to David Ford over eight months ago by the facilitators who brokered the Agreement of 2010.

The Agreement of August 12 2010, which was to be implemented on a phased basis, was signed in good faith by the POWs. They could do with some good faith from the jail now.

We call on all relatives, friends and supporters of the Republican prisoners to put pressure on David Ford as minister for justice in the Stormont regime (though one must doubt the justice in that regime) and contact him at d.ford@niassembly.gov.uk or make contact with the prison service at info@niprisonerservice.gov.uk

Josephine Hayden
POW DEPARTMENT
Republican Sinn Féin

Felon-Setting

A chara
I was incredulous when reading Joe Lynch's letter (July 21) in the *Irish News*. The fact that he, and others, are still trying to justify splitting the Republican Movement in an autocratic fashion shows how desperate they are.

There are numerous issues this splinter group has failed to address. Why did they highlight Des Dalton's visit to New York at Easter when they are well aware that Republican Sinn Féin is proscribed as a "Foreign Terrorist Organisation" by the State Department? One would conclude that this was a deliberate act of what is described as felon-setting. This is practically touting. Joe Lynch



has a brazen audacity to accuse others of "doing a great disservice to Irish Republicanism". Splitting the Republican Movement during the prisoners' protest last year only served to strengthen the hand of the British State and Government. This is enforcing the Machiavellian policy of *divide et impera* in Ireland on behalf of the British.

He also states that "90 per cent of RSF dumped the old leadership". If that were the truth, why would people abandon a leadership that was, as I stated in a previous letter to the *Irish News* (August 25, 2010), democratically elected by them? The 2010 Ard Chomhairle were endorsed by an overwhelming majority at the 2009 Ard-Fheis. No amount of disinformation or fact manipulation can disguise this. ÉAMONN Mac GRIANNA
McKelvey/Steele Cumann
Béal Feirste, Aontroim

Child Victims Of war

A chara
Children are the greatest suffers of wars; they are killed, raped and mutilated on a mass scale. Their innocence is torn from their young bodies for a cause that they know nothing about. Children have no rights recognised in places where war exists; they starve and live their lives in fear. This is no childhood for any child, yet the governments do nothing to elevate the problem.

Modern warfare has now become high technology; weapons manufacturers claim their weapons can hit with pinpoint accuracy. So why so many civilians are killed by the likes of the drone bombings carried out?

Children have always been caught up in warfare. They usually have little choice but to experience, at minimum, the same horrors as their parents. When food supplies have run short, it is children who have been hardest hit, since their growing bodies need steady supplies of essential nutrients. When water supplies have been contaminated, it is children who have had the least resistance to the dangers of disease. And the trauma of exposure to violence and brutal death has emotionally affected generations of young people for the rest of their lives.

Recent developments in warfare have significantly heightened the dangers for children. During the last decade, it is estimated that child victims have included:

2 million killed;
4.5 million disabled;
12 million left homeless;
More than 1 million orphaned or separated from their parents;

Some 10 million psychologically traumatized.

The increasing number of child victims is primarily explained by the higher proportion of civilian deaths in recent conflicts. In the wars of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, only about half the victims were civilians. In the later decades the proportion of civilian victims has been rising

steadily: in World War II it was two thirds, and by 2010 it was almost 90 per cent.

CONNACHT READER

Local Council Expenses

A chara
The figures for payments to councillors to Mayo County Council are on the way down but the question must be asked, what do the councillors do to earn this money? Members of Mayo County Council claimed more than €900,000 in payments, allowances and expenses during the past 12 months.

The annual accounts of the council reveal that the 31 members were paid a total of €908,768.29 in 2010, resulting in an average payment per councillor of €29,315. Taken into context, a married couple living on a state pension gets €363.70 a week to live on compared to a sitting councillor who gets €563.75 a week for attending a meeting once a month, plus expenses.

The Provisionals are at the forefront in Mayo in claiming expenses. Councillor Rose Conway-Walsh claimed €10,295.28 as an annual

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Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published.

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allowance in 2010. The higher figures for Belmullet based Councillor Conway-Walsh are explained by the fact that she has to travel a long distance to attend the monthly council meetings in Castlebar. Again referring to a married couple living on the OAP, they have to pay their own transport to pick up their pension, do the weekly shopping and go to weekly mass. While they have the free travel pass, this does not entitle them to taxi fares, which most people have to use because the public transport system is near non-existent in Mayo.

If the councillors did any work for the people, then there would be a case for them to receive payment, however, they are only yes men for their political parties and nod in agreement for the cutbacks, for the media blackout of the real plight of the ordinary people of Mayo. To put it simply, putting a councillor into a seat under the present system is just making jobs for the boys. This system needs to be overhauled by having an honest audit, if should a thing could be done in this corrupt state.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

Liam Cotter

REPUBLICANS in Co Kerry and indeed all over Ireland and beyond were deeply saddened to hear of the death on July 11 of Liam Cotter, The Spa, Tralee, Co Kerry after a long illness.

Liam was born in Churchill, Tralee, Co Kerry on December 22, 1941. He was an only son; his father was Jim Cotter and his mother Nora Sheehy.

His family came from a strong Republican tradition, Liam Cotter, late of New York, being a first cousin. Several relatives from the East Kerry area were involved with the Moonlighters and Whiteboys.

Liam attended The Spa national school where principal Jerry Brosnan taught the true Irish history and this set the seed of Republicanism for the rest of his life. Growing up amongst the elders of the Civil War and among ex-internees of the 1940s such as Mick Lynch, Batt Dowling, Paddy Crean and Paddy Kelly – men who had kept on the straight road and adhered to the principles of true Republicanism – Liam got a great foundation to both Republican and cultural traditions. The Lynch household was a university of Republicanism.

Liam joined the Republican

Movement in 1957 and saw many sell-outs and deviations from true Republican principles but remained steadfast to the 32-County Irish Republic all his life.

He was also involved in the local GAA Club District Board and Kerry GAA County Board. He served as Cultural Officer and Vice-Chairman of Kerry County Board for 13 years. He was involved in the purchase of the local GAA ground in Churchill and also the new development by Kerry GAA Board. He was chairman of the Cultural Committee, Kerry Co Board for five years and traveled all over Ireland promoting the cultural aspect of the association. Liam never attended a GAA game or function on Easter Sunday as he believed it should be set aside for honouring Ireland's patriot dead.

Liam was in jail on several occasions in the 1970s for Republican activities. He was head of the H-Block/Armagh committee in Tralee during the 1980s and spoke at Easter



• Liam Cotter

commemorations all over the 32 Counties of Ireland and in England.

He was a public speaker of high renown, and was the main speaker at Easter 1916 commemorations throughout Ireland for many years. He attended the 1916 commemoration in Tralee this year that was sadly to be his last.

He was predeceased by his daughter Siobhán and is survived by his wife Teresa his daughter Sínead and her husband Justin. Liam married Teresa Ryan from Carlingford, Co Louth and they had two daughters, the late Siobhán and Sínead.

Republican Sinn Féin provided a guard of honour at the



• Liam Cotter's coffin is draped in the National Flag and flanked by a Republican guard of honour on July 15.

removal to the Church of the Purification, Churchill on Thursday, July 14 and to the nearby c

Ralt na Mara Cemetery, where he was laid to rest with his beloved daughter Siobhán, on July 15. Members of his local Churchill GAA club also provided a guard of honour. The large funeral was attended by many of his comrades in the Republican Movement and the GAA from all over Ireland. President of the GAA Christy Cooney attended the removal and many others were in attendance at the funeral.

Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton and former President and Patron Ruairi Ó Bradaigh led the Republicans present, among whom were both general secretaries, Lita Ni Chathmhaoil and Josephine Hayden, National Treasurer John O'Connor, Matt Conway, Kildare and Dan Hoban, Mayo.

Liam's coffin was carried from the entrance to the cemetery by the guard of honour

At the graveside proceedings were chaired by Stephen Brosnan, Tralee, who introduced by Jerome Conway, Chairman of the Kerry

County Board of the GAA, who spoke movingly of Liam's service to the organisation and especially to hurling in the county throughout his long years of service.

The main oration was delivered by An Chomhairleoir Tomás Ó Curraoin, Republican Sinn Féin councillor on Galway County Council who spoke in Irish and in English.

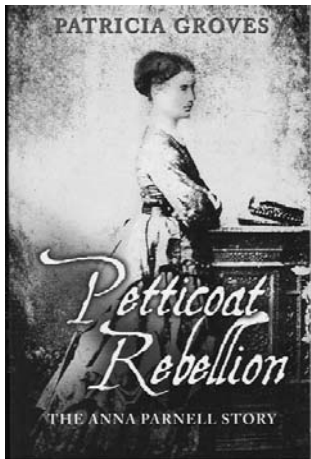
In paying tribute to Liam, Tomás covered all aspects of Liam's life, personal, political and social. He spoke of Liam's love and respect for his family and the support they gave him throughout his life. Liam's love and involvement in the GAA was known throughout Ireland as was his involvement in the Republican Movement.

He said that Liam must have been as sickened as he was that the Commander-in-Chief of the British armed forces was brought to the Garden of Remembrance and to Croke Park – where 14 men were murdered by the British in 1922.

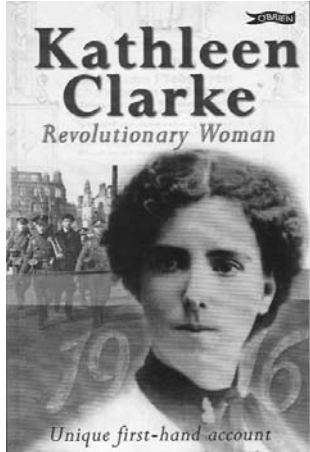
SAOIRSE extends sincere sympathy to his family, to his comrades in the Republican Movement and to his many friends.

I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

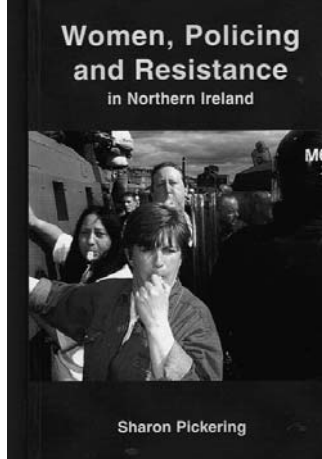
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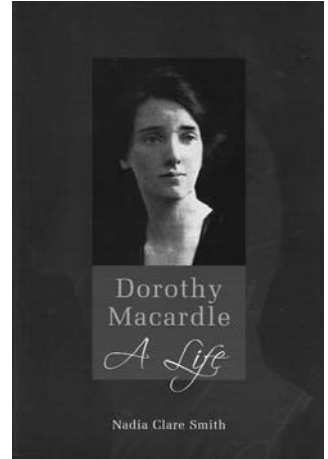
• *Petticoat Rebellion, the Anna Parnell Story, Patricia Groves, €10.*



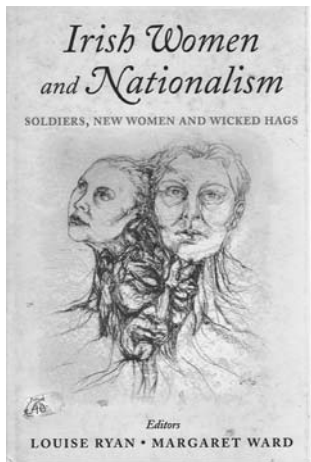
• *Kathleen Clarke, Revolutionary Woman, €10.*



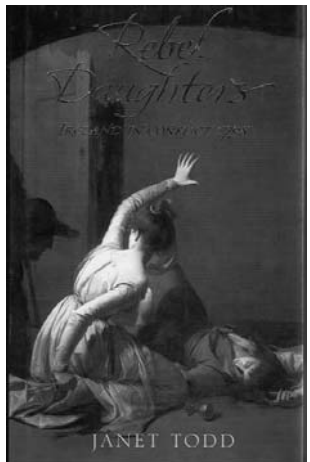
• *Women, Policing and Resistance in Northern Ireland, Sharon Pickering, €11.78.*



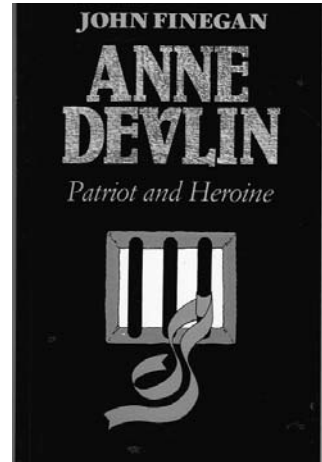
• *Dorothy Macardle, A Life, Nadia Clare Smith, €15.*



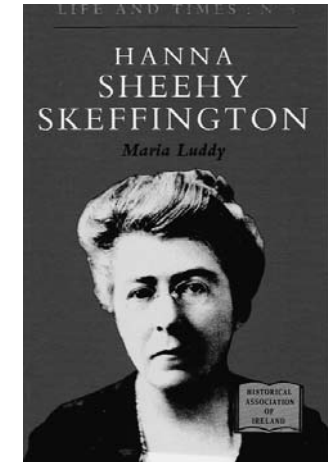
• *Irish Women and Nationalism, Soldiers, New Women and Wicked Hags, Louise Ryan, Margaret Ward (eds), €40.*



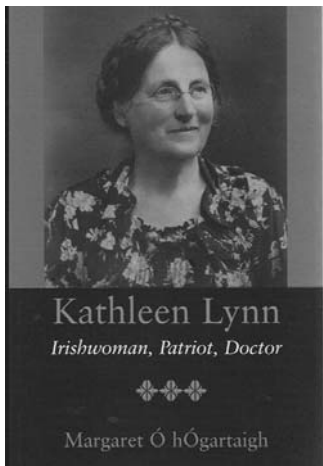
• *Rebel Daughters, Ireland in Conflict 1798, Janet Todd, €5.*



• *Anne Devlin, Patriot and Heroine, John Finnegan, €5.*



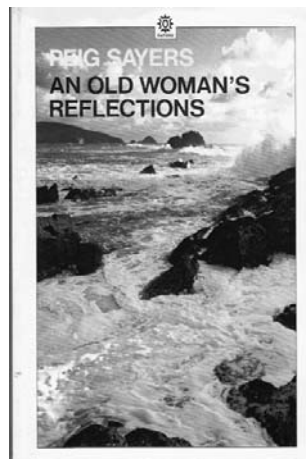
• *Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, Maria Luddy, €9.*



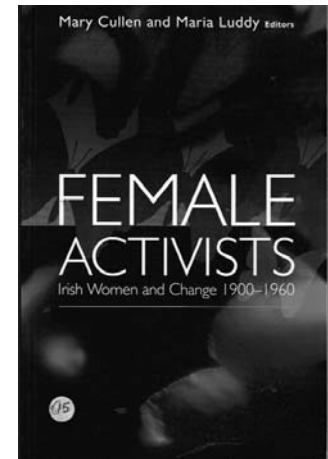
• *Kathleen Lynn, Irishwoman, Patriot, Doctor, Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, €20.*



• *From Jenin to Gaza, a short visit to a long conflict, Silvio Cerulli, €15.*



• *An Old Woman's Reflections, Peig Sayers, €5.*



• *Female Activists, Irish Women and Change 1900-1960, Mary Cullen, Maria Luddy (eds), €15.*

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Big welcome for prisoners

50 Years Ago

THE daily papers of August 1, 1961 carried enthusiastic accounts of the reception given to the Omagh Raid prisoners in Dublin, following their release on expiration of sentence from Belfast jail.

The *Irish Times* of August 1 reported: "Thousands of Dubliners turned out last night to welcome men released yesterday from Belfast jail. At a meeting at the GPO, the men, who had been interned under the Special Powers Act, were received on behalf of the Sinn Féin movement..."

"Earlier, a procession led by a pipe band took place from Binn's Bridge to the centre of the city. Banners with slogans such as 'Welcome Republican Prisoners' and 'Freedom Without Compromise' were carried by many of the marchers.

"Addressing a crowd of several thousand which held up traffic in O'Connell Street for a short time, [Tom] Mitchell said that while he was naturally pleased to have been released from prison, it was with a certain amount of regret that he had to leave behind other men fighting for the same cause as he had fought for."

An *tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* reported that "large crowds witnessed and there were spontaneous outbursts of applause from the sidewalks.

"Over five thousand people gathered at the GPO to give the released men a tumultuous welcome.

"Tomás Ó Dubhghaill presided and said they were welcoming from Belfast jail: **Tom Mitchell** of Dublin; **Jack McCabe**, Rossinver, Co Leitrim; **Seán Ó hÉigertaigh** and **Liam Mulcahy** of Cork — all Omagh Raid prisoners; **Piaras Ó Dúill** of Kilmainham, **Pat Hodgins** of Blackrock and **Leo McCormack** of Killester, recently released from Belfast; **Mick Ryan**, East Wall; **Tommy Nixon**, Clondalkin and **Cathal Goulding**, Rathfarnham, recently released from Mountjoy jail.

"The mention of Tom Mitchell's name brought resounding cheers from the crowd and as each prisoner's name was mentioned the cheers were removed.

"The Cathaoirleach said that the significance of the Omagh Raid should be clearly understood and kept in mind: it was the first occasion since the unfortunate Treaty, that the British Occupation troops in Ireland were attacked by Irishmen.

"Some months prior to that the Armagh Raid had been carried out. It was a brilliant, completely successfully action which was pressed home without a shot being fired.

"But the Omagh Raid was a different story — here the British military were engaged in combat, shots were exchanged and five British soldiers were wounded.

"The important effect of it was that it brought before the eyes of the world that units of the British army were still in Ireland, that they were there despite the wishes of the Irish people and



• **Eamonn Mac Thomáis (right) greeting Tom Mitchell at Binn's Bridge, Dublin On July 31, 1961 on his arrival from Belfast after serving seven years for his part in the Omagh Raid.**

that the Irish people wanted to get them out.

"The lie that Ireland was content to continue as a divided and subject nation was killed on Omagh Barrack square."

Tom Mitchell then addressed the crowd. He said the people of Mid-Ulster [who elected him on two occasions] showed that they understood the meaning of the Omagh Raid, that they appreciated the efforts of the men who made it, and were proud to be identified with them.

More important still, the people of Mid-Ulster showed that whether the men were from Dublin, Cork or Leitrim that they were Irishmen, part and parcel of the same nation to which Mid-Ulster belonged — in spite of British Occupation.

Other speakers included Seoirse Dearle, Micheál Treinfhír and Eamonn Mac Thomáis. The Republican newspaper described the event as "easily the largest and most enthusiastic Republican meeting held in the capital for several years".

Next morning the three Cork prisoners were brought from Dublin to the southern capitol by special motor cars.

Contingents from every county in Munster were among the crowd of 3-4,000 people gathered in Cork city to greet them on their return home.

They were met at Dublin Hill, Cork at 8.30pm and transferred to an open landau-type car. A parade formed up and escorted the Omagh Raid men through Patrick Street to Daunt Square.

"Onlookers," the *United Irishman* reported, "described the parade as most impressive. It was led by a colour party, followed by the Cork Volunteer Pipe Band.

"Then came the prisoners, Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan, the Thomas Kent Girls Pipe Band (Fermoy), members of Sinn Féin and other Republican organisations and the general public.

"Despite the fact that the *Cork Examiner* and the *Cork Evening Echo* had both refused to carry advertisements announcing the reception, a very large and enthusiastic crowd had gathered at Daunt Square, where a public meeting was addressed."

Micheál Mac Carthaigh, Cork, presided and paid tribute to the released Republicans for their determined attack on British troops in Omagh Barracks seven years earlier.

John J Rice, Sinn Féin TD for South Kerry, **Gerald McCarthy**, Cork and **Ruaidhrí Ó Drisceoil**, Cork, also spoke.

Loud and enthusiastic cheering and applause greeted each of the released men as he rose to speak. All three spoke first in Irish and thanked the people of Cork for their wonderful reception.

Their objective of a free and united Ireland still remained to be achieved.

But once more a short cut would be urged to reach that objective. This time it would be an entirely new concept at work — the Common Market or the European Economic Community.

The case would be made that with the political integration of western Europe the Border in Ireland would "wither away". There would no longer be any necessity for national resistance to British rule or armed struggle.

Republicans would reply that the British Garrison would remain in the Six Occupied Counties and there would be no fundamental change. However the idea of no need to travel the hard road was very attractive — and then it was a totally new conclusion.

On July 31 the British Prime Minister Mr Macmillan announced that Britain would make formal application to join the Common Market. Next day, August 1, Seán Lemass made a similar statement in Leinster House. The 26-County State had become an applicant member of the European Economic Community.

Editorials in the three Dublin dailies — *Irish Times*, *Irish Press* and *Irish Independent* — on August 2 approved Mr Lemass's stand.

The *Irish Times* said: "A curious phrase is going the rounds in Dublin: 'This means the end of the British Commonwealth, but the rebirth of the United Kingdom.' The phrase is designedly mischievous, but it can fairly be interpreted as inferring the reintegration of this island. The possibility cannot be avoided."

The *Irish Times* editorial continued: **"If the Twenty-Six Counties of Ireland follow Great Britain's lead into the European Economic Community, a new understanding is entailed which will supersede the Treaty of 1921 and any subsequent legislation — in especial, the so-called Ireland Act of 1949. Does it matter?"**

On July 5, the Publicity Committee of Sinn Féin released a statement on "Sinn Féin and the Common Market". "The statement does not purport to be a considered policy nor is it formulated as an indication of the ultimate attitude which Sinn Féin will adopt towards Ireland's relation to the Common Market.

"It will only be possible to determine that attitude when and is the present position is clarified," it concluded.

Earlier, it stated: "Due to the simple fact that national independence has not been attained Ireland is placed in the unenviable and unfortunate position today which deprives her people of a free choice in the matter of entering into or remaining outside the Common Market."

Also: "There will be no such thing as a nation within the community opting for, or having the choice of adopting neutrality."

However, with a general election in the 26 Counties forecast for mid-October, the Leinster House political parties pushed strongly the idea that the EEC would "solve the national question" and there would be no need to vote for Sinn Féin. In other words, Republicanism would be redundant.

On July 16 a meeting in Castlebar, Co Mayo was attended by delegates from four rural organisations, the NFA, the Irish Countrywomen's Association, Macla na Feirme and Muintir na Tire. They were protesting against the sale of arable land "on the Western seaboard" to continental businessmen.

The migration of families from the West to the Midlands was very costly. Why, it is being asked, not settle them in their native county?

The *Sunday Independent* of July 16 reported: "Figures issues here showed that recent sales of lands in Co Meath to foreigners amount to 2850 acres and those in Co Kildare to 2,830."

Pope John XXIII in the longest Encyclical in the history of the Church, opened with the words "Mater et magistra" and was entitled "On Recent Developments of the Social Question in the Light of Christian Teaching".

He called for "politically disinterested aid" and warned aid-giving countries to avoid establishing "a new colonisation" by using aid to dominate the under-developed communities and to establish world domination.

In an Encyclical examining the social and economic problems of the age, he said "justice and humanity" demanded that the more prosperous nations should aid the under-developed.

The Pope approved socialisation — without its "negative aspects" — and workers' participation at all levels. He affirmed the right of workers to a "just and equitable wage" which would allow them to support their families in dignity and to save.

The Encyclical (July 1961) marked the 70th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum" [Of New Things], which up to then was the Catholic Church's basic document on social and economic problems of the modern world.

The *Irish Independent* of July 15 gave extensive coverage to Pope John XXIII's Encyclical and made a new and welcome breakthrough in social and economic attitudes by the Church.

(More next month. Refs. An *tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, August 1961; *Sunday Independent*, July 16; *Irish Times*, August 1, 2; *Irish Independent*, July 15, August 2; *Irish Press*, August 2.)

Larry McMahon

REPUBLICANS in County Monaghan and across the country were saddened to hear of the death of Larry McMahon on July 23.

Larry was a stalwart Republican who joined the Republican Movement in the fifties and was chairman of the local Monaghan cumann of Republican Sinn Féin at the time of his death. His funeral took place on July 25 and his Tricolour-draped coffin was flanked by a guard of honour from the Republican Movement and was preceded by a flag carrier and a piper from St. Macartan's Cathedral to his resting place in Latlurcan Cemetery.

A fitting oration was delivered by Larry's long-time friend and comrade Pádraig Ó Baoighill, during the course of which he said: "Larry was a sincere and dedicated Clare Republican and he was to involve himself in all aspects of the Republican struggle in County Monaghan.

"Originally from Kilfenora, Co. Clare he joined the

Republican Movement in the early fifties and with other prominent Republicans such as Paddy McInerney, Martin White, Gus Ó Laughlin and others he was involved with both Sinn Féin and Óglaigh na hÉireann in the 1950s campaign.

"He was involved in campaigns for the release of Republican prisoners on both sides of the border, in functions to support prisoners dependants and especially in the H-Block and Hunger Strike campaigns.

"When a division occurred in the Republican Movement in 1986, Larry made a serious decision to take a firm stand to proclaim his allegiance to the 32-County Sovereign Republic and in spite of ill health in recent



• **Larry McMahon's coffin is flanked by a Republican gurd of honour in Monaghan on July 25.**

years he continued to operate as chairman of the Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin and promote the distribution of

its paper SAOIRSE. He was for a period on the Ard Chomhairle of Republican Sinn Féin and in 2003 he was chosen to be the

Ulster honoree at the CABHAIR Testimonial Finner for his services to the organisation.

"He had a keen interest in Gaelic games and Irish music up until the end and watched all games in hospital. He kept a close eye on his native county and was overjoyed when Clare won the McCarthy Cup in 1995 and again in 1997."

Pádraig echoed the feeling of the Republican Movement when he said "We in the Republican Movement have lost a great comrade and a dedicated and unrepentant Irishman. To his daughters Catherine, Clare and Rachel, grandchildren and all the family circle we offer our sincere sympathy."

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

THE political role of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) is once more being increased with the rising paranoia about terrorism. Politicians out of power condemn the FBI and its politics, but in power look at them entirely different and see a tool to contain their opponents.

The FBI adjusts to the politics of each administration for its survival, but underneath it all, it is a right wing law enforcement force associated counterparts in allied nations especially Britain.

It is close to the American Republican Party (ARP) and the British Conservative Party and MI5. They share information on perceived threats to their countries.

The underlying role of the FBI is to monitor dissenters/protestors of the reigning administration and US Foreign Policy. They have been monitoring Irish groups in the United States since the First World War and have an active Irish desk which is now monitoring supporters of so-called Irish dissident groups which oppose the US/British imposed "Peace" Process. They also monitor the Provos who they do not trust.

The FBI has been given significant new powers for the use of its 14,000 agents permitting them greater leeway to search databases, go through household trash and use surveillance teams to scrutinise the lives of people who have attracted their attention.

Within databases is material that should be protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. People are still allowed to put out their own thoughts and opinions to the public, but there is a risk of judgement by the FBI.

GUILTY

By giving additional authority to investigate people further raises the potential for abuse for which the FBI is historically guilty.

The majority of complaints against the Bureau are about the surveillance of domestic political advocacy groups by misused "national security letters", which allow agents to obtain information like phone records without

a court order.

Domestic surveillance by the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has always been done, but denied. The CHURCH and PIKE Committees in the 1970s produced evidence that the agencies were acting illegally against American citizens and reforms were installed, all of which have been reversed and we are back to the bad old days of domestic surveillance.

Under current rules, agents must open an inquiry before they can search for information about a person in a commercial or law enforcement database.

Under the new rules, agents will be allowed to search such databases without making a record about their decision which translates to mean there are no paper trail and no accountability.

Agents in each FBI or other law enforcement jurisdiction can operate on their own and are not accountable to the National Office. For instance, agents in Boston who suspect certain individuals are supporting groups in Ireland against the "peace" process may go after them. This information is shared with the British.

These new rules make it harder to detect and deter inappropriate use of databases for personal purposes and political vendettas. The new rules will also ease a restriction on administering lie-detector tests and searching people's trash.

Under current rules, agents cannot use such techniques until they open a preliminary investigation, which, unlike an assessment, requires a factual basis for suspecting someone of wrongdoing.

Now there is open season on "fishing expeditions". Anyone is fair game. If the British request the FBI to monitor a list of Irish Americans, the FBI can do so.

Agents have asked for that power in part because they want the ability to use information found in a subject's trash to intimidate that person to assist the government in the investigation of others. The information could also be used to determine if the subject might pose a threat to agents.

The new rules will remove a



restriction limiting the use of surveillance squads, which are trained to surreptitiously follow targets. Under current guidelines, the squads can be used only once, but the new rules will allow agents to use them repeatedly. Again, there is no accountability for actions.

If an agent wants to pursue a lead against a group or person whose politics he or she does agree with, they can do so under the new guidelines. The new rules make the FBI even more of a political police force.

WHERE it is preferable to pursue concrete leads, the FBI can target anyone without any suspicion of wrongdoing. Those who speak publicly against administration views will be targeted.

Most of the effort of the FBI et al has gone into fighting political operatives and dissenters, not fighting true terrorists who are out to randomly kill innocent Americans.

Dozens of political activists across the country have come under scrutiny from the FBI's increased counterterrorism operations since the attacks of September 11, 2001.

FBI efforts are aimed at political activists who the FBI claims might be in some small way to associated with terrorists. There has been no evidence of this in 10 years, but the surveillance continues and the harassment of innocent people continues.

The FBI picks targets and assigns agents to monitor homes and offices of these targets. They will park nearby and photograph any who enter, trace licence plates on cars parked out front and follow those who drive away to find addresses they drive to and repeat the process.

The categories of those pursued are wide-ranging. They include anti-corporate demonstrators, mosque attendees, anti-"peace" process Irish Americans, anti war activists, animal rights activists, liberal Roman Catholics and others. When such investigations produce nothing then

nothing comes to light publicly and of course the Bureau is not accountable.

These people are considered dangerous because they do not follow administration policy. This is true in all administrations. The efforts of the FBI are put under domestic terrorism and the new rules give them unlimited power of surveillance, political surveillance.

Remember way back when President Nixon had his enemies list? All presidents have an enemies list and it is against their opponents of specific policies. Irish activists who support those with a true peace plan for Ireland are considered targets, but those who sold out to Partition, the British and their Peace Process are not considered targets, yet they are still watched in case they see the light and change their mind and regain their political soul.

The targets of the FBI have no criminal records except arrests for demonstrating which is negligible the scheme of things. In the case of an anti-corporate demonstrator his home was watched for hours at a time and many days so he got to know by sight the agents monitoring him. They followed him to speaking events and put a video camera of a lamppost across from his home for 24 hour coverage.

The same man's phone calls and e-mails were tracked. They found his bank and mortgage documents in his trash which they investigated. They contacted the Internal Revenue Service to examine his tax records. They infiltrated political meetings with undercover police officers and informers.

One activist remarked to the FBI that the government was creating paper tigers to pursue because the real terrorists were hard to find and political activists who operate openly are easy to find. It shows the incompetence of the FBI, but they need to keep up appearances of pursuing terrorists to maintain their inflated budgets.

OLD STORY

As we pointed out earlier, the investigation of political activists is an old story for the FBI, most infamously in the Cointel programme, which scrutinized and harassed civil rights, anti-war activists, and Irish activists from the 1950s to the 1970s. Such activities were reined in for a time after they were exposed by Senator Church and Congressman Pike in their Congressional Hearings in 1976.

The FBI et al never stopped – just were more discreet and now the new rules allow them to do just about anything in the name of fighting terrorism. They use fear to demand more demonic powers.

Basically, you have a bunch of men and women agents all over the United States sent out to find terrorism which is their job. Threats to the US should be stopped without question.

Fortunately, there isn't a lot of terrorism in many communities, so the agents end up pursuing people who are critical of the government and its policy imputing this could mean they are somehow involved with terrorists.

The FBI because of a multitude of complaints had their inspector-general's office assess the FBI's activity in domestic surveillance and, lo and behold, they found none. Back in the seventies, the inspector-general found none, then when Congress investigated, they found the FBI involved in all kinds of illegal political surveillance.

The reason for the new rules for the FBI is to give cover to their illegal domestic spying on Americans for their political benefits by making it legal. They do, despite denials, investigate Americans based solely on their expression of political views.

It is a joke that the FBI is allowed to investigate itself. Non-violent civil disobedience which was the basis of the civil rights movement and adopted by others, is not terrorism. When people try to obtain records from the FBI, they are given the excuse that any part of an ongoing investigation is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

THE best way to prevent the FBI from getting documents is to shred them or burn them. It is a statement of how incompetent the FBI is if they spend most of their time pursuing political activists while the terrorists plot against the United States. They don't know their job. They also don't know what a terrorist is.

A terrorist is not someone who has an idea and expresses it. It is not the pervue of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to judge people on their politics. That activity is protected by the Bill of Rights. These new rules allowing pursuit of anyone without accountability takes the FBI on the path of being an American Gestapo.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Gerry MacGregor

THE well-known Republican and talented folk singer Gerry MacGregor passed away peacefully in a Glasgow hospital on July 24.

Gerry hailed from the village of Duntocher in Dunbartonshire and had Donegal roots. Since his youth he was actively involved in revolutionary politics and embraced the causes of Scottish and Irish freedom and was a committed internationalist. His heroes were John MacLean, James Connolly and Bobby Sands.

Gerry was actively involved in the Scottish Republican Socialist Party/Movement and was delighted with the landslide SNP victory in the Holyrood

elections in May of this year. Gerry was a regular participant at the annual Republican Sinn Féin 1916 Commemoration in Glasgow on Easter Sunday and attended an Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis several years ago.

The plight of the Republican POWs were never far from his mind and Gerry performed at numerous CABHAIR benefits in support of the prisoners without taking any money. He is best known for his singing and performed

for many years after Celtic FC home games in the Tolbooth at Glasgow Cross and also the Tall Cranes in Govan.

His albums include *Bobby Sands - The Lark: A Tribute, Scotland Out of Britain - Britain Out of Ireland, I Sure Like Mondays and Your Daughters and Your Sons.*

Gerry's songs reflected his support for Irish and Scottish liberation, his working class politics and internationalist principles.

He will be sorely missed by the many people who were inspired by his singing and who knew him through the numerous progressive causes he embraced. Sincere sympathy is offered to his partner Karen and family circle.

Comhbhrón

COTTER, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades on the death of veteran Republican Liam Cotter, who died on July 11. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach; the Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann, Monaghan, Comhairle Uladh; the Moore family, Monaghan.
MURPHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Charlie Murphy on the recent death of his brother David. From Séamus Mac Suain, Loch Garman.
TONER, Deepest sympathy is expressed to the Toner family, Letterkenny, Co Donegal and Co Westmeath on the death of Jim Toner. May he Rest in Peace. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach; Donegal Comhairle Ceantair; the Drumboe Martyrs Cumann, Letterkenny; Comhairle Ceantair Ath Cliath; the King Family, Raheny, Dublin and the Patrick Cannon Cumann, Raheny.

McGREGOR, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Gerry McGreggor, Scotland who died on July 24. Sinn Féin Poblachtach; the Francis Hughes Cumann, Glasgow and from his many friends in the Republican Movement.
McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is

extended to the family of Larry McMahon from the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach; the Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann, Monaghan, Comhairle Uladh; the Moore family, Monaghan.
MURPHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Charlie Murphy on the recent death of his brother David. From Séamus Mac Suain, Loch Garman.
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I gCuimhne

McKEOWN, In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Patrick McKeown whose anniversary's occurs in August from the Joe

Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, and the White family, Newry, Co Down.

McKEOWN, WATTERS, In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Patrick McKeown and Brendan Watters, Oglaiigh Na hÉireann, Newry Brigade, whose anniversary's occurs at this time from the Republican Movement, Newry, south Down.

ROWNTREE, In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Oliver Rowntree, Oglaiigh Na hÉireann, Newry Brigade whose anniversary's occurs in August from the Republican Movement Newry, Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down.

WATTERS, In proud and loving memory of Vol Brendan Watters whose anniversary occurs August 8, from the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down; In proud and loving memory of our nephew Volunteer Brendan Watters, Oglaiigh Na hÉireann, Newry Brigade, from Paddy and Patricia White, and Ollie and Manny, Newry, Co Down.

How the mighty have fallen

(Having torn up the Constitution of Sinn Féin Gerry sets his eyes on dismantling the Free State one.)

GERRY Adams's letter to Alan Shatter in which he tried to have a man's right to work taken away is just another example of the LIGS determination to return to the old days of Free State politics when Republicans were hounded and harried on a daily

basis. How many more such letters exist and whom do they name? Perhaps Gerry and Alan Shatter should be reminded of their own High Court ruling in the case of Fox v The State. That ruling decided that the 26-County State Constitution

guaranteed the right of a man to provide for his family (despite having served a prison term for "membership of an illegal organisation") and that to ban him from working in his legitimate profession was unconstitutional.

IT appears that Shatter already violated this by removing the aforementioned man's licence to run his

security firm (and in this case due to rumour and conjecture and in the total absence of any criminal conviction) it seems Finn Gael and Gerry Adams's LIGS have more in common than we might at first think.

Now to give Fianna Fail their due, when they get in power they traditionally try to give as many jobs to their own as they can. We have seen Labour and

the jobs for wives and in-laws culture but this idea that the LIGS have of starving their opponents into submission... Well that has always been their way. The only question is if the other Free State parties are going to join up in the conspiracy?

Time will tell. Meantime Gerry and the "lads" should remember that if one "secret" letter can be

leaked then others can also. I wonder what the Supreme Court might make if someone took umbrage and sued him. Would he "refuse to recognise the court"?

At the end of the day it goes to show he is just another "sneaky little bastard".

How the mighty have fallen.

— Mac Cool

SIPTU capitulates on low pay

ON July 28, 2011 the Mandate Trade Union and Unite the Union condemned the Dublin Administration's proposals to cut the low pay of over 200,000 employees.

The proposals will give rise to reduction of JLC (Joint Labour Committees) rates generally, elimination of Sunday premium, and allow employers to claim inability to pay.

But following the surrender of the Labour Party in Cabinet, SIPTU has described the proposals as "relatively positive" on RTE Television News, July 28 and has given the government plan "a cautious welcome".

This is a dark day for Ireland's biggest union which was built by Larkin and Connolly.

The trade union affiliation of the new government appointees to the board of Solas (replacing Fás) will be of considerable

interest

The number of JLC's will be reduced from 13 to six and there will be only one rate with two additional discretionary ones. The premium for Sunday pay will be swept away to be replaced on paper with guidelines for employers, and bosses will now be able to seek derogation through a new 'inability to pay' clause.

The extent of the attack on the low-paid can be gauged from the remarks by John Douglas, General Secretary, MANDATE, on Morning Ireland on July 29

"This is devastating for 200,000 workers, following increases in gas prices, mortgages, food prices, thousands will be driven over the edge. The majority are women earning no more

than €9.50 an hour trying to put food on table; this is not to create jobs but to lower pay and conditions, it won't create a single extra job. When Margaret Thatcher dismantled the wage councils in England, it did not create one extra job - the research shows this despite the minister's claims." The EU-IMF deal commits the 26-County Administration to a "review of wage-setting mechanisms".

The Duffy/Walsh Report to the Minister for Enterprise, Employment and Innovation concludes *inter alia*: "We have concluded that lowering the basic JLC rates to the level of the minimum wage rate is unlikely to have a substantial effect on employment." and "we conclude that it is not accurate to suggest that the body of primary employment rights legislation currently in force

adequately covers matters dealt with by EROs (Employment Regulation Orders) and REAs (Registered Employment Agreement)."

According to the OECD, Ireland suffers from some of the highest levels of low-pay. Over 21% of full-time employees are 'low-paid,

compared to a Eurozone average of 14.7% and EU Commission data shows that labour costs (include wages and employers' contributions) in the Food & Accommodation sector in Ireland are 6% below the EU-15 average.

The original JLC system was designed to prevent the

"race to the bottom" in competing businesses dependent on finite demand. The new JLCs will be precluded from setting a Sunday premium - Sunday premium has been simply abolished.

NB: The various agreements on pay and conditions made by Joint Labour Committees (JLCs) are known as *Employment Regulation Orders (EROs)*. Agreements which result from negotiations between trade unions and employers are called *Collective Agreements*. If a Collective Agreement has been registered with the Labour Court it is known as a *Registered Employment Agreement (REA)*.

http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/employment_rights_and_conditions/industrial_relations_and_trade_unions/employment_regulation_orders_and_registered_employment_agreements.html



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