

# SAOIRSE



## Irish Freedom

*The Voice of the Republican Movement*

**FR GRIFFIN COMMEMORATION**  
BEARNA, CO NA GAILLIMHE  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 12 noon

**FRANK DRIVER  
COMMEMORATION**  
BALLYMORE EUSTACE, CO KILDARE.  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20  
Assemble, 1pm, Ballymore Eustace

**KEVIN BARRY  
COMMEMORATION**  
RATHVILLY, CO CARLOW, 3pm  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

UIMH 295 SAMHAIN — NOVEMBER 2011 <http://saoirse.info> €2 (£1.50 stg, USA \$35 p.a.)

# Demand a new Ireland

**not a  
32-  
County  
Free  
State**

AS people become increasingly disconnected from the failed politics and economics of the two partition states we regularly hear calls for a "New Republic" or a New Ireland.

However some opportunist establishment politicians have deliberately interpreted this to mean limited reform of the existing failed model.

The 26-County administration is due to hold a Constitutional Convention next year to examine reform of the 1937 constitution. This is merely a cosmetic exercise and falls far short of the revolutionary change that is required.

This is nonsense as it is the very nature and fact of partition and the two states it has produced, which needs to end if we are to create that New

Ireland.

Replying to an article written by Tom Hickey, lecturer in the School of Law NUI Galway, in the series *Perspectives on the presidency in the Irish Times* of October 13 the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton set out exactly what building a New Ireland really means.

The ÉIRE NUA proposals make tangible the Republic aspired to by Tone, Emmet, Davis, Lalor, Pearse and Connolly. ÉIRE NUA presents a vision and a programme for a New Ireland that is in stark contrast to both failed

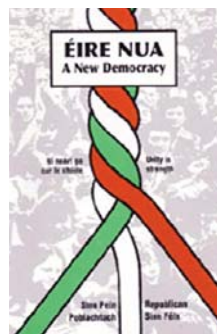


partitionist states," Des Dalton said.

He continued: "In an article published in SAOIRSE marking 40 years since the launch of ÉIRE NUA Seán Ó Brádaigh had this to say about the nature of the two partition states:

"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."

"Not unreasonably unionists have expressed frustration at the apparent



lack any concrete proposals setting out the shape of a future free and united Ireland. One unionist, David Adams, writing in the *Irish Times*

on December 3, 2009, criticising this perceived failure of nationalist or Republican Ireland to propose a blueprint for a united Ireland, said:

"Clarity is what the people of Northern Ireland (sic) need.' However he also noted: '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.'"

Des Dalton concluded by outlining what a New Ireland would mean:

"ÉIRE NUA proposes a Federal Ireland based on the historic four provinces including a nine-county Ulster. This would be horizontal democracy based on sharing autonomy and sovereignty between provinces and regions right down to local or community level within the framework of an independent nation state. This would represent meaningful decentralisation of power and decision-making.

"Importantly an Ulster Parliament or Dáil Uladh would be sovereign and could not be suspended over the heads of its elected members by an outside parliament such as Westminster, as is the case today."

"What could be a more opportune time to restore that All-Ireland Republic than the eve of the centenary of its proclamation? Therein lies the road to a truly New Ireland."

Read the full text of the article on page 6.

**REPUBLICAN  
SINN FÉIN**

1076  
ARD-FHEIS  
2011

November 12-13  
Dublin

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**EDDIE CARMODY COMMEMORATION**  
BALLYLONGFORD, CO KERRY  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18  
Assemble: The Monument, 8pm

**CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2  
Assemble: Denny Street, Tralee, Co Kerry, 7pm

**EDENTUBBER MARTYRS  
COMMEMORATION**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Assemble: The Border Inn, 2.30pm  
Oration:  
Councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin

## Teresa Treacy freed from Mountjoy jail

**TERESA Treacy (66), Clonmore, Tullamore, Co Offaly who was jailed for refusing to allow the ESB and Eirgrid on to her land to cut down trees, was released from prison on October 6.**

Lawyers for the ESB and Eirgrid made an application to the Dublin High Court to have the order committing her to prison for contempt of court discharged.

She was jailed on September 13 for refusing to comply with orders of the High Court directing her to allow ESB and Eirgrid onto the land to allow the completion of an overhead power line. Teresa Treacy told the High Court again that she would not purge her contempt by complying with the court orders.

However, Senior Counsel Michael Conlon, for the ESB and Eirgrid, told the court they would welcome some "breathing space" and an opportunity to try to engage further with Ms Treacy and her family and solicitors with a view to resolving the matter.

Justice Mary Laffoy said the "coerciveness" of the contempt order had been used up. She said Teresa Treacy had been in prison for 24 days and the punitive element of the order had been fulfilled. She discharged the order and told Ms Treacy that she was free to go home.

he allowed a citizen to set herself against the Constitution and the courts "we may as well sink into anarchy".

Michael Conlon said works



• Teresa Treacy pictured following her release from jail on October 6.

Outside the court Teresa Treacy said she was glad to be going home, but she said she was "not letting them through".

The court was told that 85% of the trees that the ESB and Eirgrid needed to cut down on the land had been felled.

Teresa Treacy was jailed by Justice Daniel Herbert after telling him that she would not comply with the High Court orders.

He said he admired her principles but did not admire what she was doing. He said if

had begun on Ms Treacy's land the day after she was committed to prison. However, the works were suspended at the request of the Irish Farmers' Association and discussions began with the IFA and the Treacy's family.

He said that works recommenced on September 27 with the consent of Ms Treacy's brother and sister, but that protesters then arrived at the site in such numbers that it was impossible to continue the work.

A friend of Teresa Treacy's,

Niall Hartnett, said that he had arranged a solicitor for Ms Treacy and had given his number to the prison authorities in Mountjoy on Tuesday, but Ms Treacy had still not received the solicitor's number.

Niall Hartnett raised a number of issues relating to ESB and Eirgrid's right to enter the land and said that they intended to appeal the granting of the original injunction to the Supreme Court. He said they wanted Ms Treacy to have some space to get legal advice.

In a statement, ESB and Eirgrid said they had sought her release to facilitate an appropriate environment for further discussions to resolve matters around the construction of the line.

The companies said intensive efforts had been taking place with her family and the IFA to resolve the situation. They said her release would enable further dialogue with her and her family to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

ESB and Eirgrid said they remained committed to the completion of the project, which is critical to providing a safe, secure and reliable electricity system for the Midlands region.

They said they were very pleased that Ms Treacy was returning to her family after what had been a difficult time for them.

## Gearrscéalta

### Cumann in Liverpool

IRISH Republicans living in Liverpool are in the process of re-establishing the John Whelan Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin. The Cumann will cover the Northwest of England. Contact through the website for details, [www.rs.ie](http://www.rs.ie) or to Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

### Na Fianna Éireann warn

#### of bogus groups

**IN A statement on October 20, Caoilte Mac Rónáin, PRO, Na Fianna Éireann, said:**

"Na Fianna Éireann has been made aware of a function in Naas, Co Kildare on October 28th that purported to be a fund raiser for Na Fianna Éireann.

"The leadership of Na Fianna Éireann wish to make clear that Na Fianna was not involved in any way with this event and that no funds were received by us. We condemn utterly any bogus group that uses the good name of Na Fianna Éireann for their own anti-Republican agenda and we are disgusted that such people would use the goodwill generated by Na Fianna to line their own pockets at a time when the people of Ireland are suffering the worst financial circumstances in generations.

"We view such activity as theft plain and simple. We demand that such groups desist from using the name of Na Fianna Éireann and we call on Republicans to be vigilant against such fraudulent activity. Na Fianna Éireann remains committed to our founding goal of re-establishing the 'independence of Ireland by means of training the youth of Ireland to fight Ireland's fight when they are older and the day comes'. Our allegiance is to the Irish Republic of Easter 1916 and we are pledged to assisting the Leadership of the Republican Movement in re-establishing that Republic.

## Wexford Volunteers

### honoured

**DURING October Republican Sinn Féin in Wexford commemorated several IRA Volunteers who died in the War of Independence.**

Matthew Furlong was remembered in Wexford with a wreath-laying ceremony at his graveside in Crosstown Cemetery.

Mick Hunt laid a wreath on his grave on behalf of Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill Wexford town. Matthew, of Summerhill in Wexford, was seriously injured while testing a trench mortar in Dunboyne, Co Meath. He died a few days later on October 15, 1920 in the Mater Hospital, Dublin.

Matthew had served his apprenticeship with the Wexford Engineering Company and left to take up employment in Dublin in 1911.

Taking part in the Easter Rising in the city he was later arrested and deported to spend time in an English jail. At the time of his death he was just 28 years old. The funeral to Crosstown was one of the most impressive seen in the town for many years.

Wreaths were also laid in remembrance of those who died in an IRA bomb and munitions factory on October 12, 1920 in Saltmills.

Shane Barnes of Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill laid a wreath at the monument to those who died at the site of the explosion. The factory exploded killing five and wounding nine others. It is not known what caused the explosion. The bombs, made from old engine pipes and cut into six-inch lengths and packed with explosive were dispatched to Dublin in butter-boxes. The roof was blown off, walls shattered and bodies hurled in all directions. The five men who died were Section Commanders Martin Roche and Frank Fitzgerald, Volunteers James Gleeson, James Byrne and Robert Walsh.

The other nine men in the house were later arrested and detained in Waterford military hospital until sentenced to long terms of imprisonment and deported to Dartmoor. They were released on January 22, 1922. Wreaths were also laid on the grave of Section Commander Martin Roche in Tintern Abbey and another in Ballycullane where their memory is being kept alive with a fine memorial cross.

## Results of Dublin raffle

**OCTOBER** Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 596; 2nd prize ticket no 667; 3rd prize 643; 4th prize 685; 5th prize 231; 6th prize 188; 7th prize 227; 8th prize 157.

**SAOIRSE November edition  
published 7/12/2011**

## Another deal behind closed doors betrays people of Erris

**SHELL-to-Sea said on October 27 that the State had admitted it failed to correctly bring into law required EU Environmental Directives.**

The admission was made earlier that day in the Commercial Court, in a case in which An Taisce withdrew its legal challenge to the validity of consents for the Corrib Gas project.

"Despite this, the State is still maintaining that the consents given to Shell, including one given by interim Fianna Fáil minister Pat Carey on the day of the last general election, are still valid."

Shell to Sea spokesperson Terence Conway said: "If the state isn't going to carry out its moral duty to protect the people of Erris, then it falls on the ordinary people of Ireland to stand up for themselves. It's all very well being vindicated but we're still left fighting this monument to political corruption.

"This is just the latest deal in the whole Corrib project



• Unloveable Shell, the Goddess of Oil.

done behind closed doors that ends up betraying a local community which has been fighting this unwanted development for over ten years."

Shell to Sea spokesperson Maura Harrington added: "It isn't rational what happened today, how can the State acknowledge that something is wrong and at the same time claim that consents stemming from that are still valid?"

"It appears to us that An Taisce while acknowledging that Corrib represents a 'travesty of European Environmental Law' is willing

to trade that, for their costs and a seat on an environmental law implementation group yet to be established."

Terence Conway continued: "The State has admitted what it has done is wrong, therefore the right step forward would be to withdraw all the consents until the law is followed.

"When someone admits wrongdoing, then common sense and justice states that they need to put it right. In the face of a state that will not do its statutory duty, it is the ordinary people who are left with a justified fight on their hands."

### 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

### Licences granted for gas and oil exploration

THIRTEEN new licences have been granted for gas and oil exploration for the Rockall, Slyne and Porcupine basins off the Irish coast. Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the 26 Counties, said the licences were granted following an assessment of 15 applications submitted last May.

A total of 12 companies are involved in the 13 awards. The companies involved include both new entrants to Ireland, together with companies already active in the Irish offshore.

The seven new companies that will be offered acreage are: Antrim Energy; Bluestack Energy; Europa Oil & Gas; First Oil Expro; Petrel Resources; Repsol Exploration; and Two Seas Oil & Gas Ltd.

The five companies already active in Ireland are: Providence Resources Plc; Chrysaor; Serica Energy; Sosina Exploration and San Leon Energy.

It is expected that exploration could start immediately.

**NB:** Antrim Energy is based in Calgary, Canada with offices in Argentina and Britain. The Company is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "AEN" and on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market under the symbol "AEY."

### 26-County State criticised by UN Human Rights

AT the hearing of the UN Human Rights Council the 26-County Administration came under pressure regarding the poor condition of the 26-County State's prisons.

Under questioning by fellow member states as part of the UN's universal periodic review, 26-County Justice Minister Alan Shatter defended the 26-County State's performance in areas such as children's rights and mental health.

Some of the most persistent criticism centred on conditions in prisons, with some 15 states, ranging from the United States to Iran, expressing concern and urging action on poor sanitation, overcrowding and violence among detainees.

The Geneva hearing was the first time the 26-County State has had to answer for its record under the UN Human Rights Council's periodic review. A report including recommendations for the 26-County State is due to be adopted next week.

A number of states, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and Slovakia, challenged Alan Shatter on Travellers' rights.

The 26-County Administration was urged repeatedly to ratify a number of international conventions it has signed but not acted on. Shatter said the 26-County State hoped to ratify a new protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the end of the year. This would allow people to take cases to the UN if they felt they had been wronged by the 26-County State on issues such as health, education and housing.

The German delegation asked whether article 41.2 of the 26-County Constitution, which recognises "the special position of women in the home", contradicted the principle of equality.

Some states raised reports of racial profiling by 26-County authorities. Alan Shatter said the 26-County police did not engage in the practice, though members on occasion checked an individual's papers if suspicious they were in the 26-County State illegally.

### Ardoyne man shot by British was innocent

THE family of a North Belfast man, murdered by the British Army 40 years ago, are to make an application to the Attorney General to reopen an inquest into his death after an historical inquiry cleared him of any wrongdoing.

After four decades fighting to clear his name, the family of Ardoyne man Barney Watt received the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) report into his 1971 murder early in October. The father of one was shot dead near his home in Hooker Street after he had been socialising with a friend in the area.

The army claimed at his inquest that they shot the 28-year-old because he was 'preparing to throw a lit metal object' at them which exploded, blowing him six or seven feet into the air.

The soldiers' version of events was challenged by witnesses and forensic reports. One forensic scientist who took swabs from Barney Watt's body concluding no presence of lead had been found. The pathologist who carried out the postmortem also said there was no evidence Barney had been injured in an explosion.

Barney's wife Theresa, who was seven months pregnant with her daughter Bernadine at the time of his death, has spent the past 40 years with the knowledge her husband was shot for no valid reason.

It took two investigations to finally acknowledge that Barney was not carrying an explosive device. The report also concluded that the soldiers "shot the wrong man" and the findings should allow "for the consideration of an apology at government level" for the family.

## Finucanes walk out of meeting with British PM

ON October 27 Geraldine Finucane, widow of Pat Finucane murdered by loyalists in February 1989 at his home in Belfast, described the British government and the British Prime Minister David Cameron as "a disreputable government led by a dishonourable man".

David Cameron apologised to the Finucane family, saying it was clear that there had been "state collusion" in the murder, but turned down the request for an inquiry.

Her continuing campaign since his murder has been supported by all major nationalist parties throughout Ireland and national and international human rights groups.

A former senior British government official privately admitted that it was, among Belfast's many security and intelligence controversies, "the smelliest of them all". Three separate intelligence agencies have been shown to have been active around the murder.

The Finucanes were convinced that a public inquiry was on the cards, but instead David Cameron informed them a QC would review the papers in the case and report back in December next year. The QC will have no power to compel witnesses to speak to him.

"I cannot remember the last time I felt so angry," Geraldine Finucane said. "I felt humiliated and insulted - it was a very cruel, devastating experience."

"The air was very charged at that point and we put forward the reasons why a review was totally unsatisfactory. Everybody was very angry and obviously devastated but we retained our composure. Voices were raised but nobody was rude.

"I thought there was no point in staying there any longer and I said, 'I can't listen to any more of this, I want this meeting to end.' Afterwards, one of the officials said they were quite

said his inquiries were obstructed by the RUC and British army, describing a fire in his incident room as "a deliberate act of arson".

Similar conclusions were reached by a former Canadian

an inquiry into the murder of Pat.

"Instead the PM has told the family that a QC, Sir Desmond da Silva, will be asked to 'review' the available papers and then brief the family. This is an extraordinary turnaround which we find incomprehensible and unacceptable. We understand that the family will not cooperate in any shape or fashion with this 'review'.

"At the meeting they were told that this was the 'best way forward'. This may be true for the security forces and agencies who wish to conceal the truth. It is certainly not the best way forward for the family.

"It was claimed that witnesses are not 'available' and that this would negate the effectiveness of any inquiry. This is a shabby and scandalous excuse.

"It is absolutely vital that any inquiry be allowed to delve into the involvement of the British Army Force Research Unit, RUC Special Branch and the Security Service MI5 in the murder. Britain is failing to honour the commitment it made at Weston Park to implement the recommendations of Judge Cory".

"Pat Finucane received death threats from members of the RUC. Both RUC and FRU agents were involved in the murder of Pat Finucane.

Michael Mansfield QC, one of Britain's leading barristers said the decision was a "travesty". He said the review by Sir Desmond de Silva would be a "complete waste of time and money".

"From the beginning there never has been any real commitment to making sure it [an independent inquiry] took place," he said. "I think the reason for that is that the collusion was severe and there is a desire to ensure that the real truth doesn't come out".



• Members of the Finucane family speaking to the media outside 10 Downing Street on October 11.

shocked."

Geraldine Finucane is convinced that an inquiry is 'not on the cards' because of what would have been disclosed. "They really don't want to air the behaviour of the British government and the military..." She also believed that her husband was "too dangerous. It was rocking the boat and the establishment really didn't like that".

Pat Finucane was a prominent Belfast solicitor whose clients included a number of high-profile IRA members such as the hunger striker Bobby Sands. His successes in the courts caused much resentment among the British Crown Forces.

Sir John Stevens, later Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, concluded after one of the longest investigations in British police history that there had been collusion.

Despite solid intelligence that Pat Finucane and others were being targeted, they were not warned, he found. He also

judge, Peter Cory, who was tasked by the British and 26-County Administrations with reviewing papers in the case. He recommended a public inquiry after finding strong evidence that collusive acts were committed not just by the RUC and British army but also by MI5.

The crucial question is how far up the chain of command collusion might have gone. Geraldine Finucane is definite: "It is to be proven," she says, "but I do think it went to the very top of the security and political establishments. They all worked very much in hand."

When the shooting happened her children were young: now her two sons are lawyers and she has six grandchildren.

The Pat Finucane Centre in Derry said it shared the shock and concern of the Finucane family at the news that no public inquiry was to be held into the 1989 murder.

"The family have campaigned long and hard for

## Families call on British Police Ombudsman to resign

RELATIVES of the Ballymurphy, McGurk and Loughinisland Massacres joined forces in seeking justice for their loved ones in calling on October 24 for the immediate resignation of the British Police Ombudsman Al Hutchinson.

They were among the families who staged a protest outside the Ombudsman's office in Belfast on October 19.

The protest followed a BBC *Spotlight* programme screened on October 18 in which former Chief Executive of the Ombudsman's office, Sam Pollock, said he had "lost all confidence in the direction of the Office and the independence of the Office in relation to very serious matters".

In September the Six-County Criminal Justice Inspectorate released a damning report questioning Al Hutchinson's independence and saying he had been "heavily influenced" by families and their legal teams, the RUC/PSNI and others.

Brieger Voyle, whose mother was one of 11 people shot dead by the British army in Ballymurphy in 1971, said Al Hutchinson has lost all credibility.

"If this man has any scruples or dignity he will go," she said. "His office needs a complete re-shake and the British can't keep sweeping everything under the carpet and expect us to sit here and accept it...Here we are 40 years down the line and we are still trying to get justice for our loved ones."

John Teggart, whose father was killed by the British army in Ballymurphy, said it is clear to everyone that the office is not independent.

"Independence has gone so it is time for him to go," he said.

Relatives for Justice Director Mark Thompson added his voice to the flood of

calls for Al Hutchinson to resign.

"Al Hutchinson needs to go and Relatives for Justice reiterates its call for him to immediately resign. It is not good enough that he continues to cling to power, further damaging the credibility of this vital office.

"There has always been political resistance by the NIO and unionists concerning historic cases involving collusion on the part of the RUC and recent reports have all pointed to political interference around controversial murders, collusion and the use of agents in murders".

## For The Record

**FRI. OCTOBER 7:** Aidan McKeever is to receive €75,000 in compensation after a judge ruled his shooting was "unjustified". McKeever was the driver of a getaway car that was ambushed by the British army who shot dead four IRA men in Clonoe, Co Tyrone in February 1992. McKeever had sued the Ministry of Defence for assault and battery, as he was unarmed and not close to anyone with a weapon.

**SUN. OCTOBER 9:** Egypt's ruling council denied that troops opened fire on Coptic Christian protesters and drove military vehicles into crowds during clashes. At least 25 people were killed, most of them Christians. A doctor at the Coptic Hospital inspected the bodies of 17 of the dead. He said 11 were shot and six run over.

Unicef criticised the British judicial system for locking up children allegedly involved in the August riots and warned ministers that they are likely to be in breach of their UN obligations to children's rights. The UN children's fund said official figures showing that 45% of all under 18s detained on charges of rioting and looting had no previous criminal history were "very worrying", and represented a possible breach of the 1989 UN convention on the rights of a child.

**MON. OCTOBER 10:** The death took place of Peter John Caraher in Cullyhanna, south Armagh after a short illness. Peter John's son Fergal was shot dead by the British army in Cullyhanna in December 1990. Another son Michael was seriously injured in the same shooting.

Murder charges against seven loyalists accused of murdering Kevin McDaid, a nationalist father of four from Coleraine, Co Derry in May 2009 were withdrawn by the PPS. They will now be charged with manslaughter.

A chef suffered serious head injuries in a sectarian attack when was beaten with baseball bats outside the golf club where he works in Downpatrick, Co Down.

Afghanistan's intelligence agency and police force have been "systematically" torturing detainees, including children, at a number of jails, in breach of local and international laws, according to a United Nations report. Scores of people told the UN that the agency – the National Directorate of Security (NDS) – and the Afghan National Police had abused them through beatings, electrocution and toenail removal.

Official figures in the 26 Counties show that there are seven retired civil service personnel who are in receipt of pensions of between €140,000 and €160,000 a year. A further 40 retired civil servants have pensions of between €120,000 and €140,000 while 58 are receiving pensions of between €100,000 and €120,000. Six retired civil service personnel have pensions of between €90,000 and €100,000.

**WED. OCTOBER 12:** A multi-million pound development plan for The Quays Shopping Centre in Newry will create 500 jobs. The new €35m complex will comprise 150,000sq ft of retail and restaurant space and an additional 600 space multi-storey car park. It is hoped the project will create in the region of 200 jobs during construction and 300 full and part time retail and associated jobs on completion. The new phase subject to final approval is expected to commence in 2012 with completion in late 2013.

Another 500 people joined the dole queue in the Occupied Six Counties over the past three months, bringing the jobless total to just under 61,000. There was a rise in unemployment of 7.6% between June and August, the Stormont Department of Enterprise reported.

A faction of the UFF claimed they carried out a racist attack on a Polish family in Steeple Estate in Antrim. A pipe bomb was thrown at their home, there were no injuries. This is the 29th such attack on the Polish community since July 2009 carried out by the group calling themselves the Real UFF.

In *Primetime* TV debate on RTE with all the candidates contesting the 26-County Presidential election, Martin McGuinness claimed that he "pledged loyalty to the Official IRA" but he "never swore a vote of allegiance to the Provisional IRA". McGuinness claims he "left the IRA in 1974".

**WED. OCTOBER 12:** An estimated 20,000 to 30,000 students protested in the Colombian capital, Bogotá, and other cities against government plans to reform higher education.

Students said the proposed reforms will lead to partial privatisation of the public universities.

In Chile, students have been demonstrating for months to demand for free education, and an end to for-profit institutions. Chilean students want reform to bring about free schooling; Colombian students do not want reform to avoid introducing a profit element into higher education.

Emergency Department staff from Limerick's Mid-Western Hospital staged a demonstration outside Leinster House to highlight the issue of overcrowding in hospital emergency units.

**THURS. OCTOBER 13:** A bomb exploded outside the so-called 'UK' City of Culture office in Derry, in the second attack on the office this year. The office was targeted by a pipe bomb back in January that damaged the building. Charles I officially changed Derry's name to Londonderry back in the 1613 under a royal charter.

**FRI. OCTOBER 14:** A 187-apartment complex at Donaghmede, Dublin, is to be evacuated by order of the High Court after the court was told the complex was a very serious fire safety risk, had significant structural deficiencies and had its insurance cover withdrawn earlier this week. The judge also made orders freezing the assets of developers Thomas McFeely and Larry O'Mahony, whose company Coalport developed the Priory Hall complex in 2006.

Michael McKeivitt, sentenced prisoner in Portlaoise jail, and Liam Campbell, currently on remand in Maghaberry on extradition charges to Lithuania, are to lodge proceedings with the High Court in London to challenge rulings that they were liable for the Omagh bombing. Colm Murphy and Séamus Daly both face civil retrials.

Scientists have found more radioactive material in Dalgety Bay in Fife, Scotland where "a lump of contaminated metal" was found a few days previously.

**SAT. OCTOBER 15:** A major protest took place in Dublin in conjunction with protests in other countries including the US, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Melbourne, Taipei, Seoul and Hong Kong, against the EU/IMF austerity programme.

Demonstrators marched from the Garden of Remembrance to the Merrion Hotel, where delegates from the Troika were staying. A camp was set up at the Central Bank Plaza on Dame Street some weeks ago after the US protests gathered momentum. Organisers say that the austerity programme is causing huge suffering for ordinary Irish citizens. They are also calling the Dublin Administration to halt its collaboration with the Troika. The global movement has issued a manifesto, endorsed by Naomi Klein and Noam Chomsky, among others, calling for a democratisation of the global finance system and mentioning the Arab Spring as an inspiration for mass action.

John Smyth Jr, Birchhall Park, Antrim, was refused bail when he appeared and was charged at Ballymena Magistrates' Court with making an explosive device (pipe bomb) with intent to endanger life and under suspicious circumstances on October 12. He was arrested as part of an investigation into a racist attack on a Polish family in the town when a pipe bomb was left on the windowsill of their Seacash Drive home on Wednesday. Smyth, who unsuccessfully stood for election to Antrim Borough Council in May, was suspended from the DUP on Friday.

Trinity College Dublin withdrew its invitation to Nick Griffin, leader of the British National Party (BNP), who was due to take part in a debate on immigration. He had been scheduled to give a speech on October 20. However the university admitted it could not guarantee the well-being of staff and students, and warned the controversial leader he won't be allowed on campus. Members of the BNP were also banned from the event.

The official inquiry into Britain's role in the build-up to the Iraq war might not issue its report until next summer at the earliest, more than a year after many expected it to be made public, according to the *Observer*.

Strikes hit Greece again. Civil servants blocked the entrance to several ministries, teachers and municipal staff walked out and workers at a key oil refinery began a protest shutdown ahead of a general strike on October 19.

The death toll in Mexico and Central America climbed to 55 as torrential rain storms continued, causing deadly mudslides and massive flooding. More than 250,000 people were affected across the region — 62,700 in Mexico, 118,704 in Guatemala, about 60,000 in El Salvador, 7,862 in Honduras and 4,463 in Nicaragua. To date over 17,700 people in the five countries worst hit by the ongoing torrential rains caused last week by Hurricane Jova, Hurricane Irwin, Tropical Depression 12-E and two other independent storm systems.

Heavy rains killed 269 people in Thailand and over 200 in Cambodia, while affecting millions. A large percentage of those who have died are children.

Heavy monsoon rains, floods and mudslides have affected 58 of Thailand's 77 provinces since



• A camp was set at the Central Bank plaza in Dublin early in October after the Occupy Wall Street protests in the US. Those taking part say it will continue into December.

July, particularly the north, north-east and central plains - worst in over 50 years - and 30 provinces are inundated.

Billy Hutchinson was elected leader of the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP).

**SUN. OCTOBER 16:** A petrol bomb was thrown at a car in Larne, County Antrim at Carson Street at around 3.40am on Sunday morning. No one was injured during the attack.

Security forces in Yemen opened fire on tens of thousands of anti-government protesters in the capital, killing at least two people and injuring 15. The violence comes a day after security forces fired on a massive rally of some 300,000 people in Sanaa, killing at least 12 protesters dead and wounding some 300.

Clontarf residents in Dublin staged a public protest against controversial plans for a flood defence scheme on the seaford. The proposed nine-foot-high embankment would extend for three kilometres blocking views of the sea.

Social Justice Ireland is to urge the IMF-ECB-EU Troika to accept the €3.6 billion in adjustments for 2012 as sufficient to avoid "making a bad situation worse". They will present a briefing document to the troika entitled *Adjustment Choices: A Fairer Future is Possible*. The document says measures in the State's memorandum of understanding with the Troika fail "to protect poor or vulnerable people, continue the process of dispossessing poor people so that bankers and bond holders may be repaid in full, a process we consider to be profoundly immoral and unjust, and provide no investment to help generate economic recovery".

Up to 1,000 people marched in Dublin protesting against corporate greed, and called for the Troika to get its "dirty hands" off Ireland's assets, children and hospitals, and jobs.

A memorial was dedicated to Martin Luther King jr in Washington. Speakers included his two sons and US President Barack Obama.

**MON. OCTOBER 17:** Nine orders for possession were granted at the High Court in Dublin. In one case the family had borrowed €248,000 in 2007 and now owed almost €300,000, but the property was now valued at only €150,000. Another said they borrowed €253,000 from Start Mortgages in 2007 to purchase their home at a cost of €340,000, it was recently valued at €180,000.

The death took place of Muiris Ó Rócháin, teacher, collector of folklore, Board member of the Irish Traditional Music Archive and co-founder of the Willie Clancy Summer School in Miltown Malbay, Co Clare.

**TUES. OCTOBER 18:** Forty-two released Palestinian prisoners arrived in Syria, Turkey, Jordan and Qatar after being set free as part of a prisoner exchange deal between Israel and Hamas. The prisoners are a section of 1,027 Palestinians and Israeli Arabs being released by Israel in exchange for abducted Israel Defence Forces soldier Gilad Shalit, who had been held in Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip for five years and four months. Shalit was released in return for 477 prisoners, including Yehya al-Sinwar who spent 23 years in jail. Five hundred and fifty prisoners will be released within a few months.

Sam Pollock, former Police Ombudsman's Office Chief Executive, said he had lost confidence in the independence of the office,

hence his resignation last April. He was speaking on BBC *Spotlight* programme.

Thirty-five children in contact the Health Service Executive (HSE) died in the last 18 months.

**WED. OCTOBER 19:** Insurance giant Aviva is to halve its workforce in Ireland over the next two-and-a-half years. The massive cost-saving exercise will see 950 redundancies overall. The redundancies are expected to involve 770 from Aviva Ireland and 180 roles from Aviva Europe based in Ireland. Aviva Ireland employs 1,770 people in Dublin, Cork and Galway and has built up a customer base of 1.3 million people.

Nurses in Limerick decided to suspend their industrial action for four weeks following 12 hours of talks at the Labour Relations Commission.

The pharmaceutical firm Merck, Sharp and Dohme announced it requires 60 voluntary redundancies at its Rathdrum plant in Co Wicklow.

**THURS. OCTOBER 20:** The Basque Movement Eta issued a statement saying its 43-year armed campaign for independence for the Basque country was over. It called on France and Spain to open talks.

The Provos were accused of hypocrisy by TUV leader Jim Allister, for demanding information about special advisors pay in the 26 Counties while refusing to answer the same questions in the Occupied Six Counties.

A controlled explosion was carried out on a pipe bomb found in Laurencetown, Co Down.

**FRI. OCTOBER 21:** Michael Campbell from Co Louth was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment in Lithuania after he was found guilty of attempting to buy arms and explosives.

**SUN. OCTOBER 23:** Ten Palestinians were killed in continuous air-strikes on Gaza by the Israeli air force on Saturday night and Sunday morning October 22/23 in the City's Shajia neighbourhood and in Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip, where several were also injured.

**TUES. OCTOBER 25:** Israeli soldiers demolished a house and a farm, and uprooted a number of trees in Anata town, northeast of Jerusalem.

Israeli soldiers arrested 10 Palestinians after raiding several areas in the West Bank, Palestinian police said in a statement.

**WED. OCTOBER 26:** Up to 56 Occupy Wall Street protesters were arrested in Atlanta, Georgia while several protesters in Oakland, California were injured in clashes with the police using batons, tear-gas and sound bombs.

The Women's Unit at the Central Mental Hospital in Dublin is "totally unsuitable" and "grim" a report from the Mental Health Commission found.

Health authorities are cutting funding for homeless services in parts of Dublin by up to 10% over the coming winter months, despite growing pressure on services. The Health Service Executive (HSE) told providers last week it is cutting between 5 and 10% of grants which were due to be paid between October and December of this year.

The National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) approved salaries of €200,000 a year to two property developers and is agreeing incentives with others to encourage debt repayments.

**THURS. OCTOBER 27:** The RUC/PSNI said it suspects that health officials did not disclose to them the full extent of abuse committed in psychiatric hospitals across the Six Counties.

The Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral in London, Canon Giles Fraser, resigned because he feared plans to evict protestors from the front of the Cathedral could lead to violence. He said he could not tolerate the possibility of an eviction similar to that of at the traveller site at Dale farm.

The United Nations Security Council voted to lift the no-fly zone over Libya on October 31 and end its authorisation of military actions.

**SAT. OCTOBER 29:** The Annual Protest March Against Custody Deaths and Abuse took place in Trafalgar Square, London.

The referendum in the 26 Counties to give more powers of inquiry to the Leinster House politicians was rejected by 53% to 46%.

The referendum proposal to give the State powers to cut judges pay was passed with over 79% voting yes, though 37,696 people spoiled their vote votes.

Michael D Higgins, Labour candidate in the presidential election was elected president of the 26 Counties. As it stands, the salary for the Irish president is just under €250,000 per annum, reduced under the public pay cap legislation from €325,000.

A Taliban suicide bomber rammed a vehicle loaded with explosives into an armoured NATO bus in Kabul, killing 13 American troops and four Afghans soldiers.

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

# SECTARIAN ATTACKS IN BELFAST

## A Belfast Chronology

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011.** Hospital workers at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast staged a 24 hour strike to protest against budget cuts.

**Thursday, October 6, 2011.** A parade for hundreds of British Army personnel returning from Afghanistan took place in Belfast.

**Saturday, October 8, 2011.** Over 1,200 former blanketmen from the H-Blocks and women who served in Armagh Prison met in Emerald Roadhouse in Finaghy West Belfast for a reunion.

**Monday, October 10, 2011.** Martine McCafferty was ordered by the Housing Executive to remove a metal security gate which she fitted after receiving death threats. Martine is wife of Terry McCafferty, former RIRA prisoner, serving 12 years in Maghaberry jail.

**Tuesday, October 11, 2011.** TUV leader Jim Allister is to table a private member's bill in

Stormont to ban those convicted of an offence carrying a sentence of five years or more from holding special advisor posts. It would also remove anyone convicted of such an offence already in the role.

**Friday, October 14, 2011.** Martine McCafferty received £500 through the post, allegedly from British intelligence services in an attempt to recruit her as an informer.

A sectarian attack on a family home in east Belfast by loyalists forced the family to move as their two-year-old was

injured by glass as up to 15 men attacked the house, broke the windows and tried to break down the front door.

Three witnesses are to give evidence at a hearing to decide of Marian Price should stand trial on charges linked to the killing of two British soldiers at Massereene Barracks in Antrim in March 2009. Marian Price who is being held in Maghaberry jail was connected to Belfast Crown court by video link from the jail.

**Sunday, October 16, 2011.** A flat in north Belfast was damaged in an arson attack in the early hours of the morning in Skegoneill Avenue. Damage was caused to a wall and flooring but there was no injuries.

**Monday, October 17, 2011.** A builder removed a bomb that was left outside a sex offenders' hostel on the Antrim Road and placed it on derelict ground before raising the alarm.

Families from the McGurks Bar bombing, and the Ballymurphy and Loughinisland shootings, protested outside the office of the Ombudsman in Belfast.

**Friday, October 28, 2011.** A charge of murder was withdrawn against Neil Hyde, Lurgan, as he was granted bail, to an undisclosed location, at Belfast's Magistrates Court. Hyde was charged with the murder of *Sunday World* journalist Martin O'Hagan in Lurgan in 2001. He is to be charged instead with 50 other alleged offences connected to the shooting dead of Martin O'Hagan.

## McGuinness accused of treachery by Derry families

**TWO of the most respected Republican families in Derry said they are disgusted that Martin McGuinness has "disowned" IRA members who laid down their lives for the Republican cause.**

Martina Duffy, whose IRA father Patsy died in a hail of SAS bullets, said: "Martin McGuinness has abandoned the IRA and criminalised its members as he desperately tries to woo Southern voters in the presidential election.

"He says the Irish Army is the only Óglaigh na hÉireann he supports. It's a pity, he didn't tell that years ago to the dozens of volunteers in another Óglaigh na hÉireann who now lie dead in Derry city cemetery."

Martina Duffy claimed that IRA families in McGuinness's own Republican heartland in Derry were horrified at the "turns" he was doing during the

election campaign.

"He should hang his head in shame for what he's done," she said.

Patsy Duffy (50) was shot dead by the SAS in 1978 as he checked an arms' dump in a house in the Brandywell.

"The SAS fired 36 bullets at him. He was shot in the back and the side. He was unarmed but our family never complained because, as an IRA volunteer, he knew the risks involved," his daughter said.

McGuinness had attended her father's wake and funeral.

"He told us he was proud of IRA men like my daddy. He saw the Óglaigh na hÉireann my

children who grew up not knowing them, no jobs and no chance of a job.

"McGuinness has left us to cope with the wreckage of the war while he pursues power and position. All he's out for is himself."

Danny McBrearty, whose IRA brother George was killed in May 1981 by the SAS in Derry, said: "Martin McGuinness was at George's funeral and wake. Had he said then that my brother was wrong and that the IRA wasn't Óglaigh na hÉireann, he'd have been thrown out of our house."

George McBrearty is widely regarded as being one of the IRA's most active members in Derry.

"Martin McGuinness knew George very well army-wise,"

dead volunteers in Belfast, Tyrone and all over the North are very disillusioned at what's happened. They feel hurt and abandoned."

The ex-IRA man said he personally knew no former comrades who supported McGuinness's presidential bid. "The only ones backing it are MLAs and others who have well-paid positions in Sinn Féin or who belong to the party's middle-management. The ordinary volunteers who put their lives on the line and fought the war are appalled."

— Suzanne Breen, *Sunday World*, Sunday, October 16, 2011 [edited]..2011.

## Twenty-six charged over protests at Twelfth parade

**A SIT-down road protest at the scene of a disputed Orange Order march in north Belfast on July 12, 2010 breached a British Parades Commission determination, Belfast Magistrates Court heard on October 28.**

Ronnie Pedlow, the former secretary of the commission, said protesters at Ardoyne were restricted to footpaths. He was giving evidence as a case opened against 26 people charged with 'obstructing lawful activity in a public place' during a July 12 march in 2010.

The case against a 27th man was withdrawn.

A teenager is to face Youth Court proceedings over the protest.

At least four of those charged were not in attendance



• RUC/PSNI in riot gear removing a protester from the road during the Twelfth march in Ardoyne last year.

or provocative behaviour.

Laughter broke out among defendants packed in the public gallery as a further prohibition on drinking alcohol was outlined.

The court heard details of two separate bodies operating in the area, the Crumlin Ardoyne Residents' Association (CARA)

and the Greater Ardoyne Residents' Coalition (GARC).

The prosecution intends to prove the protest at the centre of the case was led by GARC.

However, Pedlow said he could not give a definitive answer about who was involved.

He also told the court that Parades Commission monitors were asked to pull out of the area due to unrest before the parade had passed.

Following cross-examination by a series of defence lawyers, a prosecutor asked if the determination on CARA's static peaceful protest authorised a sit-down which obstructed a road.

Ronnie Pedlow replied:

"No. The commission's code of conduct and how the commission would place restrictions on it would expect that any protest does not take place on a carriageway, but would take place on a footpath.

"The commission would have met with CARA in the run-up to its consideration of the protest and would have heard from CARA about how it would intend to hold the protest.

"They indicated they were holding a protest on the pavement and the commission accepted that. To take a protest on the carriageway would be against the commission determination."

The case continues.

## Fuel poverty fear as winter bites

**OVER 750 people are believed to have died from cold-related illnesses during the big freeze last year, and the fuel poverty figure has since risen to half of the population in the Occupied Six Counties.**

Fuel poverty occurs when a family needs to spend more than 10% of its income to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth. The British government says 44% of houses were affected in 2009 but since then the region has seen two of the coldest

winters on record and higher energy prices.

Firmus and Phoenix Gas have hiked their natural gas costs by 28.4% and 40% respectively, while Power NI electricity is 18.6% more expensive and coal is up by 10%.

The Consumer Council now estimates that half of homes in the Six Counties suffer fuel poverty.

Many people are struggling at the moment so their plight will deteriorate further as the cold winter bites.

Carrickfergus father-of-three Thomas Thompson is among those who are struggling.

He lost his job two years ago, then his home, and now lives in a Housing Executive property.

and senior citizens are some of the worst affected.

"Fuel poverty is a major issue for older people and it is an escalating issue," Anne O'Reilly from the charity said. "For many it's a life or death issue - people are choosing to heat their homes or feed themselves. We know from our advice line people out there are making some really stark choices."

Belfast City Council and others have, in conjunction with

home heating oil distributors, introduced stamp saving schemes so people can budget more effectively for their oil fills.

The situation in the Six Counties mirrors that in the 26 Counties, where rising costs in electricity and gas and a reduction in household benefits to old-age pensioners and people on disability payments means that many people will find it difficult to heat their homes and still make ends meet this winter.

# No other law

**WRITING in the series *Perspectives on the presidency in the Irish Times* of October 13 Tom Hickey; lecturer in the School of Law NUI Galway gives a definition of Republicanism with which one could readily identify.**

However he then puts a construct on Irish Republicanism, which is a misrepresentation of a 220-year-old revolutionary tradition. He writes that Irish Republicanism has for many become a "dirty word, gradually conflated with sectarian nationalism." He goes on then to accuse Irish Republicans of defining Irish nationality along sectarian lines — reserved only for one section of the Irish people.

Irish Republicanism stands as a polar opposite to sectarianism. Drawing from the wellspring of the enlightenment, it rejects the 'Divine Right of Kings' and replaces it with the sovereignty of the people and the universal 'Rights of Man'. The Father of Irish Republicanism Theobald Wolfe Tone could not have been clearer as to the foundation upon which a free All-Ireland Republic would be built: "To unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishman, in the place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic, and Dissenter - these were my means."

This has remained the bedrock of Irish Republicanism right up to the present day. Indeed it is this rejection of sectarianism, which was one of the two primary reasons

advanced by Republican Sinn Féin in rejecting the 1998 Stormont Agreement. Because it served only to institutionalise sectarianism in what was already an undemocratic and sectarian statelet in the Six Counties. The other of course was that it copper-fastened British rule in Ireland.

Tom Hickey writes that in a real Republic the two "distinct pillars" are the "sanctity of the public space, and of the common public good." He then says: "this requires meaningful deliberative engagement on the part of all citizens, and participation."

The second pillar he identifies as "equal citizenship" and immunity from "arbitrary power." I would invite Tom Hickey to read *ÉIRE NUA* if he wishes to see a definition of just such a republic based on real participation and the common good. The *ÉIRE NUA* proposals make tangible the Republic aspired to by Tone, Emmet, Davis, Lalor, Pearse and Connolly. *ÉIRE NUA* presents a vision and a programme for a New Ireland that is in stark contrast to both failed partitionist states.

In an article published in *SAOIRSE* marking 40 years since the launch of *ÉIRE NUA* Sean Ó Brádaigh had this to say about the nature of the two partition states: "The partition of



• **Des Dalton**

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."

The opposition of unionists to the idea of being incorporated into such a state is understandable. What is not in their treatment over a prolonged period of the minority within the Six-County State something that was shameful and unworthy of the descendants of the first Irish Republicans of the 1790s.

Not unreasonably unionists have expressed frustration at the apparent lack of any concrete

proposals setting out the shape of a future free and united Ireland. One Unionist, David Adams, writing in the *Irish Times* on December 3, 2009, criticising this perceived 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." However he also noted: "The *ÉIRE NUA* document, authored by Ruairi 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."

There is an onus on Irish Republicans to be very clear and precise in setting out our vision. Irish Republicans have never advocated a 32-County Free State. We believe that a New Ireland for all of the Irish people is required if we are to advance politically, socially and economically. In short we seek the restoration of the 32-County Republic which was subverted in 1922.

*ÉIRE NUA* proposes a Federal Ireland based on the historic four provinces including a nine-county Ulster. This would be horizontal democracy based on sharing autonomy and sovereignty between provinces, regions right down to local or community level within the framework of an independent nation state. This would represent meaningful decentralisation of power and decision-making. A nine-county Ulster Parliament would have considerably more power than any Stormont Assembly ever

had. Importantly an Ulster Parliament or Dáil Uladh would be sovereign and could not be suspended over the heads of its elected members by an outside parliament such as Westminster, as is the case today.

Again as Sean Ó Brádaigh points out: "*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."

Tom Hickey concludes by saying if we are to "renew our Republic (sic) in advance of 2016 we must first restore the idea of Republicanism." I would agree with this sentiment but would go further and say that we must also restore the Republic of 1916, a Republic that was stolen from us and reconnect with the ideals enshrined in the 1916 Proclamation. To quote Liam Lynch: "We have declared for an Irish Republic and will not live under any other law"

— *Des Dalton*  
(<http://thesingingflamedealdalton.blogspot.com/>)

## Thomas Ashe remembered

**ON September 25 Kerry Republicans gathered in Kinard to remember and honour the sacrifice given to the cause of Irish freedom by Thomas Ashe.**

The commemoration was chaired by Brian Smullen, Tralee and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Ger Kelliher, Tralee. The poem *Let me carry your cross for Ireland Lord* written by Thomas Ashe was recited by ex-POW Matt Leen, Tralee and the oration was given by Stephen Brosnan, Tralee.

Stephen compared the hardship that Thomas Ashe suffered during his hunger strike to that of the suffering being endured by the POWs in Maghaberry gaol today. He told of the terrible conditions that they have to endure on a daily basis in order to see that their rights as political prisoners are met. Highlighted also was the deceitful antics of the Provisional leadership, most notably Martin McGuinness who in his past referred to the 26-County politicians as "quislings", but now in his pursuit for power, is willing, so once more betray the Republican ideal and its principals and enter the Viceregal Lodge to pose as the biggest Free Stater of them all.

Stephen was adamant that Republican Sinn Féin Kerry will continue to celebrate people like



• **Thomas Ashe**

Thomas Ashe and the sacrifice they gave for the cause of the true Irish Republic proclaimed in 1916 and not the type of Republic that Martin McGuinness and his quisling colleagues advocate in both Leinster House and Stormont.

Stephen finished by sending solidarity to republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails, and also stated that during the coming months Republican Sinn Féin will be renewing its campaign with more vigour than ever before, to highlight the plight of Republican prisoners in Maghaberry jail to the people of Kerry.

## IMEACHTAÍ

**EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6  
ASSEMBLE BORDER BAR, CO LOUTH, 2.30pm  
\*\*\*\*

**EDDIE CARMODY COMMEMORATION**  
WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY  
BALLYLONGFORD, CO KERRY  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18  
Assemble: The Monument, 8pm  
\*\*\*\*

**FRANK DRIVER COMMEMORATION**  
BALLYMORE EUSTACE, CO KILDARE.  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Assemble, 1pm opposite Driver's cottage in Ballymore Eustace and parade from there to the cemetery.  
\*\*\*\*

**KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION**  
RATHVILLY, CO CARLOW, 3pm  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20  
\*\*\*\*

**CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7pm  
TRALEE, CO KERRY  
Assemble: The Pikeman Monument, Denny Street for march to monument.  
\*\*\*\*

**POW PICKET**  
TRALEE, CO KERRY  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 18  
ASSEMBLE THE PIKEMAN, 2pm  
\*\*\*\*

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

## TEAGMHÁLACHA

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

**Wexford:** contact Mick at 0876150484

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# No change in conditions for POWs

**ELEVEN Republican prisoner have been charged with causing criminal damage to their cells during a protest for the restoration of political status in Maghaberry jail on May 6 this year. they are all held in Roe House, Maghaberry jail.**

They did not appear at Craisavon Magistrates Court on October 5 but indicated they would contest the charges.

The prosecution indicated that at least five witnesses will give evidence against the men, but there may be more.

Deputy District Judge Amanda Brady noted that at least two days would be required for a contested hearing and adjourned the case until October 19 for a date to be fixed.

On Tuesday, October 25, 2011, a report, headed up by Anne Owens, titled *Review of the Northern Ireland Prison Service;*

*Conditions, management and oversight of all prisons,* was published.

The report covers all prisons and places of detention in the Occupied Six Counties and makes 40 recommendations in all, including finding an alternative to full body-searching, ie strip-searching.

The solution to that is already in place in Maghaberry – the BOSS chair - but the prison regime refuse to use the BOSS chair and insist on the degrading practice of strip searching. The mind-set of the prison regime is not too hard to fathom: "It is widely accepted that the prison service has yet to enter the 21st century and contains more than its fair share of officers with deeply sectarian views with a less than impressive work ethic," the Pat Finucane Centre said.

Recommendation 26 addressed this mindset: "There should be an early retirement scheme which allows a significant number of staff to leave and new staff to be recruited, alongside a training and development programme, externally delivered, for those who remain or join". Recommendation 27 says "There should be a new code of



• **Republican Sinn Féin members and supporters picketing Maghaberry jail.**

ethics and values, and new disciplinary and appraisal systems based on the code".

The report also stated that Maghaberry held "too diverse a population" and "holds a very challenging mix of prisoners" (over half the population is on remand). It also states that "there are problems and operational difficulties" in Maghaberry; but "trying to provide appropriate security, and sufficient and relevant activity, for all these populations is a challenge that

Maghaberry has been unable to meet". The report also pointed out that "without tackling the underlying problems identified in the interim report" [in January of this year] conditions overall cannot change.

Republican Sinn Féin has been actively campaigning for improvements in conditions in Maghaberry for the POWs for many years now and will continue to do so. It is a fact that improvements won by the POWs, eventually benefit all

prisoners.

Republican Sinn Féin is also campaigning for the release of Martin Corey, a political hostage held in Maghaberry for the last 18 months with no charges pending. His licence was revoked in April 2010, no reason given, and no charges presented against him, he is effectively interned.

The Pat Finucane centre (PFC) issued the following statement on October 24: "Last week Paul O'Connor of the PFC and Jane Winter of British Irish Rights Watch met with Justice Minister David Ford. At the meeting we relayed our grave concerns at the ongoing crisis within Maghaberry prison. The detention of Marion Price and Martin Corey who are effectively being held without any due process was raised. Both should be released immediately. The ongoing dirty protest and the potential for serious health risks to prisoners was also discussed. We voiced our suspicions that the NIPS and/or NIO were using the prisons dispute to 'break' Republican prisoners and

reminded the minister that history would suggest that governments usually lose in stand-offs with Republican prisoners.

"Individual prisoners are experiencing serious health issues and it was made clear to the Justice Minister that Gerry McGeogh in particular should not be in custody given his chronic heart problems (and the spirit of the GFA (*sic*)). Both organisations stressed the urgent need for implementation of the 2010 agreement and consideration of alternative technical solutions to full body searches as is presently the case in Portlaoise prison."

The implementation of the August 2010 Agreement is long overdue, as are the recommendations made in the above report, recommendations that have been advocated in several prison review reports over the years.

The POWs will continue their protest for as long as it takes to gain the restoration of political status – let us ensure that is sooner rather than later.

## Protesters set up camp at Central Bank in Dublin

**A GROUP of protesters set up camp at the Central Bank in Dublin and said they would stay for "as long as it takes".**

The "Occupy Dame Street" protest, which began on October 8, is in solidarity with the "Occupy Wall Street" protest which started in New York last month.

By October 10 about 20 tents had been erected and were still standing against high winds, having all been tied together as they cannot be pinned to the concrete surrounding the Central Bank.

Placards and posters erected around the tents have slogans such as "Is this a crime scene?" – referring to the Central Bank; "Troika = Junta" and "Fermoy says 'No' to Bondholder Bailouts".

A spokesperson said the community had organised itself for the long haul, with one tent set aside for food, one as a secure tent for valuables and one for tea and coffee during the day.

"It is pretty cold but we are keeping warm and morale is good. I am feeling better than I have done in months, really energised," he said.

"I have done everything society has asked of me. I have played by all the rules, got a degree, had my own business and it has wound up, and I am just pissed off at this stage. We're taking this day by day and working out our demands.

"We have an assembly every day at 1pm and 6pm and invite anyone, except politicians, to come down and speak with us. We also want anyone who wants to come and join our protest.

"We will be here as long as it takes."

On October 16 about 1,000 people marched through Dublin's city centre. The "99%" were marching against "corporate greed". They assembled at Parnell Square and marched toward the Department of Finance, via Kildare Street.

However, 600 members of the group diverted and ended their march outside the Central Bank, where the Occupy Dame Street group has set up camp. They said their group would not finish the march with the rest of the marchers due to their participation in trade unions and



• **The protest at the Central Bank plaza in Dublin's Dame Street will continue into December.**

political parties.

The smaller group included the parents of children with special needs, pensioners from Tara Mines, community group representatives, members of trade unions Mandate, Siptu and

Unite, as well as members of People Before Profit – United Left Alliance and the Enough! campaign.

Their banners had messages such as "Bail out hospitals, not the bankers", "No 10 per cent

cut to our pensions", and "Some cuts never heal, hands off our children with special needs".

Drummers leading the procession chanted "Cuts, job losses, money for the bosses" and "IMF get them out, we know what they're all about".

Members of the IMF-ECB-EU troika, from inside the Merrion Hotel told the protesters they were staying in Ireland.

The crowd chanted "IMF, shame on you" and "Our State assets, get your dirty hands off. Our hospitals, get your dirty hands off. Our jobs, get your dirty hands off. Our children, get your dirty hands off."

The Occupy Dame Street protest is continuing and those taking part say it will continue into December. An Occupy Cork protest also took place over the weekend.

## Intervention requested on Boston College subpoenas

**THE Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) asked US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to intervene on its behalf and stop a subpoena from the Department of Justice requiring Boston College to hand over interviews.**

The conference says that the documents Attorney General Eric Holder's office has subpoenaed would endanger the peace process in Northern Ireland.

"At the request of the United Kingdom, the United States Attorney in Boston has caused the issuance of subpoenas to the Trustees of Boston College and two of its representatives, seeking the production of materials gathered and maintained by Boston College's

Burns Library which contain sensitive information and allegations concerning the Troubles in Northern Ireland." IAUC National President Thomas J Burke Jr. wrote in a letter to Hillary Clinton on October 12.

"The IAUC requests that you convey to the Attorney General the serious foreign policy and national security interests implicated by the subpoenas...and for that reason request that the subpoenas be withdrawn"



• **The Burns Library at Boston College where interviews by participants in the conflict in the Six Counties are held.**

The documents in question contain interviews with Dolours Price who makes allegations against Gerry Adams.

The interviews are part of a larger collection of members of both the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the British Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

The tapes were only meant to be made public after the person interviewed had died, but the interviews under subpoena are with some people who are still alive.

The US attorney's office argues that the library "made promises they could not keep — that they would conceal evidence of murder and other crimes until the perpetrators were in their graves".

According to Ned McGinley, a former national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, another group contesting the subpoena, releasing the documents could endanger the people interviewed.

"Those interviews are not evidence," McGinley said in a phone interview. The subpoenas are "really objectionable for three reasons. The principle reason being of course the subpoenas have nothing to do with foreign policy and national security of the United States. The release of those oral histories could endanger the lives of those who provided them. All of these people were combatants."

# The legacy of the

ON October 8 a large crowd attended at Wynne's Hotel, Dublin to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the ending of the 1981 hunger strike.

Proceedings were chaired by Vice-President Fergal Moore.

The event commenced with Andy Connolly from Dublin singing *The Ballad of Francis Hughes* and a song about Bobby Sands, followed by Maurice Isaacson who sang *H-Blocks*.

Eoin Mooney, Tallaght, Dublin and Shane Barnes, Wexford each read an excerpt from *One Day in my Life* by Bobby Sands. Dara Sloane, Dundalk read *The Rhythm of Time* and Vice-President Geraldine Taylor read the (until now) unpublished poem by Bobby Sands *The Greatest Hell*.

Breandán Ó Curraoin from Cork read Bobby Sands poem about Tom Barry and Francis Hughes's last letter to the people of South Derry was read by Seán Dolan, Westmeath. Josephine Hayden, herself an ex-POW read part of the statement from the POWs at the ending of the 1981 hunger strike. Pádraig Ó Baoighill read the Roll of Honour of all 22 hunger strikers.

After a break Fergal Moore read the following message from Sinn Féin Poblachtach Patron Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, who unfortunately was unable to attend.

"Greetings to you all! Bratha agus Sláinte!

"In view of the fact that I am unable to be present today due to reasons of health, I send this message. I wish to repeat what I said at a similar meeting in Armagh city on March 19 last. Monsignor Réamonn Ó Muiri and Richard O'Rawe were also participating.

"I was President of Sinn Féin at the time of the 1980 and 1981 hunger strikes. I had held that office since 1970, having been a member since 1950. I know nothing of the so-called Mountain Climber offer by the British government to end the hunger strike in July 1981.

"I believe and am quite satisfied that the leadership of the Movement had no knowledge of it either.

"I recommend Richard O'Rawe's books as essential to an understanding of the period.

"Go raibh maith agaibh".

Joe O'Neill, Bundoran gave his account of the situation outside the jail during the hunger strike, including the death of Frank Maguire and the election of Bobby Sands. "Dáithí Ó Conaill proposed Bobby Sands for that election (contrary to what is now being said in certain quarters). Dáithí saw an opportunity to raise the issue of the H-Blocks nationally, and indeed internationally, with Bobby Sands contesting the election," Joe explained and continued "He had a problem getting the Six-County members of the Ard Chomhairle to accept this, but Dáithí was insistent and won out in the end and his stance was vindicated."

The main speaker of the day Richard O'Rawe spoke next and gave an intensely moving account of the situation in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh; from the loss of special category status on from

March 1, 1976, right through the dirty protest to the hunger strikes. He gave a detailed account of the reasons why he felt he had to bring into the public domain the events just before Joe

variously told and threatened not to be saying "things like that" and to "keep his mouth shut".

Richard was visibly upset when he said that he could stay silent no longer

cause of the prisoners but with leanings towards either Sinn Féin or the IRSP and people who were completely unaligned but



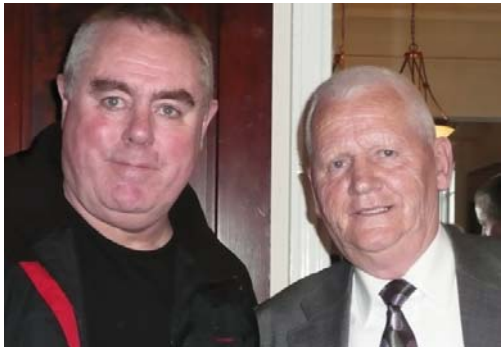
• Geraldine Taylor



• Pádraig Ó Baoighill



• Dara Sloane



• Richard O'Rawe with Republican Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Dan Donoghue.

McDonnell's death when the British made an offer that would, he said, have been acceptable to the prisoners, including the right to wear their own clothes -- one of the most important of the Five Demands.

Bik McFarlane and Richard accepted the offer, they believed that there was enough there to end the hunger strike and work towards the implementation of the outstanding demands, but a "comm" from Gerry Adams came in to the prison leadership which rejected the offer and said that "more was needed".

The prisoners were under the impression that the Army Council of the IRA were in full agreement with this but in the hands of a smaller group led by Adams and it transpired that this offer was not passed on to the Army Council. None of the prisoners in Long Kesh were told that the offer came in the form of a statement from the then British supreme in the Six Counties.

The only conclusion that could be reached was that the ending of the hunger strike would have damaged the chances of Owen Carron being elected to replace Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone by-election and the hunger strike continued for another four months and six more died. This conclusion upset him deeply.

At the time he knew nothing of what was happening behind the scenes, had no knowledge of Brendan Duddy -- the Mountain climber -- and did not see the offer from the British government on July 5, 1981.

Richard said he kept his thoughts to himself for a long time after he came out of jail but what happened never left his mind and was disturbing to him. He spoke to a few people over time but was

about the fact that "our people killed our prisoners" and eventually "the dam burst" and he "just couldn't stop talking". He wrote *Blanketmen*, followed by *Afterlives*. As he spoke the emotion in the room was palpable.

Lita Ni Chathmhaoil then spoke of her experiences as a member of the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle and secretary of Dublin Chomhairle

Ceantair during the period.

She said that in 1980 she was

secretary of the Sinn Féin National H-Block/Armagh Committee which met at Ard-Oifig on a very regular basis and attended weekly meetings in Belfast of a committee which consisted of Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison, Jim Gibney, Tom Hartley and one or two others. As she remembers the brief of this committee was to coordinate Republican Movement activity with the prisoners and the organisation on the outside. She was appointed to liaise with this group and travelled to Belfast every week during the summer and autumn of 1980.

Lita said: "I suppose during the first hunger strike I accepted what was said at these meetings but later on in 1981 I became more and more suspicious of the motives of this group."

She was also a Sinn Féin delegate to the Dublin committee of the H-Block/Armagh Committee.

This committee was chaired by a so-called neutral person and consisted of people from Sinn Féin, the IRSP, a number of mosquito left-wing groups, people who were sympathetic to the

sympathetic to the POWs. From the beginning Sinn Féin met with hostility from other groups and the people aligned with them.

The second hunger strike began on March 1, 1981 and was led by Bobby Sands. Unlike the previous strike volunteers would be joining in different stages, thus slowly maximising pressure on the British government.

Local elections were held in the Six Counties early in 1981 and people like Dáithí Ó Conaill and Ruairí Ó Brádaigh advocated at Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle level that they should be contested by prisoner candidates. However Adams and his cohort were adamantly against such a course, saying that they would not get support. They had pushed through a resolution at the 1980 Ard-Fheis preventing Sinn Féin from putting forward candidates. As they were the



• (left to right) Lita Ni Chathmhaoil, Des Dalton and Joe O'Neill, who spoke at the s

people on the ground a majority Ard Chomhairle voted with them contest took place. The result was a motley group of candidates supported the H-Block POWs were throughout the Six Counties a opportunity was lost.

"The Independent Nationalist in Fermanagh/South Tyrone, Maguire died on March 5, causing election for the Westminster parliament. At the next Ard Chomhairle m Dáithí Ó Conaill proposed that contest the by-election with Bobby

## Candle light v

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin marked the 30th anniversary of the ending of the hunger strikes in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh with a candle light vigil at the GPO in O'Connell Street, Dublin on October 5 from 6-7pm.

Candles were lit and placed on a table as members distributed information on the current situation on the POWs in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim. Over 350 leaflets were distributed to members of the public who were very interested in the event.

Addressing the crowd the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton said that the hunger striker was not simply in pursuit of political status. "Bobby Sands and his comrades gave their lives that the All-Ireland Republic might live. These young Irishmen were willing to give their lives that their children might live in a New Ireland. 30 years later the fact that there are young Irishmen in Maghaberry prison locked in a struggle for political status tells us that nothing has changed. Ireland still suffers British occupation and partition. Here in the 26-Counties the people are being sold out to the new imperialists of the EU/ECB and IMF. The most fitting monument we can erect to the martyrs of 1981 is to bring about that All-Ireland Federal Democratic Socialist Republic." He concluded by quoting from the statement issued by the Republican POWs: "There were several reasons given by our



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin took outside the GPO in Dublin on October 5 anniversary of the end of the 1981 hunger comrades for going on hunger-strike. One was because we had no choice and no other means of securing a principled solution to the four-year protest.

"Another, and of fundamental

import: people' the ag determ immea:

strike a politica their se substan expose:

# The hunger strikers



Dalton, Fergal Moore, Richard O'Rawe at the seminar on October 8.

of the as candidate. As Joe has and no outlined Adams and Co s that a were very much opposed. porting Their argument was that he elected would get a derisory vote und an and this would affect the campaign for the POWs. MP for Dáithí pointed out that no Frank progress was being made; g a by- that Thatcher was not ament. going to be easily moved reeting and that we had little to at we lose. On this occasion the Sands Ard Chomhairle voted in

favour of contesting and a convention was called to meet in Monaghan which initially decided against contesting but following local meetings another convention was called and it was decided to contest.

"Despite the election result and political pressure from both Ireland and abroad, Margaret Thatcher refused to even enter into negotiations with the POWs. Almost immediately the Representation of the People Act was passed in the British House of Commons preventing any more prisoners from standing in future elections and vacating the election of Bobby Sands.

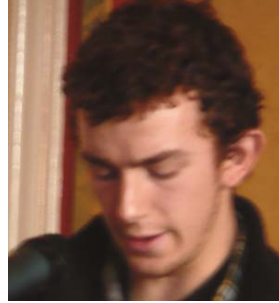
"Another by-election was held on August 19, 1981 to fill the seat left vacant by Bobby Sands. As it was not possible to nominate a prisoner it was decided to nominate Owen Carron of Fermanagh, who has been Sands' election agent. He was elected with an increased majority.

"During the summer of 1981 the Dublin H-Block/Armagh committee continued to obstruct and impede Sinn Féin's attempts to publicise and protest the plight of the POWs. It got to a stage where nothing was being done in any organised way and an EGM was forced. A new committee and things improved.

"However, the same cannot be said of what was happening within the Republican Movement. Chomhairle Átha Cliath had been organising nightly protests throughout this entire time and on the night Francis Hughes died had organised a number of events. However when we arrived at the GPO where there were around 1,500 people we discovered that certain elements who were Adams' henchmen had worked the crowd up and insisted on marching to the British Embassy. What happened was inevitable. The Special Branch anticipated what would be done and when we got to the Embassy the crowd was charged by a large force of police in riot gear. Many people were injured and

nothing was achieved.

"The following day I and another member of Chomhairle Átha Cliath were interviewed by a very senior Adamite and told to lay off militant protest and a



• Seán Dolan



• Maurice Isaacson



• Andy Connolly



• A section of the crowd at the seminar on October 8.

## Vigil at GPO

ance, was to advance the Irish 's right to liberty. We believe that ge-old struggle for Irish self-ination and freedom has been surably advanced by this hunger-



part in a candle-light vigil to commemorate the 30th strike.

and therefore we claim a massive il victory. The hunger-strikers, by iflessness, have politicised a very tial section of the Irish nation and d the shallow, unprincipled nature

of the Irish partitions bloc.

"Our comrades have lit with their very lives an eternal beacon which will inspire this nation and people to rise and crush oppression forever and his nation can be proud that it produced such a quality of man hood.

"We pay a special tribute to the families of our dead comrades. You have suffered greatly and with immense dignity. Your loved ones, our comrades and friends, were and would be very proud of you for standing by them. No tribute is too great.

"Also, we give a special mention to those families who could not bear to watch their loved ones die in pain and agony. We prisoners understand the pressure you were under and stand by you.

"We thank the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, the H-Block movement, the nationalist people of Ireland, and all those who championed our cause abroad, we are indebted to you and ask you to continue your good work on our behalf.

"Lastly we reaffirm our commitment to the achievement of the five demands by whatever means we believe necessary and expedient. We rule nothing out.

"Under no circumstances are we going to devalue the memory of our dead comrades by submitting ourselves to a dehumanising and degrading régime."

person was put in charge of organising marches in Dublin. The result was that he marched them straight into the hands of the riot squad night after night and the number of people coming to the protests declined as the hunger strike went on.

"Gerry Adams may have been reluctant to put forward Bobby Sands for election but he was like St Paul on the road to Damascus. As we know he used the Bobby Sands and Owen Carron elections to further his master plan to take over the Republican Movement.

"The hunger strike came to an end on October 3, 1981 after 217 days, mainly due to the fact that Fr Faul organised the relatives to take their sons and brothers off the strike when they became unconscious. Following the hunger strike the British conceded most of the five demands but it was Gerry Adams & Co who were the main beneficiaries. They brought many people into the Movement who had been active in the H-Block campaign but who were not Republicans and who were never educated in Republican principles.

"They moved in the next few years to take over Cumainn using these people. This was very evident in the Dublin area and those of us who had borne the brunt of the H-Block protests were moved to the sideline to make way for many of those who had obstructed us during the protest.

"My experiences during the hunger strike campaigns made me realise that Sinn Féin should not participate in broad fronts. There are too many sectional interests and people with their own agendas," she concluded

Richard Behal spoke of his experiences as Foreign Affairs spokesperson on the Sinn Féin Ard

published:

*Throughout the world today  
Women's stand is not unknown  
They shout for freedom, equal pay  
Stand up and show you're not alone.  
Progressive world I have said  
At this one could be confused  
In Iran you may be dead  
If it's a Libber's life you choose.  
More important is this country  
How stands equality there  
Look hard where eyes refuse to see  
Within the darkness of despair.  
A struggle is in progress  
Of that one is aware  
What's this we hear of nakedness  
Of hunger and beatings there.  
In Armagh there are the women  
Who plat a major role  
With the brave and courageous H-Block men  
Justice and democracy being their goal.  
Men and women stand together  
Both sides recognised  
To free their land forever  
But fighting side by side.*

— Máiréad Farrell

Richard Behal, Kerry, was Foreign Affairs representative for Sinn Féin during and after the H-Block hunger strikes. At the time he had some original communications (comms) from the POWs for publicity purposes as he travelled extensively abroad. Richard preserved many of the communications (that were in danger of being dumped after the end of the hunger strikes) written on toilet and cigarette paper and smuggled out of the H-Blocks and Armagh.

He said that all of the poems and writings that are in his safekeeping are not his personally but the right and

protests in the H-Blocks and in particular the hunger strikers:

"Twice in his life Richard O'Rawe displayed great moral and physical courage; firstly when he participated in the dirty protest in the H Blocks of Long Kesh resisting the attempts by the British government to criminalise Ireland's struggle for freedom and secondly with his decision to tell his story and publish his two books.

"Richard and his family were subjected to a campaign of intimidation in an attempt to ostracise them from their own community. This and future generations owe a debt of gratitude to Richard O'Rawe for ensuring this story was told and the historical record set straight."

Des Dalton also commended the other speakers; Joe O'Neill and Lita Ni Chathmhaoil for giving their own unique perspectives and insights to a seminal moment in Ireland's revolutionary history.

Des Dalton went on to say that the men and women in Long Kesh and Armagh Women's jail were not merely protesting for political status as POWs.

"They were locked in a struggle to vindicate Ireland's right to national independence. As Booby Sand's wrote in his prison diary on the first day of his hunger strike: 'what is lost here is lost for the Republic', Des Dalton concluded.

There followed a Q&A session. A selection of memorabilia from the 1980-81 period was on view during the day including "comms" from the POWs in the H-Blocks and some correspondence, posters, and leaflets.

The seminar ended with Andy Connolly leading all those in attendance in the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

## René González released after thirteen years

RENÉ González, first of the Miami Five to be freed in the United States, left Marianna prison in Florida on Friday, October 7, 2011.

He was reunited with his daughters and father after serving thirteen years in jail in the US, he is a US and Cuban citizen. One of his daughters videoed the event for her mother.

René's wife, Olga, is still banned from travelling to the USA by the US authorities, continuing what Amnesty International called a "form of torture" which has been imposed arbitrarily on him for more than a decade. He is not allowed to leave the USA.

"I am ready to continue fighting until I die," were his first words after embracing and kissing his daughters, Ivette and Irmita, who filmed the moment that they met him as he left the prison, and spoke to his wife on the phone.

He added that on the eve of his release from the prison, he was confined to the "hole" (the punishment cell) by prison officials: "I remained in the hole the rest of the evening, I slept well and they woke me. I jumped up like a spring. Everything was very quick; from the time they opened the hole until I got out: 10 minutes," René said.

He also sent a message to the people of Cuba in which he thanked them for "everything you have done... for the support that has never failed us and which has nourished us during these years of injustice, already too many... For me, this moment of joy which we share is, simply, a parenthesis in a history of abuses during which not one iota of justice has been done. For me, this is only a trench, a new place in which I am going to continue fighting for justice to be done so that the Five of us can return together to you".

Bernie Dwyer of Radio Havana Cuba interviewed Richard Klugh, one of the defence team of the Cuban Five on the conditions of supervised release imposed on René González. The interview was broadcast by radio Havana Cuba on the October 17, 2011

## Travellers evicted off Dale Farm POLICE in riot gear moved in on Wednesday October 19 to clear up to 400 Travellers from a site at Dale Farm, Essex, using tasers against protesters.

Officers broke down fences at the rear of the Dale Farm site while bailiffs began to smash low-rise brick walls with sledgehammers at its entrance as diggers stood ready to demolish what Basildon Council claim are "illegal structures".

After a ten-year struggle between Basildon Council and the residents of Dale Farm, the last legal appeal was exhausted last week when the High Court ordered the removal of the 86 families.

While some of the structures were erected without planning permission the blunt truth is that Gypsies and travellers are rarely given planning permission for land they buy.

Jake Bowers, a Romani journalist, explained that "over 80% of planning applications from settled people are granted while more than 90% of applications from Gypsies are refused which could explain the number of illegal structures that were erected".

(see <http://www.andyworthington.co.uk/>)

Travellers on the site have criticised police tactics, accusing them of premeditated violence and say the clearance is a breach of their human rights, targeting a vulnerable group whose choice of lifestyle does not fit in with the mainstream.

After two days of resistance in which several activists and travellers were forcibly removed and 27 arrested, Kathleen McCarthy, led the Travellers and activists who supported them out through the main entrance in the afternoon.

"We wanted this to end with dignity. We wanted to show the whole world that we are not thugs, that we are not the law-breaking people that the whole world made us out to be," she said.

Michael Slattery (63), originally from Munster, sitting beside his caravan said: "All we have ever known is racism. I have never been in trouble with the police in my life. I worked hard, within the law, to put food on the table for my family."

Slattery owned lands in Boreham Wood in Essex, where Travellers were brutally evicted in 2004 – a description accepted by independent observers – by bailiffs.

Because not all of the structures on Traveller owned Dale Farm are illegal the issue is far from settled.

## Basque group Eta says armed campaign is over

ON October 20, the Basque separatist group Eta issued the following statement:

"Eta has decided on the definitive cessation of its armed activity"

"Eta has decided on the definitive cessation of its armed activity. Eta makes a call to the governments of Spain and France to open a process of direct dialogue which has as its aim the resolution of the consequences of the conflict and thus the conclusion of the armed conflict. With this historic declaration, Eta demonstrates its clear, firm and definitive purpose."

The declaration, if followed through, would bring an end to Eta's 43-year armed campaign to an end. Until now, Spain's politicians had always insisted Eta must dissolve and disarm, nothing less. But a common position has clearly been agreed that this - finally - is a move worth accepting, in order to secure a lasting peace.

Talks lie ahead on the difficult issues of more than 700 Eta prisoners and the issue of its weapons and explosives.

# WORLD NEWS



• René González's first encounter with his daughter and his father. He was released on October 7 after 13 years in prison in the United States. His four comrades are still being held.

The new Spanish government to emerge after November's general election is to take charge of the process, said former interior minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba.

Analysts say Eta has been badly weakened by a security crackdown in recent years. In September 2010, it announced, again to the BBC, a decision not to carry out further attacks. In January this year, it declared a permanent and "internationally verifiable" ceasefire.

Inigo Gurruchaga, of El Correo, the most prominent newspaper in the Basque Country, says Eta simply used previous truces to reorganise and rearm. But this time appears to be different, he says.

## Gaddafi captured and killed in Libya

ON October 20 Muammar Gaddafi was captured and killed as he attempted to leave his home town of Sirte. A Libyan official said he was killed in custody.

NATO said it would now wind down its military mission in Libya.

A spokesman for the National Transitional Council in Benghazi, Jalal al-Galal, said a doctor who examined Gaddafi in Misrata found he had been shot in the head and abdomen. Footage by video from Sirte showed a man looking like Gaddafi, being hauled by his hair from the hood of a truck. To the shouts of someone saying, "keep him alive!" he disappears from view and gunshots are heard.

"They captured him alive and while he was being taken away, they beat him and then they killed him," said one senior council source.

Officials said his son Mo'tassim, also seen bleeding but alive in a video, is now dead also. Another son, heir-apparent Saif al-Islam, was variously reported to be surrounded, captured or killed as conflicting accounts of the day's events unfolded.

## USA prisoners on hunger strike

PRO of Republican Sinn Féin Geraldine McNamara called on the international media to highlight the deplorable situation in US jails. Geraldine said that "thousands of California state prisoners are refusing meals in at least eight state prisons to highlight five demands which include a change to the solitary confinement, an end to group lock down, warm winter clothing and nutritious meals."

The strike started on September 26. Many prisoners have been on hunger strike to force a change in the harsh prison regime which has seen some prisoners in solitary confinement for twenty years.

Prison officials said in response to the plight of the prisoners that they would punish those who were not eating and remove the leaders by placing them in segregation/solitary confinement.

Geraldine said "The purpose of imprisonment is to deprive a person of their liberty and help them to reform. This regime only hardens prisoners and can only lead to further alienation of the prisoner"

Prisoners have to go through an interrogation process where they incriminate themselves and others in order to get out of solitary confinement.

"We in Ireland have seen first hand in Maghaberry jail how prison officials do not implement agreements and how it causes further hardship on political prisoners and their families. This is also an ongoing situation and there have been many protests by the

prisoners one of which is ongoing at present.

"The US should not be exempt from criticism of their prison system and the prisoners should be supported in their fight for justice" Geraldine said.

## Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli jails

HEAD of the Palestinian Detainees Centre Qaddoura Fares said Sunday, October 2 that 20 detainees in Ashkelon prison will join a hunger strike being carried out by prisoners in Israeli jails, according to a report from the Palestine News & Information Agency, WAFA.

Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons are on hunger strike for the sixth consecutive day in protest against being forced into isolation cells and being deprived of family visits.

Palestinian human rights and prisoners group Addameer said the original Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) strikers had been joined by Hamas prisoners in Ramon, Eshel, Nafha and Ashkelon prisons, with Fatah-affiliated detainees also taking part in Ashkelon.

In the Negev prison, 56 PFLP detainees joined the hunger strike while in Ofer prison 10 detainees joined the strike, the officials said. Director of the Abu Jihad centre for prisoners affairs at al-Quds university Fahd Abu al-Hajj said Sunday that the 3,000 or so prisoners would not end the hunger strike until their demands were met, primarily an end to the policy of solitary confinement in Israeli jails.

According to latest reports from the Palestinian Authority 6,000 Palestinians are being detained in Israeli prisons, including 219 in Administrative Detention who are held without charge.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) which, along with other international NGOs, is appealing to the Israeli government to release all Palestinian children in Israeli military detention.

According to the latest figures released by the Israeli Prison Service and DCI-Palestine, on October 1, there were 164 Palestinian children (aged 12-17) in Israeli detention facilities, including 35 aged 12-15. Seventy-six of these children have been sentenced, while 88 children are being held in pre-trial detention.

## Uranium weapons systems deployed by the US

THE cause of congenital anomaly and cancer in Fallujah Iraq is identified as Enriched Uranium from novel weapons systems deployed by the US, according to a report published on October 17.

Remarkably high levels of congenital anomaly at birth, together with high cancer rates in Fallujah, Iraq were previously found in a joint British/Iraqi epidemiological study published in the International Journal of Environment and Public Health in July 2010 and reported in *The Independent*.

While many believed that Depleted Uranium weapons were employed, up to now no evidence of this was available. However a study by Samira Alaani and Muhammed Tafash, two paediatricians at Fallujah General Hospital, Chris Busby, Visiting Professor at the University of Ulster, Malak Hamdan, a chemical engineer and Eleonore Blaurock Busch, concluded that "a uranium based weapon of some type was employed in the Battle of Fallujah, and is the main cause of the high levels of cancer and congenital disease".

Enriched Uranium signatures have also turned up in other recent battlefields, notably in the Lebanon, where soil from a missile crater in Khiam and also dust from an ambulance air filter both showed the presence of Enriched Uranium in 2006, a finding reported in *The Independent* by Robert Fisk. The authors are unable to explain why these weapons contain or produce slightly enriched Uranium and call for the military to now reveal the truth about the weapons systems being employed in modern battlefields.

## Conditions deteriorating for children in custody in Britain

ALTHOUGH the number of young people in custody in Britain has fallen in the last two years, there has been a severe increase in the already over-represented number of black and minority ethnic young men in custody.

Young people's experience of custody has deteriorated, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing a thematic report, *Children and Young People in Custody 2010-11: an analysis of the experiences of 15 to 18-year-olds in prison*.

Demographic information indicates a changing profile of the children and young people in custody and reflects the vulnerability of the population. The proportion of black and minority ethnic young men, already over-represented, rose to 39% (from 33% in 2009-10), the number of foreign national young men increased to 6% (from 4% in 2009-10) and the number who identified as Muslim reached 16% (compared with 13% in 2009-10).

Nick Hardwick said: "This report has highlighted some deterioration in children and young people's experience of custody. Despite the falling numbers, this population has well-defined vulnerability and increasing numbers within minority groups. The need, therefore, to provide these young people with support during their time in custody and in preparation for release is as great as ever."

# Let's end the myths of Britain's imperial past

**DAVID Cameron would have us look back to the days of the British Empire with pride. But there is little in the brutal oppression and naked greed with which it was built that deserves our respect.**

In his speech to the Conservative party conference this month, David Cameron looked back with Tory nostalgia to the days of empire: "Britannia didn't rule the waves with armbands on," he pointed out, suggesting that the shadow of health and safety did not hover over Britain's imperial operations when the British were building "a great nation". He urged the nation to revive the spirit that had once allowed Britain to find a new role after the empire's collapse.

Tony Blair had a similar vision. "I value and honour our history enormously," he said in a speech in 1997, but he thought that Britain's empire should be the cause of "neither apology nor hand-wringing"; it should be used to further the country's global influence. And when Britain and France, two old imperial powers that had occupied Libya after 1943, began bombing that country earlier this year, there was much talk in the Middle East of the revival of European imperialism.

Half a century after the end of empire, politicians of all persuasions still feel called upon to remember our imperial past with respect. Yet few pause to notice that the descendants of the empire-builders and of their formerly subject peoples now share the small island whose inhabitants once sailed away to change the face of the world. Considerations of empire today must take account of two imperial traditions: that of the conquered as well as the conquerors. Traditionally, that first tradition has been conspicuous by its absence.

Cameron was right about the armbands. The creation of the British Empire caused large portions of the global map to be tinted a rich vermilion, and the colour turned out to be peculiarly appropriate. Britain's empire was established, and maintained for more than two centuries, through bloodshed, violence, brutality, conquest and war. Not a year went by without large numbers of its inhabitants being obliged to suffer for their involuntary participation in the colonial experience. Slavery, famine, prison, battle, murder, extermination - these were their various fates.

Yet the subject peoples of empire did not go quietly into history's goodnight. Underneath the veneer of the official record exists a rather different story. Year in, year out, there was resistance to conquest, and rebellion against occupation, often followed by mutiny and revolt - by individuals, groups, armies and entire peoples. At one time or another, the British seizure of distant lands was hindered, halted and even derailed by the vehemence of local opposition.

A high price was paid by the British involved. Settlers, soldiers, convicts - those people who freshly populated the empire - were often recruited to the

imperial cause as a result of the failures of government in the British Isles. These involuntary participants bore the brunt of conquest in faraway continents - death by drowning in ships that never arrived, death at the hands of indigenous peoples who refused to submit, death in foreign battles for which they bore no responsibility, death by cholera and yellow fever, the two great plagues of empire.

Many of these settlers and colonists had been forced out of Scotland, while some had been driven from Ireland, escaping from centuries of continuing oppression and periodic famine. Convicts and political prisoners were sent off to far-off gulags for minor infringements of draconian laws. Soldiers and sailors were press-ganged from the ranks of the unemployed.

Then tragically, and almost overnight, many of the formerly oppressed became themselves, in the colonies, the imperial oppressors. White settlers, in the Americas, in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Rhodesia and Kenya, simply took over land that was not theirs, often slaughtering, and even purposefully exterminating, the local indigenous population as if they were vermin.

The empire was not established, as some of the old histories liked to suggest, in virgin territory. Far from it. In some places that the British seized, they encountered resistance from local people who had lived there for centuries or, in some cases, since time began. In other regions, notably at the end of the 18th century, lands were wrenched out of the hands of other competing colonial powers that had already begun their self-imposed task of settlement. The British, as a result, were often involved in a three-sided contest. Battles for imperial survival had to be fought both with the native inhabitants and with already existing settlers - usually of French or Dutch origin.

None of this has been, during the 60-year post-colonial period since 1947, the generally accepted view of the empire in Britain. The British understandably try to forget that their empire was the fruit of military conquest and of brutal wars involving physical and cultural extermination.

A self-satisfied and largely hegemonic belief survives in Britain that the empire was an imaginative, civilising enterprise, reluctantly undertaken, that brought the benefits of modern society to backward peoples. Indeed it is often suggested that the British empire was something of a model experience, unlike that of the French, the Dutch, the Germans, the Spaniards, the Portuguese - or, of course, the Americans. There is a widespread opinion that the British Empire was obtained and maintained



**• A map of the world c 1900, the dark regions show the extent of the British Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.**

with a minimum degree of force and with maximum co-operation from a grateful local population.

This benign, biscuit-tin view of the past is not an understanding of their history that young people in the territories that once made up the empire would now recognise. A myriad revisionist historians have been at work in each individual country producing fresh evidence to suggest that the colonial experience - for those who actually "experienced" it - was just as horrific as the opponents of empire had always maintained that it was, perhaps more so. New generations have been recovering tales of rebellion, repression and resistance that make nonsense of the accepted imperial version of what went on. Focusing on resistance has been a way of challenging not just the traditional, self-satisfied view of empire, but also the customary depiction of the colonised as victims, lacking in agency or political will.

The theme of repression has often been underplayed in traditional accounts.

A few particular instances are customarily highlighted - the slaughter after the Indian mutiny in 1857, the massacre at Amritsar in 1919, the crushing of the Jamaican rebellion in 1867. These have been unavoidable tales. Yet the sheer scale and continuity of imperial repression over the years has never been properly laid out and documented.

No colony in their empire gave the British more trouble than the island of Ireland. No subject people proved more rebellious than the Irish. From misty start to unending finish, Irish revolt against colonial rule has been the leitmotif that runs through the entire history of empire, causing problems in Ireland, in England itself, and in the most distant parts of the British globe. The British affected to ignore or forget the Irish dimension to their empire, yet the Irish were always present within it, and wherever they landed and established themselves, they never forgot where they had come from.

The British often perceived the Irish as "savages", and they used Ireland as an experimental laboratory for the other parts of their overseas empire, as a place to ship out settlers from, as well as a territory to practise techniques of repression and control. Entire armies were recruited in Ireland, and officers learned their trade in its peat bogs and among its burning cottages. Some of the

great names of British military history - from Wellington and Wolsley to Kitchener and Montgomery - were indelibly associated with Ireland. The particular tradition of armed policing, first patented in Ireland in the 1820s, became the established pattern until the empire's final collapse.

For much of its early history, the British ruled their empire through terror. The colonies were run as a military dictatorship, often under martial law, and the majority of colonial governors were military officers. "Special" courts and courts martial were set up to deal with dissidents, and handed out rough and speedy injustice. Normal judicial procedures were replaced by rule through terror; resistance was crushed, rebellion suffocated. No historical or legal work deals with martial law. It means the absence of law, other than that decreed by a military governor.

Many early campaigns in India in the 18th century were characterised by sepoj mutinies. Britain's harsh treatment of sepoj mutineers at Manjee in 1764, with the order that they should be "shot from guns", was a terrible warning to others not to step out of line. Mutiny, as the British discovered a century later in 1857, was a formidable weapon of resistance at the disposal of the soldiers they had trained. Crushing it through "cannonading", standing the condemned prisoner with his shoulders placed against the muzzle of a cannon, was essential to the maintenance of imperial control. This simple threat helped to keep the sepojs in line throughout most of imperial history.

To defend its empire, to construct its rudimentary systems of communication and transport, and to man its plantation economies, the British used forced labour on a gigantic scale. From the middle of the 18th century until 1834, the use of non-indigenous black slave labour originally shipped from Africa was the rule. Indigenous manpower in many imperial states was also subjected to slave conditions, dragged into the imperial armies, or forcibly recruited into road gangs - building the primitive communication networks that facilitated the speedy repression of rebellion. When black slavery was abolished in the 1830s, the thirst for labour by the rapacious landowners of empire brought a new type of slavery into existence, dragging workers from India and China to be employed in distant parts of the world, a phenomenon that soon brought its own contradictions and conflicts.

As with other great imperial constructs, the British Empire involved vast movements of peoples: armies were switched from one part of the world to another; settlers changed continents and hemispheres; prisoners were sent from country to country; indigenous inhabitants were corralled, driven away into oblivion, or simply rubbed out.

There was nothing historically special about the British Empire. Virtually all European countries with sea coasts and navies had embarked on

programmes of expansion in the 16th century, trading, fighting and settling in distant parts of the globe. Sometimes, having made some corner of the map their own, they would exchange it for another piece "owned" by another power, and often these exchanges would occur as the by-product of dynastic marriages. The Spanish and the Portuguese and the Dutch had empires; so too did the French and the Italians, and the Germans and the Belgians. World empire, in the sense of a far-flung operation far from home, was a European development that changed the world over four centuries.

In the British case, wherever they sought to plant their flag, they were met with opposition. In almost every colony they had to fight their way ashore. While they could sometimes count on a handful of friends and allies, they never arrived as welcome guests. The expansion of empire was conducted as a military operation. The initial opposition continued off and on, and in varying forms, in almost every colonial territory until independence. To retain control, the British were obliged to establish systems of oppression on a global scale, ranging from the sophisticated to the brutal. These in turn were to create new outbreaks of revolt.

Over two centuries, this resistance took many forms and had many leaders. Sometimes kings and nobles led the revolts, sometimes priests or slaves.

Some have famous names and biographies, others have disappeared almost without trace. Many died violent deaths. Few of them have even a walk-on part in traditional accounts of empire. Many of these forgotten peoples deserve to be resurrected and given the attention they deserve.

The rebellions and resistance of the subject peoples of empire were so extensive that we may eventually come to consider that Britain's imperial experience bears comparison with the exploits of Genghis Khan or Attila the Hun rather than with those of Alexander the Great. The rulers of the empire may one day be perceived to rank with the dictators of the 20th century as the authors of crimes against humanity.

The drive towards the annihilation of dissidents and peoples in 20th-century Europe certainly had precedents in the 19th-century imperial operations in the colonial world, where the elimination of "inferior" peoples was seen by some to be historically inevitable, and where the experience helped in the construction of the racist ideologies that arose subsequently in Europe. Later technologies merely enlarged the scale of what had gone before. As Cameron remarked this month, Britannia did not rule the waves with armbands on.

— Richard Gott (*The Guardian*, October 19, 2011)  
(Richard Gott's new book, *Britain's Empire: Resistance, Repression and Revolt*, is published by Verso (£25).)

## WHAT THEY SAID

As a republican leader I have never and would never stand over attacks on the gardai or Defence Forces.

— Irish News, October 11, 2011. Martin McGuinness speaking in Trim on October 10, after he was challenged earlier in the day by David Kelly, son of Private Patrick Kelly during the rescue of Don Tidey, kidnapped by the provisional IRA, in December 1983.

There are two main reasons

why no British government will hold an inquiry and neither has anything to do with cost which is only a useful and expedient excuse.

The first reason is that an inquiry could not be limited to the UDA personnel who killed Pat Finucane and their handlers in RUC Special Branch and military intelligence.

— Irish News, October 19, 2011. Brian Feeney writing on why there won't be an inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane by the UDA in 1989.

Secondly, an inquiry would also expose the extent of the dirty war beyond the Finucane case to the whole of the north.

— Brian Feeney. We know who killed Pat Finucane or at least the gunman ... that was Ken Barrett who was working for Special Branch...we

know who supplied the gun...William Stobie...who was also working for Special Branch and told them the murder was imminent...we know that the UDA's intelligence officer, Brian Nelson, was working for the Force Research Unit (FRU) and told his handlers what was happening. Furthermore we know who ran the FRU - Brigadier Gordon Kerr, who gave evidence in support of Nelson at his trial.

— Brian Feeney.

[Secondly] it is also inevitable that people in the police and army above the level of the UDA killers will also point to other instances of the systematic collusion and conspiracy that the British state operated in its dirty war against the IRA because let's face it, the IRA was up against not just the RUC and British

Army but their agents in the NIO's favourite terrorist group the UDA and the more centrally controlled UVF, not to mention the UDR, loyalist terrorism's intelligence arm.

Nuala O'Loone uncovered the cesspit in North Belfast.

— Brian Feeney. A proper inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane would be the key that would unlock the entire policy behind the dirty war and who knew and who ran it.

— Brian Feeney.

While southern politics will remain unruffled by the [presidential] election, the campaign will have a lasting effect in the north. Sinn Féin (sic) votes were won at a cost of abandoning several key Republican principles. The slippage began when the party's

northern-dominated leadership misread the southern mood and media by nominating Martin McGuinness. A war-baby such as Michelle Gildernew MLA would have polled well with no paramilitary baggage.

— Irish News, October 29, 2011. Patrick Murphy column.

He [McGuinness] was badly prepared for the flak, apparently unaware that southern politics lack the oxygen of sectarianism.

His defence was to redefine his war as a struggle for civil rights but was ambushed by the Provisional IRA's history of anti-civilian wrongs.

— Patrick Murphy.

While Sinn Féin (sic) in the north gave out medals to the surviving hunger strikers, he described some IRA actions as murder, thereby suggesting that Margaret Thatcher was at least

partly right in branding IRA prisoners as criminals.

— Patrick Murphy.

The price of votes in Dublin will be a loss of credibility in the republican heartlands of east Tyrone, Derry and Belfast.

— Patrick Murphy.

The most interesting lesson from the campaign is that Britain's partition of Ireland has significantly fractured Irish nationalism.

— Patrick Murphy.

The Good Friday Agreement (sic) allowed northern nationalists to consider themselves Irish. But the price was abandoning the Irish constitution's claim to define Ireland as having 32 Counties. This allowed southerners to no longer regard the north as Ireland.

— Patrick Murphy.

## Ireland's Call

We've had Ó Néill, Ó  
Donnell too,  
Men who would not lie  
down,  
Henry Joy and Wolfe Tone  
Bore arms against the  
Crown.

Then came Emmet and the  
Fenians Bold,  
Who fought to break the  
tyrant's hold.  
The Easter men of 1916,  
Who fought and died to  
save the green.

Who would rather force  
the Empire down  
Then bend a knee to the  
Crown.  
When '81 came along,  
The jails became a  
battleground.

Ten brave souls gave their  
all,  
And starved behind a  
prison wall.  
But now it seems to have  
been in vain,  
Ireland's soul being sold  
again.

Where the rebel once  
stood prepared to die,  
Stand weedy men in collar  
and tie,  
They've abandoned the  
call to arms,  
Nestling up to John Bull's  
charms.

Like Redmond did once  
before,  
They urge Irishmen to be  
Britain's whore.  
Still, there are some out  
there  
Who will not enter the  
Butcher's lair.

Who would rather risk life  
and all  
Than ever let old Ireland  
fall.  
They know their history  
and from whence they  
came,  
They are heroes no enemy  
will ever tame.

So stand behind them one  
and all  
And truly answer Ireland's  
call!

THE WEST CORK  
REBEL

## Cotton – the Product of Child slavery

A chara  
Again, the EU has failed us; they have also failed to keep their own promises on the matter of child slavery. They have failed to keep us informed of where our cotton material comes from and how it is harvested and at what price in human suffering.  
The 2011 cotton harvest has begun and fresh evidence of



child slavery in Uzbekistan's cotton fields has emerged. Once again, government officials are closing down schools and forcing children, some as young as nine years old, out of their classrooms and into the fields to pick cotton.

Children in Uzbekistan do not have a choice regarding cotton-picking. They are given daily quotas and if they fail to meet them, they can be punished by beatings, detention or told that their grades will suffer. Children can also be left exhausted and suffering from ill health and malnutrition after weeks of arduous labour.

Uzbekistan's booming cotton industry, which is the third biggest exporter in the world, is reliant on the use of hundreds of thousands of children in slavery during the three-month harvest each year.

The single biggest destination for Uzbek cotton is the European market. Despite strong condemnation from the European Union over the use of child slavery in Uzbek cotton

production, the EU continues to allow the Government of Uzbekistan to benefit from reduced trading tariffs for its cotton imports to the EU despite its own rules that these benefits should be withdrawn.

MICHAEL ROONEY  
Mayo

## Armed Conflicts Prevent Education

A chara  
Of the 72 million primary school-age children not currently attending school worldwide, more than half of these children live in countries afflicted by armed conflicts. In many of the countries, armed groups threaten and kill students and teachers, and bomb and burn schools as tactics of conflict. Government 'security' forces use schools as bases for military operations; putting students at risk and further

undermining their right to education.

In southern Thailand, separatist insurgents have set fire to schools over three hundred times since 2004; government forces have occupied school buildings at least 79 times in 2010. In Colombia, hundreds of teachers active in the trade unions have been killed in the past decade. In northern DR Congo, the Lord's Resistance Army has abducted large number of children from schools and taken revenge on villages believed to be aiding LRA defectors by among other things looting and burning schools.

While attacks on schools and students in Afghanistan have been the most publicised, international targeting of education facilities is an

underreported phenomenon. Researchers have documented attacks on students, teachers and schools in Afghanistan, Colombia, DR Congo, India, Nepal, Burma, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand. The United Nations report that at least 31 countries reported attacks on education facilities between '07 and '09.

The only effective answer to attacks on education will require stronger focused policies and action by governments and a greatly strengthened response for international bodies. As have been proven, such bodies as NATO are willing to step in when a barrel of oil is concerned; now let them do the same so that our children can receive an education.

CONNACHT READER

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# 40 years ago: Cumann na mBan members shot in Belfast

The essential role played by become known as "the

**ON October 23, 1971, two unarmed members of Cumann na mBan, Maura Meehan and Dorothy Maguire, were shot by the British Army in the Lower Falls area of West-Belfast while travelling in a car. Dieter Reinisch recounts the tragic events of the day and the role played by Cumann na mBan in the war for Irish freedom.**

women in Irish history and in particular during the Irish revolution within the Republican Movement is widely acknowledged. The early Cumann na mBan is documented as an organisation with thousands of members, introducing the Easter Lily in 1926.

Yet with the decline of the Republican Movement during the 1930/40s the role and influence of women within the Republican Movement shrunk dramatically, culminating in a situation that they played virtually no active role during Operation Harvest in 1956-1962. Only a handful of members are reported in Dublin during the late 1940s.

In the course of the 1960s the organisation reorganised and it was they who took the first public stand against a then left-reformist leadership of the Republican Movement at Bodenstown 1967 and 1968. In an attempt to isolate Cumann na mBan, the then leadership of the Republican Movement accepted women into the ranks of the IRA and tried to expel Cumann na mBan from the Movement in autumn 1968.

Hence, it was no surprise that in 1969/70 they stood by the Republic together with the men who – until 1986 – would

Provisionals". With the Belfast pogroms, internment and at a time when women were not yet allowed to join the IRA, more and more women filled the ranks of Cumann na mBan.

Seán Mac Stiofáin remembers in his Memoirs: "The women were completely undefeatable. They were the first to give warnings, the first out on the streets to face the oncoming troops. I say without hesitation that it is due this determined spirit of resistance by the nationalist women of Ulster that the campaign has gone on for so long. (...) Some of the best shots I ever knew were women. So were the smartest intelligence officers in Belfast." (1974: 217f) So it was just a matter of time when another generation of women followed their male comrades in jail and on the Republican Role of Honour.

On Saturday, 23 October 1971, Maura Meehan, aged 30, and her sister Dorothy Maguire, 19, were shot dead in their car by the British Army while driving through the Lower Falls area of Belfast. Both were members of Cumann na mBan and the first two members of the organisation to die during this phase of the conflict.

The other two people in the car, Florence O'Riordan and a



• On the Ballymurphy Road in West-Belfast, a Republican mural can be seen. Women of Cumann na mBan are shown marching in military uniform with nationalist flags. Among the six women pictured are Maura Meehan and Dorothy Maguire.

local man, survived wounded. Dorothy, the younger of the two sisters, was born on April 3, 1952. Both came from a staunch Republican background. Their father escaped from Crumlin Road jail in January 1943 along with Jimmy Steele, Patrick Donnelly and Hugh McAteer. Maura had only joined Cumann na mBan a short time before, while her sister had been active since summer 1970.

While the British army claims their soldiers had been fired on from the car, and the two women had been dressed in men's military-type uniform, no substantiated evidence could be given for that claim. Mac Stiofáin writes the two women "though members of the

Women's Action Committee, were never combatants in any military sense. They were passengers in a car when soldiers suddenly opened fire on it". (218) This claim is substantiated by later statements of members of the Republican Movement.

Lily Fitzsimons gives an account of what happened on that day saying: "In the early hours of the morning after hearing rumours of mass house raids by the British in the Lower Falls area, [they] set off in a car to alert the people of the surrounding area. With the car siren blaring, they headed down the road where they passed some parked British army vehicles. The British soldiers

opened fire without any warning, killing the two sisters and wounding the other passengers." (25f)

Five years later, in the month of October, another member of Cumann na mBan was shot dead while lying in a hospital bed. Máire Drumm was Vice-President of Sinn Féin and a member of Cumann na mBan. She was the best known figure of an organisation that could serve the cause in some ways much better than would have been possible for their male comrades.

An elderly woman is sitting in her small flat in Belfast remembering a rainy day in the mid-70s: "I was coming by bus from Dublin. It was raining in Belfast and I had a big bag with me I could hardly carry, it was too heavy for me. When I walked up Grosvenor Road, coming from City Centre I was stopped by a young British soldier. I thought: 'Oh my God, that's it.' I told him I have my laundry with me and that I am on my way home. He took the bag off me and said he will help me carrying it home. We walked there, talking about the weather and stopped at Springfield Road and I took a taxi."

The soldier waved her good-bye and was left standing on the pathway until the car disappeared in the narrow streets of West-Belfast. What he did not know was that the woman was a member of Cumann na mBan not carrying laundry with her. In the bag there was a bomb. "He didn't know what he was doing. This British soldier carried the bomb the whole way from City Centre

up to Springfield Road," she laughs.

The most active period of Cumann na mBan were the years leading to the hunger strikes. When British paratroopers disbanded the whole IRA in Ardoyne, North-Belfast, in the early 1970s it was Cumann na mBan who kept the fight going.

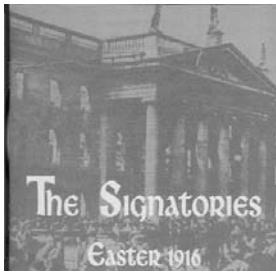
In 1986 the members of Cumann na mBan once again stood by the Republic and defended the constitution, tradition and principles of Irish Republicanism. Some observers would say, that in 1986 Cumann na mBan sided with the group around Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Dáithí Ó Conaill, known as Republican Sinn Féin.

But a woman, now in her 70s, who joined Cumann na gCailini as a young child explains: "Cumann na mBan didn't side with anyone. That's not the way to do things. If [the men] go on any particular road you come up beside them and you go with them and you help each other. And that's the only way for progress. If you are happy with what you see, you come along and you work with them. If you both are on the one line, you walk together. We didn't side with the men; the women (Cumann na mBan) were always there."

— Dieter Reinisch, Historian, Austria

(• Ref.: Seán MacStiofáin, Revolutionary in Ireland, Westmead 1974; Lily Fitzsimons, Liberty is Strength. 30 years of Struggle, Belfast undated.)

# Irish Freedom Press



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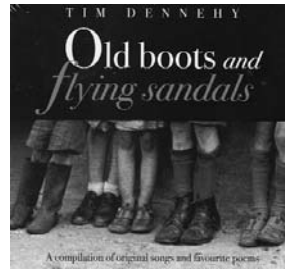
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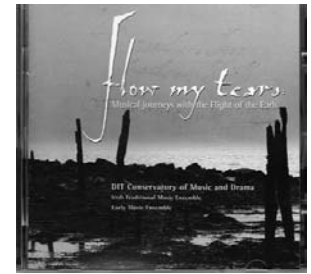
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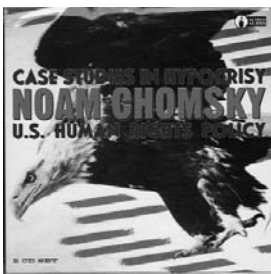
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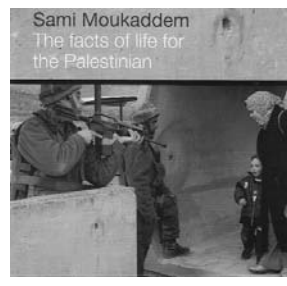
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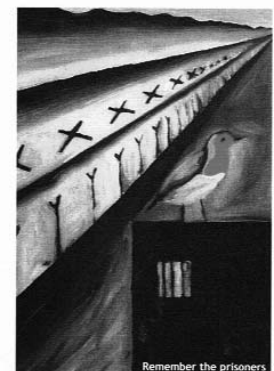


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# RUC COMMANDOS ATTACKED BY IRA NEAR JONESBORO

**SUNDAY, November 12, 1961** was a memorable day. It was the fourth anniversary of the five Volunteers killed at Edentubber on the Louth-Armagh Border in an accidental explosion.

The *Irish Independent* of November 13 reported that "a crowd of 300 to 400 with two bands was gathering" that afternoon for the annual commemoration of the Edentubber Martyrs when an ambush took place nearby – just north of the Border.

A party of RUC Commandos numbering "six to eight police" had arrived earlier at Jonesboro village, Co Armagh in an armoured personnel carrier. A number of them dismounted and proceeded in the usual manner to harass people about to cross the Border to honour the men who died at Edentubber.

At about 2.30pm when no civilians were about a unit of IRA Resistance fighters, three or four in number, opened fire on the armoured car and the Commandos deployed on the ground.

The Republican Volunteers armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun and rifles were based behind a nearby cemetery wall in Co Armagh. Four members of the British forces were hit: one was killed, two seriously wounded and one less seriously wounded. Before their enemy could get organised the Volunteers completed a successful withdrawal. The reinforcements to the Crown Forces who arrived on the scene opened fire indiscriminately for half-an-hour.

This was described as "a gun battle lasting half an hour". Luckily no civilians were hit. The commemoration went on from 3.30 to 4.30pm but panic ensued from Belfast to Dublin to London.

The *Irish Independent* reported that "Police remained firing at everything that moved across the Border for nearly half an hour... and at everything that did not move!"

Top RUC men including Inspector-General Albert Kennedy were rushed from the British poppy day ceremonies in Belfast to Jonesboro. A low-flying fixed wing aircraft patrolled the South Armagh area.

Garda Commissioner Costigan left Dublin at 3.30pm and was taking reports at Drummad Barracks, just 250 yards from the Border. "The most intensive border search carried out in the Republic (*sic*) for years was directed by Superintendent Philip McMahon, head of the Special Branch," the *Irish Independent* of November 14 reported.

Heavy reinforcements of 26-County police and large numbers of armed Special Branch men were brought from Dublin to take part but nothing was found. The *Independent* report sated "many houses in Dundalk and district were visited (*sic*) by the Garda on Sunday night and yesterday morning". Again nothing was found.

The *Irish Times* of November 11 in a report from its Political Correspondent said that a Note "expressing the British government's gravest concern" at the Jonesboro ambush was "handed over personally" to Seán Lemass by the British Ambassador, Sir Ian MacLennan.

It was noted that the British "protest" was made directly to Mr Lemass "as head of the government, and not to Mr Aiken, Minister for External Affairs, who normally receives ambassadors or diplomatic Notes".

Elsewhere the *Irish Times* reported that Commissioner Daniel Costigan had returned to the Border at Jonesboro. With a cine camera he took pictures of the place where the ambush happened.

"The Civic Guard officers drove to the Border and at Jonesborough (*sic*) and walked across the Border to confer with RUC officers." While the search operation continued "a low-flying plane (again) patrolled the area north of the Border in the afternoon.

Meanwhile a positive cacophony was raised by unionist politicians who called once more for further action by the Dublin government against Republicans and enlisted the British Home Secretary RA Butler to get the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations to pressurise the Dublin administration.

The *Belfast Telegraph* of November 13 said: "Mr Lemass condemnation was quick, and it is noticeable that the Dublin press backs him without exception. Now is the time for him to rid Éire of an organisation which is a constant threat to the peace of the whole country."

The threat was to British rule in Ireland and the Republican Movement would resist it as long as that rule remained. The howls of indignation were simply a rehash of what Lloyd George and Winston Churchill said in the early 1920s.



• *The Edentubber Martyrs. On November 12, 1961 IRA Resistance fighters carried out an ambush near Jonesboro, Co Armagh as Republicans gathered for the fourth annual commemoration to the five men killed in an accidental explosion at Edentubber, Co Louth in November 1957.*

In Stormont on November 16 Mr W Burns (Unionist) asked Lord Brookborough, Prime Minister, to consider an approach "to the British government with a view to ensuring that the British army protected the borders of Northern Ireland (*sic*) which was an integral part of the United Kingdom (*sic*), (*Irish Independent*, November 17).

Former RUC sergeant Alex Blevins (Unionist, Mid-Tyrone) did not think "the army" should be used other than in an assisting role; otherwise there would be allegations that Northern Ireland was army-occupied. Brookborough agreed with him.

Eddie Richardson (Nationalist, South Armagh) said that the presence of troops on the Border showed that it had to be maintained by the British army.

Edmund Warnock, QC (Unionist), as reported in the *Irish Independent* of November 15, said "the Irish Nationalist movement was the only party in the world that claimed to be civilised and Christian and had murder as one of its political weapons". This was described by various constitutional nationalists as "a lie" and a "McCarthyite tactic of "guilt by association".

Of course, there are always consequences for actions and a straw in the wind was a hint in "a Dublin evening paper" (no name given) on November 15 which was quoted in the *Irish Independent* of November 16.

It said: "A statement that special courts may be established for the trial of certain offences in the Republic (*sic*) was described by the Government Information Bureau as "merely speculative". There was no official basis for the statement, the Bureau added."

However, another event which was highly publicised occurred on Monday, November 20: it became known as "the ammunition in the hearse case". Two men were arrested at the junction of the Road from Kilmore, Co Roscommon and the Longford-Sligo road. They were traveling in a hearse.

They were **John Joe McGill**, former Sinn Féin TD for Sligo-Leitrim and an undertaker, and **Gerry Crossan**, a driver employed by McGill in his undertaking business. Both were of Ballinamore, Co Leitrim.

It was stated later in court that a third man emerged from the hearse and escaped into the heavily-wooded Charlestown estate owned by the Land Commission. Despite an all-night search which continued next day no one was arrested.

The media fastened on the event, saying that a coffin full of arms and ammunition was being conveyed at speed "towards the Border"! The facts as stated later in court are different.

The hearse was stopped before it reached the junction. A small tin box was found in the glove compartment in front of the passenger seat. It contained 33 rounds of .45 ammunition and 29 rounds of other ammunition.

There was no coffin in the hearse. The place of arrest was

twenty miles from Ballinamore and over thirty miles from the nearest Border at Swanlinbar.

At the District Court in Carrick-on-Shannon the two men arrested were charged and remanded in custody. Crossan was represented by MP Keane, solicitor, McGill said: "I am not over-interested in the proceedings at all."

The *Irish Times* of November 23 reported: "A crowd waited outside the police station and cheered the accused men as they were taken in a police car to Dublin."

Later it emerged that a Garda Durey of Kimore Barracks was cycling from Kilmore towards the junction when he met a hearse going in the opposite direction. He followed the hearse which turned down a boreen after it crossed the canal bridge.

It parked near a house and he went down the grass margin of the boreen on foot until he could read the registration number. He then got in touch with Carrick-on-Shannon barracks.

Durey had been stationed in Kilmore for two-and-a-half years. Local Republicans believed he was assigned there in a live-in capacity to observe Republican activity. In other words that he was a Special in uniform.

He was a native of Dunmore in north Galway and these were his first arrests. He later gave evidence when JJ McGill was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

Michael Murtagh, who was arrested in the home of JJ McGill at Main Street, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on November 21, was sentenced to six months for refusing to account for his movements on November 20.

"He was further asked to "account for his movements on November 18 when he was involved in a traffic accident near Moneygall, Co Tipperary, on the main Dublin-Limerick road, while driving a car in which there were four other men. He made no reply." (*Irish Times*, November 24.)

The police were inferring that Murtagh was the man who escaped when the hearse was stopped on the boundary of Roscommon and Leitrim. JJ McGill stated later in court that he was in his [McGill's] home that night and that Mrs McGill knew that. (*Irish Times*, November 30.)

On November 22, the 26-County government "re-established Military Courts to deal with political offences". The *Irish Independent* of November 23 quoted an announcement from the Government Information Bureau that Part V of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 was brought into force by Government Proclamation of August 22, 1939, and had remained in force ever since.

Three of the five military officers appointed to the Special Criminal Court in 1939 had since died. The other two, Col John V Joyce and Col Frank Bennett had retired and were now recalled. The three vacancies were filled by Col James H Byrne, Lieut-Col Joseph Adams and Lieut-Col William Rea.

"In October 1931 the Constitution Amendment Act (No 17) was passed to deal with illegal political activities. It amended the Constitution of the Irish Free State and set up a Special Tribunal of Army officers," the *Independent* continued.

In Leinster House on November 23, Joe Barron (Clann na Poblachta) asked Mr Lemass if he had asked the British Ambassador to take the British army out of Northern Ireland (*sic*). If that were done there would be no need of that legislation because North and South would get on together.

Jack MacQuillan (NPD) said these tragic events flow from the frustration of youth at the failure of governments to take steps... The Ceann Comhairle interrupted him.

MacQuillan continued: Does the Taoiseach intend to take partition to the United Nations?

Mr Lemass made no direct reply to either Barron or MacQuillan. He did say that if the special measures taken did not "prove to be effective" the government would not "hesitate to take still further steps".

One wonders what Lemass had in mind. Bringing back internment without trial once again? Recalling the firing squads of 1922, '23, or 1940-42? Resistance to British rule still continued.

Then on November 26, another ambush took place. Two armoured Land Rovers carrying members of the Special Reserve Platoon based in Whitecross RUC barracks were hit by a land mine near Crossmaglen, Co Armagh.

The second of the armoured personnel carriers was damaged and three B-Specials were injured...

(More next month. Refs. *Irish Independent*, November 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 23; *Irish Times*, November 11, 23, 24 and 30; *Belfast Telegraph*, November 13.)

## Owen Ring

**ON October 2 Kerry Republicans joined with the people of Cahersiveen to bid farewell to Owen Ring.**

Owen was fondly remembered by the large crowd. Owen came from a strong Republican family. His

father Eugene and Uncle Tim were jailed in 1916.

An enterprising man, Owen opened the first supermarket, a takeaway and a caravan park in Cahersiveen.

In later years he worked for Kerry County Council and M F Quirke.

A life-long GAA man, he was a stalwart of St. Mary's. Owen suffered from Parkinson's in the last few years.

His Tricolour-draped coffin was flanked by a St Mary's and a Republican Sinn Féin guard of honour as he

travelled his final journey from the O'Connell Memorial Church to the Holy Cross Cemetery.

He was shouldered the mile-long journey by family, former work colleagues, members of the GAA and Republicans. The funeral

finished with Gavin Ring, Owen's grandson, singing *Boolavogue*.

Owen is survived by his loving wife Claire, sons, daughters and grandchildren, to whom the Republican Movement extends deepest sympathy.

# Fenian Notes

## From our Washington Correspondent

**R**ICHARD Nixon was not known as a caring president except caring about his administration and certainly had no affinity for what was going on in the Six Occupied Counties of Ireland.

However, Nixon had a secret and it was well kept and those who knew it never talked publicly about it because of the turmoil it would have caused in US/British relations. The secret concerned the Irish Republican Army in the early 1970s.

The Nixon Administration's policy regarding the Six Counties was one of indifference and took the official line that what happened there was a domestic concern of Britain.

Britain was a NATO ally and the United States would not get involved. It was an easy way out because there was concern in the US Congress about the deteriorating situation.

A problem Nixon did have was with the US trade union leaders who he had been courting since his campaign in 1968. The leadership was overwhelmingly Irish and when the fighting broke out in the North they were for the resistance to the British. The British expressed concern over this development, but Nixon was prepared to overlook any involvement of these leaders, members of the opposition party who had supported him.

Nixon had many bad habits but disloyalty was not one of them. They stuck their neck out for him and he was prepared to give payback. One union leader who Nixon had befriended was Teddy Gleason, President of the International Longshoremen's Association and an avid supporter of Irish causes. Gleason endorsed Nixon in 1968 and 1972 and supported Nixon's fight against international communism.

Gleason told Nixon his men would make sure there would be no communists coming into the United States because he controlled the docks and he was watchful of communist infiltration into the US trade unionist movement. American trade

unionists were left-wing on almost all issues, but were hard-line in foreign policy involving communist nations.

In other nations the union leaders were left-wing on all issues and communists could be members of the unions. Not so in the States. American trade union leaders supported covert movements in communist countries. Hungary and Czechoslovakia come to mind. They also cooperated with the Central Intelligence Agency in their war against international communism.

When Ireland exploded in a quest for civil rights and then the all-out effort for unity and freedom, the American labour movement was receptive and endorsed the fight for freedom. Some unions at their respective conventions endorsed the IRA and their campaign. ILA President Teddy Gleason was front and centre on the issue.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation opened a file on Gleason without knowledge of the Nixon Administration. They did so at the behest of the British government who feared the power Gleason had. Because of the FBI's relationship with the British during the Second World War, they opened an investigation without informing the Director who worked with Gleason of communist issues.

Gleason went right to the White House and Nixon ordered that any investigation of Gleason be terminated.

He informed an ailing Hoover who assured him he did not know who started the investigation but would find out and take care of the individuals who did this without running it by him. He would not have let it go forward.

Gleason told Nixon that the FBI should not be concerned about the Irish and go after communists. Gleason was very public about his respect for the courage of the IRA taking on the British. Gleason was very vocal. He said the more he talked the harder it was for anyone to accuse him of anything because he had no problem talking about what he



did. A lot of times Teddy's answers left people guessing. He gave out too much information which was intentional and would serve him well.

Hoover died in May 1972, but before he died he told Nixon in 1971 that the British heard that the Longshoremen under Teddy Gleason were going to send weapons to the IRA. Hoover said this would be bad for relations with the British. Nixon informed Hoover that Gleason was untouchable and anything he was involved with should not be pursued. Gleason had pledged to support Nixon in 1972.

Hoover was told that Gleason would be told that anything he did should not be an embarrassment to the Administration and compromise it, but what Gleason did was not a concern, but it should be kept under wraps. This was payback. Hoover was allowed to investigate other Irish Americans, but if it involved Gleason, it should be dropped.

Gleason for his part tried to get Irish Americans to back off their campaign to criticise Nixon as pro-British. Teddy couldn't tell anyone of his deals with Nixon so it was a hard sell. He told a limited group that if they at least minimised their attacks, it could be beneficial. Some of us trusted Gleason and did back off and attacked others such as Henry Kissinger.

**A**LTHOUGH the Brits were a NATO ally and Nixon cooperated with them on that basis, he did not allow the CIA to operate in Ireland which would change later. When Hoover died in 1972, his successor was told that Gleason and a list of others given to him were off limits when it came to Ireland and the Director was to deal directly with the White House with anyone on that list.

Rumors persisted that the ILA

president Gleason was sending arms or assisting in such shipments to the IRA.

The ILA controlled the docks and was responsible for all cargo going on vessels departing the United States. They would know if there was contraband because they would have loaded it. No longshoremen were ever seriously questioned on this activity. It was also rumored that US Customs agents were also involved in looking the other way at certain times. Many were questioned but none were found in violation of their duty.

Gleason was publicly accused of assisting the shipment of weapons to the IRA on the *Queen Elizabeth II* liner. Teddy's reaction was to admit it in his own fashion, drawing all the attention to himself and we know he was untouchable. Gleason told many of us later it was all true. Was it? Only those involved know for sure, but Gleason never denied it.

Would he do it? Sure he would and the FBI was convinced of it but their hands were tied.

Most people who knew Gleason believe he had his longshoremen from Brooklyn (mostly Italians) load weapons on board the *QE II* and they were assisted by sympathetic US agents who looked the other way. Gleason never discouraged such rumours and in fact encouraged them.

One federal agent appeared on television in his capacity as an officer in an Irish group and publicly condemned the British and their policy on the Six Counties and was reprimanded by his superiors, but nothing happened to him.

The head of his agency grew up with Gleason in Hell's Kitchen in New York and had no liking for the British himself.

The federal officer was accused of involvement with Gleason and running guns, but he was absolved by the agency's internal affairs office.

For all their support, President Nixon wanted to show his appreciation to the labour leaders led by Teddy Gleason with a luncheon at the White House. When it was over they were filing out and Nixon pulled Gleason aside and said he wanted to speak with him.

He said that he had received a phone call from the Director of the CIA informing him of some activity in the sea near Libya.

The Director had gotten a telex from his CIA station in Cyprus that a Greek

registered vessel would be loading arms at sea off the Libyan coast. It was to be an enormous shipment of weapons for the Irish Republican Army. Colonel Gaddafi wanted to hurt the British so he decided to arm the IRA. He wanted instructions from the White House.

Nixon asked Gleason what he would like to see happen and Gleason said nothing should be done to hinder the operation. Nixon gave an instruction that neither the Irish nor the British government or any other government should be told of the activity. This was quite a step since Britain was an ally, but Gleason had delivered support and votes to Nixon and that was what is important.

Nixon helped the British as a NATO ally, but as he has said publicly the Six Counties were a British problem not an American one and America would not get involved. The Irish community did not like this attitude, but here it was favourable. He told the Director that the shipment was not aimed as a threat to the national security of the United States so it was not an American problem.

The incidents that Gleason was involved with were confirmed by a Secret Service agent on Nixon's personal staff who was present for the conversations between Gleason and Nixon. The agent was a go-between for Nixon and Gleason and ironically was from Hell's Kitchen in New York.

Who would you rather deal with — the devil who turned a blind eye to incidents that helped in the cause of a United Ireland or peacemakers like Bill Clinton who gave us a 'peace process' that insured Partition? Maybe Irish leaders back then should have listened to Teddy and not criticised Nixon.

Nixon rewarded loyalty and if the Irish had helped him who knows what could have happened. It gives us something to think about for the future. It doesn't mean you have to like the devil, only shake his hand. We need to find supporters who don't judge true Republicans.

I never thought Richard Nixon would have done a few things that were far better than any US President regarding Ireland even if he didn't care himself. He was loyal to his Irish friend Teddy Gleason.

— Peadar Mac Fhínné

# Address to the Celtic League 50th Anniversary AGM

**THE AGM and 50th anniversary of the founding of the Celtic League took place in Falkirk, Scotland on October 29.**

Pól Kelly, of the Francis Hughes Cumann, Glasgow read an address from Des Dalton, President, Republican Sinn Féin, to the meeting on behalf of the organisation as follows:

"For 50 years the Celtic League has been a tireless champion of the political, cultural, social, economic and environmental rights of the Celtic nations. Our Patron Ruairi Ó Brádaigh is a long-standing member of the Celtic League and joins with me in extending greetings and Celtic solidarity to you all on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

"As Irish Republicans we view Ireland's long struggle for national freedom as part of the international struggle against imperialism. In keeping with this position Republican Sinn Féin's foreign policy — first put forward in 1976 — calls for action in three concentric circles: (a) With the other Celtic countries toward a Celtic League on the lines of the Nordic Council or the Arab League; (b) with the stateless nationalities of Europe and the working class movements in Europe toward a free federation of free peoples" (which was James

Connolly's goal); and (c) with the formerly colonised nations and the people still struggling against colonialism such as Palestine.

"The world of today presents us with huge challenges and threats. In Ireland we are being squeezed between the old and new imperialisms. On the one hand the old imperialism of British rule is still a reality in the Six Occupied Counties in the north-eastern corner of our country. Arbitrary arrest, house raids and harassment remain the stock-in-trade of the British Colonial Police in Ireland.

"The past year has seen a concerted effort by the British State to silence Republican Sinn Féin. In May of this year — just days before the Queen of England's unwelcome visit to the 26-County State — two of our members Cáit Trainor from Co Armagh — a member of our Ard Chomhairle (National Executive) — and Seán Moloney also from Co Armagh — a former Republican Prisoner — were arrested and charged as a result of political views they expressed in an interview with *Channel Four News* in September of last year. The charge is being taken under the draconian 'Terrorism Act' of 2006. We are calling on the Celtic League to highlight this case internationally.

"In July of this year the President and Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton and Fergal Moore were arrested in

Lurgan Co Armagh and charged with participating in an 'illegal' march in Lurgan on January 23. The protest march in question was held to call for the release of veteran Republican Martin Corey who has been interned without trial in Maghaberry prison since April 2010. Again this is a deliberate attempt to put Republicans off the streets of the Six Counties. And we must also note that this year as Irish Republicans marked the 30th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh young Irish Republican prisoners are locked in a struggle for the same right to political status in Maghaberry Prison.

"All of this shows that the nature of British occupation in Ireland has not changed. The British policy of 'divisions' carefully fostered by an alien government' created and sustained the Six-County State. It was a state built on sectarianism, discrimination, inequality and repression.

"The Stormont Agreement merely institutionalised sectarianism with a resultant increase in the polarisation of the two communities. Provisional Sinn Féin on the one side and the DUP on the other are more than happy to base their political supremacy on this sectarian divide. Posing as the political face of their respective 'tribes'.

"In the 26 Counties we face

the new imperialism of the IMF/ECB and IMF.

The political and economic reality is that the 26-County Administration is merely managers of a programme that has been set out for them by the EU/ECB and IMF. It is time to cast off the shackles of the old imperialism of London — in occupation of part of our country — and the new imperialism of the EU/ECB/IMF.

"The way forward for the Celtic peoples is to build an alliance of free peoples. In this regard we applaud Scotland's progress towards independence. The Scots, Welsh, Cornish and even English nationalities 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. We also salute the ongoing struggle of our comrades in Brittany for nationhood. The old order is being questioned more and more, people are receptive to new ideas and the circumstances are opportune again. What better basis on which to build a free, united, federal Ireland of over six million people?

"In Ireland we believe that our programme for a Federal Ireland **EIRE NUA** holds the key to building a New Ireland for all of the Irish people and replacing the two failed partitionist states. 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 Free State Constitutions.

"The central thrust of **EIRE NUA** is the maximum devolution of power from national to provincial, regional, right down to local or community level. The provincial parliaments will be elected by the people of each province according to a system of proportional representation.

"Unionists and nationalists within a nine-county Ulster would have a real and meaningful input and control over the political, social, economic and cultural life of their province, regions and communities. Unlike the institutions set up under the 'Stormont' and St Andrews Agreements, the governmental structures set out in **EIRE NUA**, would be accountable only to the people who elected them. Under **EIRE NUA** the sovereignty of the Irish people is paramount.

"**EIRE NUA** offers a framework within which all sections of the Irish people are the decision makers on the vital issues for their communities, their regions and their nation.

"Our social and economic programme **SAOL NUA** — A New Way of Life — represents a vision of Ireland based on Republican, Socialist, and Self-Reliance, Ecological principles; it identifies the obstacles to be overcome and the goals to be reached if we are to

build an All-Ireland Federal Democratic Socialist Republic.

"And so comrades and friends let us go forward together advancing the goal of a community of free Celtic Nations. I leave you with the words of the father of Irish Republicanism Theobald Wolfe Tone: 'Let the nations go abreast. Let the interchange of sentiments among mankind concerning the Rights of Man be as immediate as possible.'"

## Comhbhrón

**HOWARD.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Michael Howard of Knockree, Co Clare who died recently, formerly of the Michael Keane Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Clare. From Comhairle na Mumhan, Republican Sinn Féin.

**RING.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Owen Ring, Cahersiveen, Co Kerry. From the Maurice O'Neill Cumann, Cahersiveen, the Dowling/Sheehy Cumann, Tralee and Kerry Comhairle Ceantair.

**WHITE.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Donal White, Cork. From Comhairle na Mumhan, Republican Sinn Féin.

## I gCuimhne

**CROSSEY** — 40th anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Lt. Michael Crossey killed on active service November 22, 1971. From the Republican Movement, North Armagh, the Daithí Ó Conaill Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Monaghan and the Moore family, Monaghan.

# The devil is in the detail

WHEN Martin McGuinness was called a murderer by Miriam O'Callaghan he seemed genuinely shocked. He was shocked because he thought that he was exempt from the criminalisation which he and his party had drafted as part of the Belfast Agreement.

During those talks Martin and Gerry left Republicans out to dry. They had the option of insisting that all records of convictions should be

destroyed. They decided to leave them be. The reason being that they needed the power to say whose records could be temporarily put in abeyance.

Anyone who has tried to become a bank courier, security-man (remember Gerry's letter to Alan Shatter?). Anyone who tried to get a State job, join the police, all found they were banned.

It seemed for a time that Adams and McGuinness were exempt. That is, until they tried

to enter "polite society". McGuinness's run for the presidency of Germany's "hobby island" exposed not only the bankruptcy of the LIG's political philosophy but also a deep-seated and not often seen hatred of the British being exposed within the Irish media.

When Miriam and her ilk said that the "murder of Garda Gerry McCabe" meant that Gerry was not fit to be President they unconsciously diminished the deaths of all those "British

policemen and soldiers" who died at the hands of those they allege McGuinness has influence over.

When their President (McAleese), on their behalf, invites loyalist killers to attend at the commemoration in Islandbridge of brave if naive soldiers who died needlessly and were betrayed by both Redmond and the British they show their contempt for all things "un-Irish".

THESE people have reached such a level of arrogance that they unconsciously believe that murderers can run a British statelet but are unfit for polite society south of the Border. The truth of course that in O'Callaghan's eyes and those with equally Irish-sounding names Adams and McGuinness are just one or two generations and a marriage or two removed from being Protestant Ascendancy.

And then there was poor old David Norris... Did he really think those Paddies with the names starting with Mc or O' would give him a fair break?

Welcome home Mr Higgins. An Irish President for an Irish people and let all the "blow-ins" take note 'cause the Blueshirts are back in power!

A céad míle fáilte!

— Mac Cool

## International Day of Action for Republican POWs

### THE Republican Sinn Féin International Bureau and a number of groups and individuals organised an International Day of Action for the Republican Prisoners on October 8.

The goal was to make the people in Continental Europe aware of the situation of the Irish Republican prisoners and their struggle for their rights and political status. Pickets and other actions, such as graffiti, leaflets and poster campaigns were organised in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden.

Activists and supporters distributed thousands of leaflets demanding political status for the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and the immediate release of the Republican activists Martin Corey and Marian Price.

Outside the British Embassy in Rome, Italy, about 50 people gathered in support of the POWs under a banner of Republican Sinn Féin. In Sweden, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands, members and activists of Republican Sinn Féin put up posters and distributed leaflets outside shopping centres on October 7 and 8. The members of Republican Sinn Féin were active in the cities of Vienna, Goettingen, Gothebourg and Utrecht.

In Paris, the members of the

Ireland support group Liberation Irlande, staged a protest on a Seine-Bridge. Further pickets were held in German cities such as Magdeburg by the group Zusammen Kaempfen. In Hamburg and Darmstadt, members of various organisations, such as Red Aid, Revolutionary Left, Socialist Left and the newly formed Maghaberry Awareness Group Hamburg, were out supporting the prisoners.

Dieter Blumenfeld, spokesperson of the Sinn Féin Poblachtach International Bureau said: "It was a significant day for Irish Republicans all over the world. For the last twenty years Westminster, Dublin and Stormont want to tell the world that the struggle for Irish freedom is over. Though in the year 2011 people in six different Continental European countries go out and show their support with the continued struggle for Irish freedom.

"It's no coincidence that just days after the 30th anniversary of the end of the 1981-Hunger Strikes people demand the restoration of political status.



• About 50 people picketed the British Embassy in Rome in support of the POWs under a banner of Republican Sinn Féin.



• Graffiti supporting political hostages Martin Corey and Marian Price in Hamburg.

Thirty years later Irish people are still forced to go on protest to demand their rights. The reason is clear - British occupation.

"We see regular protests in support of Palestinian, Kurdish or Cuban political prisoners. This is highly important and we

as Irish Republicans support all comrades worldwide in their fight against imperialism. Nevertheless people should not forget that in the centre of Europe, there is one EU-member state occupying parts of another EU-member state. In the Northern Counties we have

direct British rule, in the South we see the implementation of neo-colonial rule by the EU - as long as this situation continues the struggle for Irish Freedom is necessary and just."

"The protests on October 8 were a show of solidarity with the political prisoners in Ireland

and the Republican struggle as such not seen for a very long time. We commend all those involved in the different protests around October 8", Dieter Blumenfeld said.

The following is the statement distributed on October 8. The statement had been translated in following languages: English, German, Turkish, Dutch, Swedish, French, Italian and Spanish. The translations and the leaflets can be downloaded from [www.irish-solidarity.net](http://www.irish-solidarity.net).

Combat Breton, a group from Brittany who had attended and spoken at the Annual H-Block commemoration in Bundoran on August 27 who could not hold a protest due to their absence from home sent solidarity greetings.

They said: "We demand the immediate release of all political prisoners in Ireland. Today the British would appear to be for democracy in Europe and in the world with Sarkozy's visit to Libya, then they leave behind ruins and misery and act like real colonisers a few hundred kilometres away.

"We condemn their methods and with all the democrats of the world and Europe we want the liberation of political prisoners."

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