

SAOIRSE



Irish Freedom

The Voice of the Republican Movement

UIMH 301 BEALTAINE — MAY 2012 <http://saoirse.info> €2 (£1.50 stg, USA \$35 p.a.)

Easter commemorations were held throughout Ireland, in London, Liverpool, Glasgow and New York.



See special four-page supplement with two pages of photos. Pages 9-13 inside.

Vote NO to austerity

ON May 31 the people of the 26 Counties will have the chance to step up the fight back against austerity by voting NO to the EU Austerity Treaty.

This treaty is designed to lock people and states into a programme of social deprivation and economic apartheid by removing any remaining vestiges of economic sovereignty from the hands of the people and their directly elected representatives.

Fear and intimidation are being used once again by the 26-County Administration and their political masters in Brussels as they attempt to steamroll the Irish people into giving away the last vestiges of independence.

The political elites of Leinster House and the EU have set the tone for the forthcoming referendum on the EU Austerity Treaty by

threatening people about the dire consequences of a rejection of the treaty.

EU power is based on the FEAR of the people not the WILL of the people

Of course we have heard it all before during the referenda on the Lisbon and Nice treaties. And on both occasions people were forced to vote again for treaties they had already rejected. The power elites of the EU are not interested in the will of the people but instead are intent on grabbing even more power using the fear of the people. In this they have willing collaborators in the political establishment of the 26-County State.

The system of finance



• People across Europe are fighting back against austerity. (Above) 26-County police using pepper spray against some of the 6,000 protesters at the Labour Party conference in Galway on April 14 last.

capitalism, driven by France and Germany' created the economic collapse of the past four years — yet it is the working people of Ireland and Europe who are being asked to pay the price. In a May Day address to the Irish trade union movement the President of Republican Sinn Féin points out: "The orthodoxy of the political and economic elites both here in Ireland and within the EU is to rebuild the

collapsed structure of finance capitalism rather than deal with the human cost of that collapse. The legacy for future generations will be an inability to educate the young, care for the sick and provide for the old, the very markers of a civilised society."

The forthcoming referendum on the Austerity Treaty in the 26 Counties is an opportunity to send out a clear statement of intent that people

are not prepared to cede any more power to the undemocratic and unelected bureaucratic elite that is the EU. We should also be

McGurk said that a war is being waged against austerity by people across Europe and argued that it is in this context that the referendum in the 26 Counties should be viewed: "If the Irish say No just days after a new French president, who is already critical of the austerity agenda, is elected, we may have a whole new ball-game."

A No vote will be a positive step towards regaining control of our future and that of the generations to come.

As we approach the centenary of the 1916 Rising we now have an opportunity to fight back and show that the 1916 Proclamation still speaks for this generation when it declares: "The right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and inalienable."

Begin the fight back for our country and vote NO.

COMMANDANT NEIL 'PLUNKETT' O'BOYLE COMMEMORATION

KNOCKNADRUCE, CO WICKLOW,
SUNDAY, MAY 13, 3pm
Assemble Hollywood, 2.30pm

CABHAIR

Irish Republican
Prisoners Dependents
Fund

ANNUAL
TESTIMONIAL
DINNER
& REPUBLICAN
REUNION

Academy Plaza Hotel,
Dublin

Saturday, May 19, 2012
Dinner €30

Honorees:

Rosemary
& Tom Doran
(Leinster)
Tess Moten
(Munster)



Peter Quinn
(Connacht)

Sarah Murphy
(Ulster)

Brian Mór Ó Baoighill
(USA, posthumously)

For further
information contact:
Ard-Oifig
Dublin 872 9747



WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION

Bodenstown, 2.30pm
SUNDAY, JUNE 10, Sallins, Co Kildare

Buses: Aston Quay, Dublin 12.45pm Táille: €10

Fight against the privatisation of water

GERALDINE McNamara, PRO, Republican Sinn Féin, stated on April 17 that the decision by Leinster House representative Phil Hogan to hand over the water supply services to An Bord Gáis "is an absolute disgrace." This new company is to be known as Irish Water and will supply water to householders in the 26 Counties.

"It beggars belief that the state can remove itself from the responsibility of supplying clean water to its people; clean water is a basic human right and should not be privatised," Geraldine said.

"Since the collapse of the banking system, the 26-County administration is doing everything to support the bank bailout and is doing this to the detriment of the most

vulnerable in society. People are being told that on top of water charges they are going to have to pay to have water meters installed at a total charge of nearly €800. This will be part of the standing charge and then we will have to pay for every drop of water used.

"This scheme should be resisted with even more gusto than the household tax and is another household charge.



• **Geraldine McNamara**

"During the Celtic tiger years local councils were still deprived of finance to upgrade and repair water supply pipes and reservoirs. New housing estates were built with no

thought as to the burden on existing water and sewage networks, now when there is a risk of drought here due to low rainfall.

"Phil Hogan is taking advantage of people's fears to transfer the public water supply into private hands at enormous cost to every individual in the state."

"We must fight against this backhanded scheme and keep our water supplied by local councils. Phil Hogan is using the water meter charge to distract people from the point that the supply will be privatised and that water will no longer be supplied free to all in society," Geraldine concluded."

Protest at Labour Party conference in Galway

MEMBERS of Occupy Galway took part in what was the biggest peaceful demonstration of solidarity and people power in Galway for many years on April 14.

Between six and eight thousand people gathered on Eyre Square to march on the Labour conference and air a range of grievances from housing, water and septic tank charges, anti-bondholder bailout campaigners, anti-war, anti-fracking, SPARK, Shell to Sea and the Rosport campaigners,

as well as many people unaffiliated with any group.

As the crowd grew throughout the morning, it became clear that there was massive discontent at the way that the Labour Party has represented itself in government.

Thousands of people were

there and wished to ensure that the Labour delegates were aware of their presence but were herded into the area at the front of the NUIG quad building, not even within sight of the conference.

This left many of the protesters with the feeling that they were, once again, being ignored by their elected representatives. When several young demonstrators were pepper-sprayed for simply approaching the barrier to the conference hall, the crowd

became even more determined to push their way past the gardai.

Dismissive comments by Éamonn Gilmore that he hoped the demonstrators "have a nice day", and accusations of "bully-boy tactics" leveled at the people present only served to further distance the Labour Party from their electorate.

The march on the Labour Party conference was a hugely successful show of solidarity and people power.

Gearrscéalta

Harassment by RUC in Derry

A HUMAN rights group has agreed to monitor RUC/PSNI searches in Derry after a series of allegations of harassment by residents in the Creggan area.

The Belfast-based Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ) confirmed on April 24 that it will now work alongside Creggan Women's Group to log all allegations of British colonial police harassment in the area and will later present its findings to the British Police Ombudsman's Office.

The move arose out of a public meeting called by members of the women's group who had been alarmed and shocked by the stories they were being told about 'stop and searches' of women and children in the area. Group spokeswoman Betty Doherty said: "People don't know what their rights are, which is why I contacted the CAJ."

Daniel Holder, CAJ deputy director, added: "We heard some serious reports of misuse of stop and search powers."

RUC left gun on child's bed after Belfast raid

IT was reported on April 18 that members of the RUC/PSNI had to return to a house in north Belfast to recover a gun belt including a pistol that was left behind following the arrest of a man suspected of Republican activity.

The 39-year-old man who owns the property has indicated that he intends to make a complaint about the RUC blunder to the British Police Ombudsman's office in Belfast.

Covenant parade to converge on Stormont

THOUSANDS of Orangemen are set to converge on Stormont later this year to mark the centenary of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant according to a report on April 5.

The Orange Order has confirmed that Parliament Buildings will provide the symbolic backdrop for a major parade by members of the loyal institutions in Belfast on September 29.

April's edition of the Orange Standard the Order's monthly publication reports that Stormont Finance Minister Sammy Wilson has granted permission for the large event to be staged in the grounds of the historic estate.

Organisers want the route to incorporate the City Hall, the venue for the most famous Covenant signing led by Sir Edward Carson in 1912. The parade will be open to all of the loyal orders, with both the Independent Orange Institution and Apprentice Boys already having confirmed their participation.

On April 18 it was reported that the Orange Order had received a grant of almost €900,000 from the European Union to "help address the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland (sic).

Explosive device found in Newry was 'fully primed'

A VIABLE explosive device found in a van just outside Newry on April 27, was 'fully primed and contained 600lbs of explosives', according to news reports.

The device was 'twice as big as the bomb which exploded outside the courthouse in Newry in February 2010'. It was found in a white van in the Fathom Line area on April 27 which had been abandoned at Fathom Line. A member of the public alerted the RUC.

The road was closed for two days while the van was examined and removed.

The moral hijacking of Bloody Sunday

IN an article carried in spiked, the editor, Brendan O'Neill, wrote an excellent piece titled *The moral hijacking of Bloody Sunday*. It was carried in IRIS 294 but due to lack of space the long article cannot be reprinted in SAOIRSE. However it is available on <http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/12022/> and well worth a read.

Results of Dublin raffle

APRIL Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 258; 2nd prize ticket no 257; 3rd prize 247; 4th prize 311; 5th prize 182; 6th prize 558; 7th prize 462; 8th prize 634.

**SAOIRSE June edition
published 30/5/2012**

'We will not be paying any tax on the family home'

A SPOKESPERSON for the Association of Combined Residents Associations (ACRA) said on April 18 that mass opposition is predicted to any attempts to impose a tax on water.

Householders simply cannot take another burden, following household and a likely property tax. ACRA along with the CAHWT pledges to organise a mass grassroots campaign on this issue in every estate, town and village in the Country.

Speaking today to members Malachy Steenson, General Secretary of ACRA, said

"Water is already paid for

from central taxation. It was never 'free', so talk of a free allocation is nonsense. Our members up and down the Country are already pinned to the collar trying to survive, recent surveys have shown that one in five Children are going to bed or school hungry whilst the Credit Union Survey has shown the 1.6 million people only have a disposable income of €25 at

**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>

Boycott

Septic Tank & Water Charges

& the Unjust Household TAX

Republican Sinn Féin Poblachtach
Organise Today / Strike Back Tomorrow

the end of each week, while 500,000 have no disposable income."

He added that "The only purpose in setting up Irish Water is to pave the way for the eventual privatisation of the water supply - a bonanza to be handed over to a private operators and to the speculators and gamblers who have already destroyed this country, to profiteer from a vital resource.

"This is yet another natural resource that would be handed to the private sector, charging residents at will, as we have seen

with waste collection companies.

"The prediction by John Fitzgerald of the ESRI last year that domestic charges would quickly amount to €1,200 is now rapidly becoming evident. These proposals for water metering and charges on top of a home tax will be met with massive resistance."

Finally he said "We successfully made the household tax one of the biggest campaigns in recent decades. Water charges will be even more forcefully opposed."

Gearrscéalta

New 'No Fiscal Treaty' website

A NEW website outlining Republican Sinn Féin's opposition to the Fiscal Treaty referendum in the 26 Counties, to be held on May 31, has been set up; it can be accessed at: <http://www.nofiscaltreaty.net/>.

NIFC at 'Tent State'

Rutgers University

A NATIONAL Irish Freedom Committee (NIFC) information booth at 'Tent State' University Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ was in place from April 15 to 22.

Speakers and events were planned throughout the week. This was a joint tent-hosting information about Ireland and Palestine.

Irish/Palestinian solidarity tent supplied information about Martin Corey, a political hostage in Maghaberry jail and other political prisoners; CABHAIR, the Political Prisoners Dependent Fund; ÉIRE NUA and SAOL NUA political policy documents; copies of SAOIRSE, a Palestinian flag, Shell-to-Sea banner, ÉIRE NUA SAOL NUA banner, Irish Republican and Palestinian posters on display.

Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta (National Irish Freedom Committee); <http://www.irishfreedom.net/>

Peats reopens its doors in Dublin

DUBLIN electrical chain store Peats World of Electronics re-opened its doors on Saturday, April 28, just weeks after it had closed its eleven branches and announced plans to go into liquidation.

The family-owned company said earlier this week that a "wave of goodwill" from customers and suppliers had allowed it to continue in business.

The Parnell Street store re-opened selling stock from the stores which closed on 23 April at discounted prices. The store plans to re-establish itself with a lower cost base and a restructured business.

Chairman Ben Peat said it was an "emotional but good day". "We've been blown away by the positive reaction we've had from customers, staff and suppliers. The support we've received has been nothing short of phenomenal".

The company hopes that a successful re-launch in Parnell Street will lead to the re-opening of its other stores in Dublin.

"Clearly the Peat's brand resonates with people and it's great that we're still in business after 78 years, and we plan to be around a lot longer," said Ben Peat.

The Rathmines branch of the store is also due to open shortly. The company has been able to seek a petition to the High Court to enter into examinership, which will allow the business to resume trading.

Greyhound set to issue final City Council waste bills

IN the third week of April, 140,000 households in Dublin city received their waste bills for the last quarter of 2011. It is believed that technical problems matching the Greyhound and council IT systems caused further delays after an initial deferral due to data protection concerns.

Council bills, which were due to be issued at the end of December 2011, are now three months overdue. The bills, which will be the last ever to be issued by the council, cover the last quarter of 2011. Despite the bills covering the period in which the council were collecting, the bills will in fact be issued by Greyhound and payments will also be collected by the private operator.

GAA club cancels event over RUC involvement

THE Derrytresk GAA club, Co Tyrone called off an event after some members objected to the involvement of the RUC/PSNI.

The Live to Play events were organised to educate young GAA members about road safety after a number of fatal crashes. They have been seen as a sign of an improving relationship between the GAA and the British colonial police.

However, the Derrytresk club said it had cancelled the event following complaints from some members.

Derrytresk chairman Barney Campbell claimed the club had not been made aware that the police would be involved.

"As it turned out, the [RUC/PSNI] were coming to it and we were never informed about that and there were a few people in the club not very happy about that [so] we just called it off," he said.

A spokesman for the Tyrone county board said they would have to respect the decision taken by the Derrytresk club.

May Day Address to Irish Trade Union Movement

THE following address from the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton was sent to all trade unions in Ireland on April 28:

ON this May Day we address ourselves to you on the urgent need for a vibrant and radical trade union movement. Working people in Ireland and across Europe are being sacrificed in order to bail out the failed neo-liberal economic model upon which the EU is based.

The orthodoxy of the political and economic elites both here in Ireland and within the EU is to rebuild the collapsed structure of finance capitalism rather than deal with the human cost of that collapse. The legacy for future generations will be an inability to educate the young, care for the sick and provide for the old, the very markers of a civilised society. In Europe the resistance to this is growing as evidenced in Greece but also by the collapse of the government in Holland and the Presidential election in France.

Here in Ireland it is time for the trade union movement to take up the banner first held aloft by the founders of the movement a century ago. James Connolly's words are as relevant today as when first penned in 1916: "The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour."

"They cannot be disovered. Ireland seeks freedom. Labour seeks that an Ireland free should be the sole mistress of her own destiny, supreme owner of all material things within and upon her soil. Labour seeks to make the free Irish nation the guardian of the interests of the people of Ireland, and to secure that end would vest in that free Irish nation

community to enjoy all the advantages of science, art and literature. No field of knowledge, no outlook in life, and no book should be closed against the workers. We should demand our share in the effluence of life and all that was created for the enjoyment of mankind."

We applaud the stand taken by MANDATE, the TEEU and

right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland."

This decade will mark the centenaries of some of the defining moments in Irish Revolutionary history including the heroic 1913 Lockout as well as the 1916 Rising, both of which we will mark with pride. The trade union movement was in the vanguard of the forces of democracy and progress during those momentous years, 100 years later it must do so again if it is to retain its relevance to the working people of All-Ireland.

The trade union movement must discard the language of conciliation with forces that will not be conciliated, it must speak with a language described by Seán O'Casey as "not for an assignment with peace, dark obedience, or placid resignation, but trumpet-tongued of resistance to wrong, discontent with leering poverty, and defiance of any power strutting out to stand in the way of their march onward".

Trade unions must once more be prepared to take on the forces of political reaction and capital and join the struggle for a New Ireland based on the principles of political, social and economic justice, freedom and democracy. James Connolly described Liberty Hall as the: "unconquered citadel of the Irish working-class", it is now time for the entire trade union movement to prove itself worthy of the proud legacy bequeathed to it by its unconquered and unconquerable forebears.

"The great appear great because we are on our knees, let us rise."



• The statue of James Connolly which stands in Beresford Place, Dublin, near Liberty Hall. Inscribed on it are his words: "The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland - the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour".

all property rights as against the claims of the individual, with the end in view that the individual may be enriched by the nation, and not by the spoiling of his fellows".

Or James Larkin in his address to the Irish Trades Union Congress in 1914: "I submit that the working-class have as much right as any section or class in the

UNITE in calling for a rejection of the Austerity Treaty in the referendum on May 31. We call on the rest of the trade unions to take a similar position and join the campaign against this undemocratic power grab by the EU. By voting No the Irish people will be reaffirming in the words of the 1916 Proclamation: "...the

The release of colonial documents — what about Ireland?

ON April 18 a vast number of British files were released from the Hanslope colonial archive, causing considerable outrage (see World News, page 18). There are thousands more to come.

Over 1,000 further colonial files are still retained by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, while large numbers of military documents – including those on the insurgency in Cyprus – are missing. And official attempts to manage the image of Britain's rebellions extend beyond events in the colonies: there is evidence the files relating to the Six Occupied Counties are being suppressed.

The Northern Ireland (sic) files, despite having passed the 30-year mark laid down in the Public Records Act, have not been listed with the British National Archives. A glimpse of their content can be gleaned from what has seeped into the public domain about the British army's conduct in the Occupied Six Counties in the 1970s.

It gives a hint of why thousands of British Ministry of Defence records from the era are locked away: the British preference for claiming to operate within the law, yet bending the meaning of the law to allow repression – as documented in the colonial archives now seen – carried on into the Occupied Six Counties. The commanding general, the late Sir Harry Tuzo, quoted in an article in the 20th

Century British History journal in February 2012, said allegations against the army were merely "smoke without fire".

The criminal courts supported Tuzo's belief: between March 1972 and September 1974, only 17 soldiers received convictions. But as in the colonies, there were problems in bringing soldiers who killed and injured civilians to justice.

Much of the investigative work was done by the military police. Judges noted soldiers "stonewalling" questions about their comrades, and the Royal Ulster Constabulary used "their own discretion ... very liberally" when deciding whether to send cases for prosecution.

Judicial rulings in 1974 and 1977 allowed a number of soldiers to continue employing the "shot trying to escape" defence when confronted with allegations of state-sanctioned murder. Facing a rigid criminal justice system, people pursued the state through the civil courts instead. The first claims came from those illegally arrested during internment in 1971 and those subjected to "deep interrogation". The British MoD decided to settle out of court when Crown counsel advised them that they would be likely to lose if a

case was brought before a judge. New evidence from the British National Archives shows the British army continued harming civilians even after the disasters of internment, deep interrogation and Bloody Sunday.

By January 1975, the MoD had reached 410 out-of-court settlements – even though it did so without admitting liability. By early 1976, compensation had been paid for 13 fatal shootings (excluding those shot on Bloody Sunday).

Twelve non-fatal shooting cases were settled, plus another seven for injuries inflicted by rubber bullets. Numerous assault claims were settled. By December 1974, the MoD faced another 1,147 claims.

The British army's Six-County headquarters worried about the effect all this was having on military morale. General Frank King, Tuzo's successor, thought soldiers would fail to act aggressively if they feared prosecution.

From conflicts in Malaya to Six Counties and now to Iraq, it has often taken legal interventions to force the release of records that revealed what really happened.

The laws that allow important records to be destroyed, retained or whitewashed by Whitehall urgently need revision.

The British MoD's secret archives should not be allowed to be concealed or destroyed in the same way as the colonial records.

Campaign funds appeal

IN order to wage an effective campaign in the forthcoming referendum on the Austerity Treaty as well as the ongoing campaigns against the household tax and the septic tank charges we are appealing to our friends and supporters for much needed funds.

All donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Please forward donations to:

Arad Oifig, Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1.

For The Record

FRI. MARCH 30: Members of the Donegal Action Against Austerity group marched from Malin Head, arriving in Dublin after four days walking.

SAT. MARCH 31: Ten thousand people took part in a to the National Convention Centre where Fine Gael were having their 2012 Ard-Fheis in protest against the Dublin Administration's austerity policies.

MON. APRIL 2: Peat's the family-owned electrical shops in Dublin, known to all as Peat's of Parnell Street, went into liquidation with immediate effect with the closure of 11 shops.

A bomb was left in the garden of DUP councillor Harold Andrews in Roslea, Co Fermanagh. It was discovered by his son.

Kevin Barry Murphy from Coalisland, Co Tyrone, facing charges of possession of explosives, was denied parole from Maghaberry jail for his son's Confirmation.

WED. APRIL 4: Dr Michael Maguire was appointed the Police Ombudsman in the Occupied Six Counties. He has been chief inspector of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (sic) since 2008 and replaces Al Hutchinson whose tenure was controversial.

THURS. APRIL 5: Barney McKenna, the last original member of the Dubliners, died suddenly at his home in Dublin. The group was founded in 1962 in O'Donoghue's Pub in Merrion Row, Dublin.

Five remand prisoners from Roe House in Maghaberry jail were returned to the jail from the Serious Crime Suite in Antrim after challenging the RUC/PSNI's decision to take them directly from the jail for questioning. They sought an emergency judicial review arguing that prisoners can only be taken to a barracks for questioning from a jail on the word of a magistrate. They had been taken from the jail the day before.

One of the protesters who walked from Malin Head in Co Donegal to Dublin in protest at the austerity measures introduced by the 26-County Administration, was docked his welfare payments as he was not available for work on the days he was walking. Joe Murphy is an unemployed builder.

FRI. APRIL 6: A 'viable device' was found near the Cloughogue roundabout near Newry, Co Down resulting in the closure of the Forkhill Road and both lanes in the A1.

SAT. APRIL 7: A taxi driver was hijacked by two masked men and a device placed in his car which was abandoned in the Martin's Lane area of Newry, Co Down. Residents in the area were evacuated for a time. The device turned out to be a hoax.

APRIL 10: Leading French Resistance fighter Raymond Aubrac died aged 97. Moves to separate links between the Catholic Church and around 50 primary schools in the 26 Counties is expected to begin next year.

Six men arrested after an Easter Commemoration in Derry organised by the 32-County Sovereignty Movement were released without charge.

Four men lost their bid against extradition from Britain to the US on what Britain and the US deemed "terrorism charges". They are to be extradited "as quickly as possible" according to British home secretary Theresa May.

The Orange Order turned down a suggestion by the mayor of Belfast Provisional Niall Ó Donnghaile that he attend a unionist rally at Stormont marking the centenary of the Ulster Covenant.

WED. APRIL 11: The Occupy Movement stormed the corporate headquarters of the Allied Irish Bank in Dublin on Wednesday evening just hours after it emerged that €1.5bn (£1.27bn) of Irish taxpayers' money was transferred to senior bondholders with the bank. They unfurled banners stating that "The Banks



• Members of the Donegal Action Against Austerity group who walked from Malin Head to the anti-austerity march to Leinster House in Dublin on March 31. Pictured in Barnesmore Gap on March 27 are Trevor Kilpatrick, Joe Murphy, John McLaughlin, John Wilson, Philip McFadden, Joe and Marie Bovard, Helen Michel, Noel McColgan and Séamus Gallagher.

Got Bailed Out, We Got Sold Out" and "Warning, Bail Out in Progress by AIB".

Forty thousand people who applied to work with children and vulnerable people were "red-flagged" over the last three years. Almost 9,000 were deemed either unsuitable or had restrictions placed on them.

A bomb alert in the Lower Bennett Street area of Derry turned out to be a hoax.

Gordon Thompson who has 20 previous convictions was jailed for eleven-and-a-half years for starting the fire that gutted the 140-year-old furniture store House of Reeves in Croydon, south London during the riots on August 8 last year.

Protesters heckled the 26-County Minister of Environment Phil Hogan over the introduction of the household charges at a function in Carlow.

FRI. APRIL 13: Eirgrid has begun a public consultation process to map a suitable corridor for a €500million high-voltage power line to serve south Leinster and east Munster. The IFA called for consultation.

Plans for the electronic tagging of early-release prisoners in the 26 Counties is to proceed. The contract has been put out to tender by the 26-County prison service.

MON. APRIL 16: The parents of a serving RUC/PSNI officer are believed to have been the target of a viable under-car bomb attack in Derry.

TUES. APRIL 17: Legal proceedings were initiated by Thomas Pringle, Independent TD for Donegal South-West, challenging the 26-County State on fundamental aspects of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) Treaty and the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (Fiscal Compact) Treaty.

Pringle stated that he is "of the opinion that both treaties raise serious legal difficulties both at the level of EU treaty law and Irish Constitutional law".

WED. APRIL 18: The *Irish News* carried a report of the voting record of the MLAs at Stormont with just six at 100%. Michael McGimpsey (UUP) and David McNarry (Ind) were bottom of the list when it came to recorded votes with 19/51, with Martin McGuinness at only 21/51.

THURS. APRIL 19: The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) welcomed as 'highly significant' the announcement that the death of any prisoner in the custody of the Irish Prison Service will be the subject of an independent investigation by the Inspector of Prisons, and that, for the first time, these reports will be made public.

All deaths in prisons in the 26 Counties will from now on be independently investigated and

reports into the deaths will be published.

FRI. APRIL 20: The global computer giant Apple is planning to add 500 jobs in Cork in a major expansion of its operations there. Over the next 18 months, Apple will boost its Cork staff base to 3,300.

SUN. APRIL 22: Mandate General Secretary John Douglas called for a No vote on the Austerity Treaty.

A rally was held in Derry city to protest at the continued detention of Marian Price in Hydebank jail. Her husband Jerry was on of the speakers at the protest.

MON. APRIL 23: Magilligan prison near Derry is to close in six years under new proposals.

The garda ombudsman will publish its report on the taped comments made by gardai about two female protestors arrested last year at a Corrib Gas protest.

The search commenced last week in a disused bog in Co Monaghan for the remains of Columba McVeigh who disappeared in 1975.

TUES. APRIL 24: Former British intelligence officer Ian Hurst – otherwise known as Martin Ingram – claimed at the Smithwick Tribunal in Dublin that the now Deputy First Minister in Stormont Martin McGuinness authorised the killings of two members of the RUC in March 1989. He claimed to the Smithwick Tribunal in Dublin the intention of the IRA operation in which Chief Supt Harry Breen and Supt Bob Buchanan were killed, was to abduct them, interrogate them, remove papers they were expected to be carrying and to ultimately execute them.

WED. APRIL 25: The Technical Engineering and Electrical Union (TEEU) executive come out against the European fiscal compact and will urge its 40,000 members to vote No in the referendum. It followed Unite and Mandate in opposition.

An elderly woman whose home has been targeted three times by thieves says she still lives in fear, after shocking new figures revealed the extent of the problem in the Occupied Six Counties. Four pensioners were robbed every day, according to data obtained by the *Belfast Telegraph* newspaper, with 2,977 victims over the age of 65, since 2010.

The death took place in Dublin of artist Louis Le Brocqy aged 95.

Nationalists in Portadown say they should have been consulted about the erection of a granite monument commemorating the signing of the Ulster Covenant in the town. The 6ft-high plinth will be unveiled in June.

Martin McGuinness denied any involvement in the IRA sanctioning an operation to abduct, torture and murder two of

the most senior RUC officers, Chief Superintendent Harry Breen and Superintendent Bob Buchanan, killed in the 1989 border ambush.

THURS. APRIL 26: The Impact Union came out in favour of the Fiscal Treaty.

Over 200 primary schools in the 26 Counties which were scheduled to lose a teacher this year won their appeals against the decision.

A road safety event organised by the GAA due to be held in Derrytresk in Co Tyrone was cancelled after members of the club objected to the involvement of the RUC/PSNI.

An inquest into the murder of Denis Donaldson, the British agent who was a member of the Provisionals, shot dead in Co Donegal in April 2006, was adjourned for the ninth time in Letterkenny. The Gardai requested more time to prepare a file for the Director of Public Prosecutions. His family intends to sue the 26-County State.

FRI. APRIL 27: One of Ireland's most iconic confectionery brands Oatfield Sweets in Letterkenny, Co Donegal, in production since 1927, is to close with a loss of 15 jobs. The parent company, Zed Candy, will move production to Kettering in England.

Permanent Trustee Savings Bank (TSB) is to shed 100 jobs and 15 branches in restructuring plan.

More than 1,000 office workers were evacuated from Tottenham Court Road in London after a man wearing gas canisters took office workers hostage and threatened to blow himself up. Tube stations were closed and businesses evacuated. Police arrested the man after a time.

A number of homes were evacuated in north Belfast following the discovery of a bomb under a parked car in the Ballygomartin Road area. Earlier this month [April 11] a bomb was found near the Cloughogue roundabout in Newry, just off the main Belfast to Dublin dual carriageway.

SAT. APRIL 28: An arson attack was carried out at a house near Dungannon, Co Tyrone. It is believed that bins were placed near the front of the house and then set alight.

The actions of two men who sent parcel bombs to Celtic manager Neil Lennon and other prominent figures connected to the football club were described as "incomprehensible" as they were jailed for five years each. Trevor Muirhead, 44, and Neil McKenzie, 42, were jailed for conspiring to assault Lennon, former MSP Trish Godman and the late QC Paul McBride, as well as people at the republican organisation by sending devices they believed were capable of exploding and causing severe injury.

SUN. APRIL 29: Finance Minister in the 26 Counties Michael Noonan said that comments made by an IMF spokesperson in an article in the *Sunday Times*, April 29 were misrepresented. The article stated that Ireland could apply to the agency for another bailout if required, regardless of how the country votes in the Fiscal Treaty referendum. Michael Noonan said this was not so.

MON. APRIL 30: A poll on breakingnews.ie shows that those intending to vote NO in the forthcoming referendum stands at 48.8%, the yes vote is at 27.56% and 16.51 had not yet made up their minds.

Residents of the Priory Hall apartment complex (which was evacuated last October over fire safety concerns) say they are "devastated" after their banks refused to enter a conciliation process aimed at resolving issues between all parties. The resolution process was announced by Dublin City Council last week and had the support of residents of the site. However it is understood the Irish Banking Federation and banks with mortgages outstanding at Priory Hall will not take part.

Petrol bombs were thrown at a house and the car outside it in Derry during the night. Shortly after 1.30am, it was reported that two men were seen lighting a device and throwing it towards a car, before making off on foot in the direction of the Church Brae area. Then, just before 2.25am, another device was thrown, this time at the house. It caused some damage but no-one was injured.

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

RUC LEAVE GUN IN CHILD'S ROOM

A Belfast Chronology

Wednesday, March 7, 2012. Co Down band Snow Patrol donated £10,000 to a fund launched by the Murphy family after 20-year-old Joby Murphy drowned in the river Lagan. His body was found by a search team from Cork four weeks after he had fallen in after a Snow Patrol concert in the Odyssey arena in January. The Murphy family, who have been campaigning for an end to cheap drink promotions are trying to raise £30,000 for sonar equipment which would help locate missing bodies. Joby's father Joseph said there currently is one sonar unit in use for the whole of Ireland.

Thursday, March 8, 2012. The organisers of a public debate criticised St Paul's GAC after refusing to uphold an agreement to hold a public meeting to discuss the ongoing treatment of West Belfast Republican Marian Price. Thousands of leaflets advertising the event were distributed. The meeting was changed to the Conway Mill and was well attended by members of Republican Sinn Féin and other Republican groups, as well as clergy, trade unions and human and civil rights activists taking part.

Sunday, March 11, 2012. A south Belfast house was targeted in a petrol bomb attack.

Thursday, March 15, 2012: At least twelve men were ordered to leave the Six Counties over drug-dealing and anti-social and criminal behaviour in West Belfast.

Monday, March 26, 2012: A 73-year-old was treated hospital after three masked men broke into his home. This is the latest in a series of violent robberies in which vulnerable pensioners are targeted. In this

case a rumour spread that the man had won £20,000 in the lottery.

TUES, APRIL 3: Gerard Gearon from Ardoyne was approached by British Intelligence when he was on holiday in Amsterdam. He was visiting the home of Anne Frank when he was approached and asked to become an informer. He was also approached by the same two men in Stanstead airport 18 months ago when he was offered £10,000 to provide information on named people in Ardoyne.

Wednesday, April 4, 2012. A North Belfast man and his daughter were shot just off the Cavehill Road in North Belfast.

An Ardoyne man visiting Amsterdam told that men who identified themselves as intelligence officers approached him in Anne Frank's house. The men had approached him before at Stansted Airport and asked

him to supply information on people living in Ardoyne.

A North Belfast man was given a suspended sentence after being caught with a crossbow and then head-butting RUC members who tried to take the weapon from him.

Thursday April 5, 2012: Around 25 families were evacuated from their homes in north Belfast by a bomb warning which turned out to be a hoax.

Young pupils from "poor" backgrounds in the Six Counties are "missing too many days at school" according to a new report, and is causing serious concern.

Saturday, April 7, 2012. Four RUC members were suspended over sending texts of a sectarian and racial nature.

Monday, April 9, 2012. A man required hospital treatment after being attacked by a masked gang who were armed with a knife and a gun in the Hannah

Glen Heights area of Belfast.

Friday, April 14, 2012. An office belonging to the Provo-backed CRJ suffered fire and smoke damage in an arson attack.

The InShops centre in Belfast is to close at the end of June. Many units rent in the centre at a reasonable rent. Up to 60 jobs could be affected.

Monday, April 16, 2012. A bomb discovered in North Belfast is believed to have been lying there for a period of time.

Tuesday, April 17, 2012: A member of the RUC left his gun on the bed of a nine-year-old child for almost 30 minutes before they returned to retrieve it. The gun and holster were left on the bed during a house raid by armed RUC members whilst the child was at school. He has not been suspended from duty pending an investigation.

Monday, April 23, 2012. A family was awakened by smoke

after a gang of men broke into their home in the Falls area and set it alight. The gang locked the doors before leaving.

A couple in Dunmurry said they have been subjected to sectarian abuse for the last 50 years and suffered attacks on their home. Trevor George, a Protestant married to a Catholic, blamed loyalists from the Seymour Hill estate in south Belfast. No one has ever been charged over these attacks, the latest one on April 22.

Friday, April 27, 2012: The RUC investigating Republican activity recovered guns and ammunition during searches in Ardoyne.

Saturday, March 28, 2012: Up to four shots were fired through the front window of a property in Drumcrow Road in Glenarm. A 44-year-old man was arrested in Broughshane on suspicion of attempted murder.

Stephen McCconomy remembered in Derry

IN April 1982 eleven year-old Derry schoolboy Stephen McCconomy made his Confirmation. Two weeks later he was dead. He was shot and killed by a plastic bullet, fired by a British soldier just yards from his home in the Bogside.

The St John's Primary School pupil was playing with friends on April 16th, 1982 when a member of the British army's Royal Anglian regiment shot him in the head with a plastic bullet. He died three days later.

Eyewitnesses who tried to go to the boy's aid were prevented from doing so by the soldiers, who threatened to shoot anyone who went near him.

More than 1,000 people attended the his funeral, including the Bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly, and called for an end to the use of plastic bullets.

No British soldiers have ever been charged in connection with Stephen McCconomy death. Stephen's brother Emmett, who was just seven years-old when his brother was killed, said it is still harrowing for the family.

Emmett also said that it is clear Stephen was not posing a threat to the soldiers when he was shot. "Stephen was small in stature. There is no way anyone could have taken him for anything other than a child. The army claimed he was shot from a distance of 17 feet; eyewitnesses have told us it was more like seven feet. He was completely innocent. Everyone knows that".

The lack of a proper investigation into the incident has added to the family's pain.

"In 2003 we met senior [RUC]/PSNI detectives in Strand Road to get information on the initial police investigation. We



• **Stephen McCconomy died three days after being shot by a British army plastic bullet in 1982.**

were told that the soldier who fired the fatal shot was interviewed under caution and said that it was an accident. That was the extent of

the investigation.

"It is unbelievable that someone can take the life of a child and explain it away as an

accident and even more unbelievable that it was taken no further than that."

The gun used in the shooting was later destroyed.

Emmet called for a fresh inquest to be held into his brother's death. He also said the family hope to see an end to the use of plastic bullets. To mark the 30th anniversary of Stephen's death a plaque was unveiled on Fahan Street close to the spot where he was shot on Thursday, April 19.

An event in the Tower Hotel examining the details of his death and the campaign for justice followed.

Finucanes' bid to question Cameron blocked

POTENTIAL cross-examination of David Cameron about the refusal to order a public inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane is being thwarted, the English High Court heard on April 23.

An affidavit from the British Prime Minister's private secretary blocks any chance of questioning him about claims he told the lawyer's widow Geraldine that others around Downing Street would not allow a full independent probe, a judge was told.

Lawyers for Geraldine Finucane are to seek an order striking out the "hearsay" statement that David Cameron denies making the comments.

It was also alleged that a sham consultation process was undertaken

when the decision not to hold an inquiry had been pre-determined.

With papers in the case now to be served on the Dublin government, the hearing scheduled for May of the challenge has been put back.

Pat Finucane was shot dead at his north Belfast home by a loyalist death squad in 1989.

His family have campaigned for a full independent inquiry and believed they were set to achieve that when they went to Downing Street to meet the British



• **Geraldine Finucane**

Prime Minister last October.

Instead, they were shocked to be told

that a review, conducted by a senior lawyer, rather than an inquiry would take place.

In an affidavit filed as part of their legal challenge, Geraldine Finucane claimed the family was treated "cruelly".

According to her, the only explanation for the apparent change of mind was the intervention of a person or persons unknown.

She alleged: "This view was supported by a comment made by the Prime Minister during the meeting when he said 'It is true that the previous administration could not deliver a public inquiry and neither can we.

"There are people in buildings all around here who won't let it happen."

It was revealed on Tuesday, however, that a senior official has averred that

David Cameron instructed him that he did not use the words alleged.

Barry Macdonald QC, for the Finucanes, told the court his clients have a record of the meeting but no minutes have been made available from the British government.

Because the affidavit was not by the Prime Minister himself, he cannot be questioned on its contents.

Barry Macdonald said: "We essentially will be suggesting this hearsay averment is a device to avoid the possibility of the Prime Minister being subjected to cross-examination on that issue."

Geraldine Finucane was in court as her barrister further contended that the decision not to hold a public inquiry was taken months before the October meeting.

Sam Marshall inquest to be held

ALLEGATIONS of security force collusion in a high-profile killing carried out by the loyalist death squad the UVF in Co Armagh are to be investigated it was announced on April 26.

In a surprise move Coroner John Leckey started inquest proceedings into the shooting of former Republican prisoner Sam Marshall in Lurgan, Co Armagh in 1990.

Just a few weeks prior to the announcement, John Leckey ruled that the case should be investigated by the Police Ombudsman before he could proceed with the inquest.

Lawyers for the Marshall family produced a letter from the ombudsman's

office confirming it was unable to investigate the Army and was unable to force former or retired police officers to give evidence.

In March a review of the case revealed that eight undercover members of the British army and the RUC were at the murder scene in Lurgan at the time of the attack.

According to Associated Press, Mark Mulholland QC for the family, told Mr Leckey that investigations revealed that

both troops and police were involved in the surveillance operation that was tracking Sam Marshall when gunmen from the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) jumped from a car and fired 49 shots from automatic rifles.

Mr Mulholland added: "This was all somehow not within the sight or hearing of any of the individuals who were on the ground." He told the hearing in Belfast that the Marshall family alleged security force collusion in the killing.

Mr Leckey said he would now begin the process of seeking disclosure of information from the security forces: "disclosure from the chief constable,

disclosure from the MoD (Ministry of Defence) and an interrogation of the Stevens archive to see what it contains."

Sam Marshall and two other republicans had just signed bail at the barracks in Craigavon when they came under fire from the loyalist gang. The republicans claimed the pre-arranged time for their bail signing was known only to themselves, their lawyers and police.

The presence nearby of a red Maestro car, later found to be a military intelligence vehicle, fuelled the claims at the time of a security force role in the killing.

However a recent review by the

police Historical Enquiries Team (HET) revived the controversy when it revealed the unmarked car - a red Maestro belonging to military intelligence - was one of six security force vehicles in a major surveillance operation involving eight armed undercover soldiers who were reporting to a commanding officer at a remote location.

At least eight officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch are also believed to have been involved in the operation. The loyalist killers launched the attack within yards of armed undercover troops who were following the republicans on foot.

Men on Thur Mountain: Farming or Fracking?

"If we have to have placards on Zimmer frames we will protest against this!"

When Tamboran Resources, the company who is proposing to use the controversial process of hydraulic fracturing to mine for gas in the 26 Counties, announced recently that they would be focusing all their energies in North Leitrim, the name Thur Mountain was referred to. For some this would be the first time that they heard it. But farmers who live under the mountain close to Kiltyclogher in Leitrim know it for the special place it is.

If the resolve of these farmers holds fir Thur Mountain may gain national significance, and could have the potential to shine a spotlight on Irish values.

There is something about the drive to Kiltyclogher from Manorhamilton. Surrounded by symbols of previous resistance, Mass Rock and archaeological

sites, small farm-holds littered on the hillsides, some who emigrated, many of whom braced it out to survive.

The statue of Sean Mac Diarmada executed leader of 1916 Rising stands in the centre of his hometown, his cottage nestled protected under Thur Mountain.

The main thing you gain from meeting farmers is their sense of pride of the place they live, and how well farming is doing now. And well might they be proud at recent statistics which prove farming is on the up.

Jim Dillon, a native farmer who has worked the farm for decades laughs while his sense of love of his industry is palpable, "Farmers are hardly in it for the money. Farming is a bug; the only cure to it is when



you die. And then it goes and carries on into the next generation!"

The place missed the worst ravages of the Celtic tiger. This is an area famous for its scenic lakes and along with rambling treks, abundant deer and archaeology.

Thur Mountains' stone slab top, used to host dance and music sessions and there's talk of reviving that. In Lough McNean under Thur Mountain, local children learn how to swim in the fresh water lakes every

summer in organised classes.

However, when you bring up the topic of gas extraction, the mood changes for the farmers. Michael Gallagher who farms sheep under Thur Mountain says of their lack of trust in the companies

"They know the area to target, this area is not densely populated, has an older population and they think they can walk all over them".

Jim Dillon, who is in his 70's, agrees and adds: "If we have to have placards on

Zimmer frames we will protest against this!"

They speak of pollution through stories from farmers in America, of stark warnings from Australian tourists not to let hydraulic fracturing take hold. They speak of hearing all the promises before, of the tobacco industry and asbestos companies sounding the same decades ago. They have learnt to read promises. They are more than acutely aware of the history of their locality.

Jim says: "People fought for years to get away from foreign landlords...When the gas goes what land are we left with then. The centenary of the 1916 Rising is in four years time. What would Sean Mac Diarmada say to all of this?"

They don't believe the claims that this particular company will stop at Leitrim in the 26 Counties and Fermanagh in the Six Counties. They see the

issue as a national issue and in light of recent growth trends they warn that international markets don't differentiate one county from another in Ireland. They see this as a direct attack on the reputation of the farming industry and cite examples in BSE and Spanish cucumber markets decimated.

Speaking at the Easter commemoration at the Pat McManus/James Crossan memorial at Mullan Road near Swanlinbar, Co Cavan Republican Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member told those present:

"The signs were ominous for the anti-fracking community in the Fermanagh/Cavan region as the Provisionals had posters at all crossroads which read 'No Fracking'. They had similar posters some years ago at the crossroads which read 'No Stormont'."

Lugar intervenes in BC case

It was reported on April 24 that the senior Senator from Indiana, Sen Richard Lugar, has intervened in the Boston College case, writing to Attorney General Eric Holder.

Lugar's intervention follows letters to Holder from Senators John Kerry and Charles Schumer expressing concern over the legal pursuit of archived material stored in the college's library and dealing with the Six-County Troubles.

Lugar's move adds a bipartisan twist to the political efforts to prevent the turning over of files to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston. Lugar is a prominent Republican while Kerry and Schumer are leading Democrats.

Lugar has asked AG Holder for the Department of Justice's "official position" on the Boston College subpoenas.

According to journalist and author Ed Moloney, one of the principle compilers of the BC archive, Lugar's interest derives from the fact that he served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when the US-UK extradition treaty was ratified.

"It exempted pre-Good Friday Agreement offences from

the scope of the treaty, an exemption that many believe also applies to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty which was ratified by the US Senate at exactly the same time and which has been used to enforce the Boston College subpoenas," Moloney said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the attorneys for Moloney and co-archivist Anthony McIntyre have responded to a letter from the US Attorney handling the BC case, Carmen Ortiz, which was sent to a panel of appeals court judges after the court heard arguments in the case.

In the letter, also mailed to the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston, attorneys Éamon Dornan and James Cotter stated that they "could not find any provisions in the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure or US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit's Rulebook which would permit the Department of Justice to make further submissions or



• Senator Richard Lugar

communications once the Panel

has risen following oral argument.

"However, in the best interests of our clients, we feel compelled to respond and request that you kindly bring this letter to the attention of the Panel."

The attorneys wrote that it was their "respectful submission" that the Department of Justice's letter "merely confirms that the

District Court's denial of the Appellants' motion to intervene prevented them from providing

evidence that is essential to assessing their claims that the Government's position poses a grave risk of physical harm to the Appellants and their families."

This is a reference to Anthony McIntyre in particular. McIntyre lives in Ireland and his family is of the view that he is in physical danger as a result of the archives being opened for inspection by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, which initiated the action resulting in Boston College having to open the archive at its Burns

Library.

Both Moloney, who lives in New York, and McIntyre, sought and failed to intervene as interested parties in the case and it was this unsuccessful bid that led to the appeals court hearing.

In her post-hearing letter to the appeals judges, DA Ortiz disputed claims made during the hearing that the release of archives resulted in danger to the appellants, Moloney and McIntyre. Moloney described the writing of the letter as an "extraordinary" and "perhaps unprecedented" legal moves.

Vita Cortex workers will escalate protest

THIRTY-two Vita Cortex workers who have been occupying the facility in Cork for 135 days say they're "disgusted" at the rejection of resolution proposals by the company's owners.

The SIPTU members say that the company has rejected the guidance issued by independent mediators, and instead has "issued a statement which contains a number of untruths and legally questionable assertions".

SIPTU organiser Anne Egar said that the statement asserted that the union had sought to exclude some workers from an equitable share of any settlement, and also rejected the company's claims that it cannot afford to pay redundancy.

In its statement on April 28, Vita Cortex said that it believes it has carried out all of its duties and obligations as required.

Last week the company pulled out of the mediation process which was being overseen by the Labour Relations Commission, saying that there was still "significant distance" between the two parties. A general meeting of the Vita Cortex workers will be held on Monday 30 April.

IMEACHTAÍ

BRIGADES TO CUBA
José Martí Brigade, July 2 - 20, 2012
Brigada Por Los Caminos Del Che,
September 30 to October 14, 2012
For further information contact
00353-85-1457286

SEÁN MAC DIARMADA COMMEMORATION
KILTICLOGHER, CO LEITRIM
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 3PM

BOBBY SANDS COMMEMORATION
GPO, DUBLIN

SATURDAY, MAY 5
Assemble: Garden of Remembrance,
1.45pm for parade to GPO.

BALLAD SESSION
THE BARN HOUSE
DOLPHIN'S BARN, DUBLIN
Doors open 8.30pm; Admission €5

COMMANDANT NEIL 'PLUNKETT' O'BOYLE
COMMEMORATION
KNOCKNADRUCE, CO WICKLOW,
SUNDAY, MAY 13, 3pm
Assemble Hollywood, 2.30pm.

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

TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

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

Kerry: 087-097 0835

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

Meath: Niall Fagan/Thomas Allen Cumann: 086-0684400

Wexford: Mick at 0876150484; mick@rsf-wexford.com

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

Longford: 086-2240061 or 086-3384017

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

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 0926420

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Griofa: Tomás,

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No improvement in Maghaberry POW conditions

ON Sunday, March 22, Des Dalton and Geraldine Taylor, the President and Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin respectively, along with the head of the POW Department Josephine Hayden, visited with a political prisoner on protest in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

On entering the jail we gave our names along with photographic ID to the prison warden inside the door. Our right index finger was scanned and our photograph taken. A printed copy containing these details was printed out given to us as we overcame the "obstacle course" to the visiting box. These details were checked three times before we got to the visit – each time our finger was scanned and the ID checked, likewise on the way out.

The visit itself went well – the men look different with their long beards and long hair. Morale is high among the CIRA POWs. They have no choice but to continue with the 'dirty' protest until their status as political prisoners is recognised. This includes free association and an end to controlled movement and the brutal practice of strip searching. They are locked up for 22-and-a-half hours per day (except on the day they receive a visit) with one hour in the yard and 30 minutes to shower and make a phone call. Spending so much time in a cell smeared with excrement must surely be horrific.

Dialogue between themselves and the facilitators

(who helped broker the August 2010 Agreement) and between the facilitators and the prison regime is continuing on an effort to end the protest.

In his statement, *Progress on the prison reform programme*, on March 26, 2012, David Ford justice minister at Stormont said: "NIPS has conducted a further Review of Full Body Imaging Scanners, in line with recommendation 8 of the Prison Review Team's report. On the basis of that review, I intend to initiate a pilot of Full Body Imaging Scanners, as soon as the necessary authorisation for use of this technology in prisons is obtained".

The POWs can only wait and see what is meant by that statement and if and when the content will be implemented, and what, if any, impact it will have on the protest and the status of the men.

At all Easter Commemorations solidarity greetings were sent to the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails, to Marian Price in Hydebank and Michael Campbell in Lithuania.

MARTIN COREY
Meanwhile Martin Corey is still a political hostage. The



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin protesting outside Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

decision on judicial review on March 20 and 21 – at which he was not present – may not be known for some weeks. In the interim Martin is as wise as he was the day when his licence was revoked two years ago.

WILLIAM WONG

William Wong, Willy to all who know him, Armagh, was jailed in July 2011 to a minimum five years. He has no release date; such indeterminate sentencing is not acceptable.

POWS PUNISHED OVER EASTER LILIES

Republican prisoners in Maghaberry Prison were placed under 24-hour lock-up for refusing to remove their Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday, April 8. Visit to the prisoners were also refused.

MARIAN PRICE

Marian Price is still held in Hydebank on a spurious charge while the British government

denies she ever received a pardon – she was released from jail over 30 years ago. Protesters continue to demand her release with protests in Derry, Belfast and Dublin.

The latest was in Derry on April 22 at which over 200 turned out to show their support for her.

Demonstrators marched from Free Derry Corner to Guildhall Square where the march was addressed by a number of different speakers, including Gerry McGlinchey, husband of Marian Price, Monsignor Raymond Murray, former Long Kesh and Armagh jail chaplain, Kate Nash, Bloody Sunday relative, and Foyle SDLP MLA Pat Ramsey.

Gerry McGlinchey called for the secretary of state to release his wife, who was returned to prison when her licence was revoked following her arrest after an Easter commemoration in Derry last

year. "He has not made clear in any way what threat she poses. I don't think she poses any threat. He refuses to say what evidence he has," he said.

'SITUATION OUT OF HAND'

The Irish Law & Democracy Committee on April 4 posted a statement on their site which included the following: "The situation in Roe House Maghaberry is well and truly out of hand..."

"The crux of the matter is controlled movement and strip searching. The issue appeared resolved in August of 2010 which agreed that the issues would be resolved by an end to strip searches through the use of a BOSS chair which would essentially x-ray the prisoner and remove the need for strip searching. However the agreement was reneged upon by the prison authorities"

"There is no access to

education facilities and recreation facilities for those on protest.

"In an era of Human Rights it is unthinkable that men are living in 23-hour lockdown in their own excrement..."

"This issue has been avoided by many human rights groups in Ireland who have turned their back on this issue for whatever reason, regardless of the political opinion of those involved, this situation is stark and cannot be ignored any longer".

(The Law & Democracy Committee was established by a group of Queen's University law students and graduates in September 2010 who came together as a result of a shared concern over the current failures in fundamental legal rights and freedoms in Ireland, and beyond; e-mail: the-law-and-democracy-committee@hotmail.com.)

(http://theirishlawanddemocracycommittee.wordpress.com/) **NB.** In the midst of all this the post of director general of the prison service – at a salary of up to £160,000 – is advertised. The current director Colin McConnell is moving at the end of May to head up the Scottish Prison Service.

The current deputy director Max Murray will fill in until the position is filled. Let us hope the new appointee will do a better job of recognising the human rights of prisoners.

Monthly POW pickets continue in Vienna

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin and the Austrian Network for Political Prisoners held their monthly picket in solidarity with the Political Prisoners. The Network for Political Prisoners was established in February 2012 to highlight the situation of the Political Prisoners in various countries around the world.

Among Republican Sinn Féin, comrades of the Turkish organisation Halk Cephesi, the Campaign to free the Cuban 5, the Committee Release Mumia Abu-Jamal and comrades of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines are involved in the Network.

The picket on April 19 was the third picket since late February. The protest was held on Saint Stephens Square in the City Centre of Vienna. It was moderated by Sandra Bakutz of the Turkish Halk Cephesi (Peoples Front) and was addressed by a comrade from the Philippines and Republican Sinn Féin international spokesperson Dieter Blumenfeld.

Blumenfeld outlined the current situation in Maghaberry and demanded the immediate implementation of the August 2010 Agreement. He informed the people about political internees Marian Price and Martin Corey. Corey's case was on review in the Belfast Courthouse on April 19 and 20 and judgement was deferred. Blumenfeld wished him well on behalf of all assembled.

At the end of his speech, n

Dieter Blumenfeld informed those assembled of the case of Michael Campbell who is held in inhumane conditions in Lithuania. Blumenfeld said: "Campbell was lured into a trap by British and Lithuanian agents. This is a fatal breach of international law. In a democratic society such unlawful behaviour by secret agents must never be tolerated and Campbell must be released immediately and unconditionally."

The speech was followed by the crowd shouting: "Freedom for all Political Prisoners!"

On Thursday, April 17, an event in solidarity for Political Prisoners was held in Paris, France. A representative of the Irish Republican Solidarity Group Libération Irlande addressed the meeting and read greetings from Republican Sinn Féin.

Over the days of Easter, Republican Sinn Féin supporters continued their leaflet drop in the street of Gothenburg in Sweden. Another POW picket was organised by the London-based Irish Republican Solidarity Group outside the Embassy of the 26 Counties in



• The banner carried at the picket in Vienna on April 19.



• Dieter Blumenfeld speaking at the picket.

London for April 20.

Meanwhile, Dieter Blumenfeld sent the following message to a conference in Paris which took place on April 15.

"On behalf of Republican Sinn Féin I want to send greetings to the organisers of the

Journée Internationale des Prisonniers Politiques/ International Evening for Political Prisoners and all those in attendance this evening in Paris. Those revolutionaries behind bars are those who have given most and suffer most due to their fight for freedom and democracy. They are in jail because they fought for us. It is our duty to fight for them.

"What makes events like this so important is the fact that similar minded revolutionaries can share their experiences and highlight the repression and the situation of the Political Prisoners in their own countries.

"There are currently over one hundred Republican Prisoners held in Irish and British jails, as well as one

Republican as far as Lithuania. While some former comrades claim there is 'no war to finish' the very fact that there are dozens of Prisoners of War held in Portlaoise, Maghaberry and Lithuania belies this claim.

"In early 2010 the Republican Prisoners of War held in Maghaberry jail were forced to go on protest. This protest culminated in the men destroying their cells on Easter Sunday 2010, resulting in severe punishment for the men and consequentially their living conditions worsened. So too did their visiting conditions and contact with their families. The practice of forced full strip-searching is a brutal, degrading practice and the men have refused to co-operate with the prison warders on this issue.

"In August 2010 an Agreement was reached with four independent facilitators, the Stormont Justice Minister and the prison service. But to date this Agreement has not been implemented.

"The Republican prisoners on protest currently are locked-down for 23 hours every day. They are smearing their excrement on the cell walls as part of the protest. Those conditions, combined with the forced full-body strip-searching, lack of fresh air and exercise, lack of stimulation, no education facilities and lack of contact with each other, are very

unhygienic and unhealthy – both physically and mentally.

"Due to the Stormont Agreement in 1998 the Republican Prisoners had lost political status won by the men in the H-Blocks. Yet, you cannot sign away the legitimisation of the Freedom Struggle. Republicans fight for a united, free and democratic-socialist Ireland. Ireland is still divided and as long as this situation remains the Republican Movement will fight against this occupation.

"On behalf of Republican Sinn Féin I want to send greetings to all organisations taking part in today's event. We want to offer you all our support for your political prisoners and we ask you to inform your organisations, comrades, friends and families of the Irish Republican Prisoners of War and their protest in Maghaberry.

"I also want to use this opportunity to thank all supporters of the Republican Prisoners, especially our supporters in France, for all the work they have done for the Political Prisoners.

"Free all Political Prisoners!"

— Dieter Blumenfeld
Cathaoirleach, Sinn Féin Poblachtach Roinn Gnothaí Idirnáisiúnta
PRO Republican Sinn Féin, International Bureau

Easter Statement from the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail

IT is a great honour that we - the Republican POWs here in Maghaberry - have this opportunity once again to address you, the people of Ireland and abroad, on this the 96th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

We, the POWs, extend Easter greetings to our comrades, friends and supporters throughout the world, and would also like to thank RSF and CABHAIR for all the work done on our behalf. We extend special greetings to our families whose support is invaluable.

As you gather at the graves and monuments of Ireland's patriot dead you do so with great courage, unbowed

and unbroken but mindful of the fact that the road ahead has never been harder. But as true Republicans we have never turned our backs on our struggle.

Those of us imprisoned at home and abroad have been so, for our political beliefs. Our belief in the Proclamation of 1916 and all that it entails is steadfast and will remain so. As you are aware we the Republican

POWs commenced protest action coming up on a year now. This decision was not taken lightly and is a direct result of the non-implementation of the Agreement which was signed on August 12, 2010. This agreement was signed by Republican POW's in good faith. It had become clear that the British Government and their relevant departments had no intention of implementing the agreement they signed. Once again the British Government have embarked on a criminalisation policy within this concentration camp against Republicans and as such we had no

alternative but to commence protest action.

We are prisoners of War; we cannot be broken or criminalised and any such attempt to do either will be met with resistance. Our protest will continue until we see the full implementation of the August 12 Agreement.

We thank our families, Republicans and comrades for their renewed and continual support.

We, the Republican POWs, applaud those who took to the streets in protest in our name. Once again we pledge our full support to the Leadership of Óglaigh na hÉireann and

our comrades-in-arms who continue to fight for Irish freedom. We salute you.

We, the POWs, continue to resist all attempts by the NIO to criminalise us and our struggle and with your continued support we are confident of victory. In the words of Liam Lynch "we have declared for a Republic and will live by no other law".

Continuity not compromise.
Tíocfaidh ár lá.

*O/C Republican POWs,
Maghaberry*

1966 statement by relatives of 1916 leader Seán Mac Diarmada

THE following letter was written by the sisters of 1916 leader Seán Mac Diarmada in connection with the Free State commemorations of the Easter Rising in 1966.

"Dear Sir, We the undersigned surviving relatives of the late Seán Mac Diarmada, executed 1916 leader and signatory to the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, wish to register our strongest protest against the action of the Dublin Government in holding a second Commemoration in his home town of Kiltyclogher on Easter Sunday 1966, in the form of a parade a 26-County Army.

"We believe that it is hypocritical for that Government to attempt to do

honour to Seán Mac Diarmada while at the same time announcing a ban on the historic Easter Lily, the Emblem of Easter Week 1916. Seán died for a 32-County Republic which has yet to be achieved. The Forces of the 26-County State raided our home in recent years while engaged in patrolling and maintaining the British-made Border.

"We have made it clear to a Free State Army Officer who called on us some weeks ago that the Commemoration being held by the



• Seán Mac Diarmada

Breifni Branch of the National Graves Association in Kiltyclogher on Easter Sunday afternoon is adequate, and that it is against our wishes that the Free State Army is coming there that morning. We will not attend or be represented at the 26-County Army and FCA parade.

"The Leitrim Roll of Honour is inscribed on the base of the Memorial statue of Seán Mac Diarmada in Kiltyclogher. It includes the names of men killed by the British Crown Forces in 1921; by the Free State Forces 1922-23 as well as the names of JJ Reynolds of Bornacoola, killed near the Border in 1933, and James Crossan of Aughavas, shot dead by the RUC and B-Specials

in 1958.

"That states our position. We are true to the 32-County Republic for which all these Leitrim men, including Seán, died, and we object to Commemoration ceremonies organised by those who have accepted less."

Thanking you
Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Margaret McDermott
(Sister)
(Miss) Rose McDermott (Sister)
(Mrs) K B Kenny (Sister)
Corammore
Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim
April 2, 1966

No action against 26-County police in Shell-to-Sea cases

ON April 24 the 26-County Garda Ombudsman published its report on an incident in which several members of the gardai had been recorded making remarks about women arrested by them said that one policeman should have disciplinary action taken against him.

However, James Gill, the sergeant found to have made remarks about two female protesters arrested at a Shell gas project at Erris, Co Mayo will escape any action because he recently retired.

The Garda Ombudsman said there were no grounds for any criminal case, based on the available evidence, against any of the five Gardai involved in the incident on March 31 last year.

They were investigated for potential criminal offences, under misconduct in public

office laws, after a pocket video camera seized from one of two arrested female demonstrators inadvertently recorded the sergeant afterwards in a patrol car joking about raping them.

The remarks were made public by one of the protesters, Jerrie Ann Sullivan, who was handed back the digital camera after her release. The second woman, believed to be a US citizen, did not wish to be named.

The ombudsman investigation found four rank-and-file gardai involved

confirmed the "rape" remarks were made by Sgt Gill. However, the sergeant exercised his right to silence throughout his questioning and "largely gave a 'no-comment' interview", it was found.

The watchdog has sent a report to Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan, recommending disciplinary proceedings against Garda B.

The Ombudsman said it was not recommending any action against NUI Maynooth academics behind the deletion of some files on the video camera which captured the remarks.

Files were removed from the university-owned device, which had been borrowed by one of the arrested women, before being handed over to the

watchdog because they were confidential and had no bearing on the investigation, academics said.

The Ombudsman had insisted only it could determine that, but later said it was of the view that the main recording of the remarks was not tampered with in any way.

Although one academic was questioned under caution about the incident, the Ombudsman said it has decided not to send any report the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In a statement, NUI Maynooth said it abides by the law, and prioritises the safety and welfare of its staff and students.

"NUI Maynooth abides by the law at all times, it upholds and supports the process of

statutory bodies, and complied fully with its obligations in relation to this investigation," a spokeswoman said.

In around 20 cases where the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission has recommended disciplinary action against members of the force for their roles in policing the Shell-to-Sea protests, none has been acted upon.

The commission has the power to investigate complaints against gardai using two routes.

It can pursue a criminal route, during which alleged criminal wrongdoing can be probed and files sent to the DPP recommending prosecution.

For more minor allegations it goes down the disciplinary route. Gardai alleged to have breached disciplinary

regulations can be investigated, with recommendations sent to the Garda Commissioner that the member be disciplined.

However, under both forms of investigation the commission's powers stop short of being the sanctioning body. It is the DPP who decides if gardai should face charges and the courts that impose sanction.

Under the disciplinary route, it is up to the Garda Commissioner to decide what sanction, if any, will be imposed.

Since the ombudsman commission's inception five years ago, its disciplinary recommendations on gardai policing Corrib have always been ignored by the commissioner.

Riots may be controlled with chemicals

IT was reported on April 9 that future riots in England and the Occupied Six Counties could be quelled by projectiles containing chemical irritants. They would be intended to be accurate at a range of up to 65 metres.

The Discriminating Irritant Projectile (Dip) has been under development by the British Home Office's centre for applied science and technology (Cast) as a potential replacement for plastic bullets.

Documents obtained by the

Guardian revealed that the 2011 summer riots in England provided a major impetus to the British Home Office research into 'new-generation riot control technology'.

The briefing by Cast for the RUC/PSNI said that last year's

disorder sparked a surge of ideas to the Home Office from the public as well as companies manufacturing police technology. To capitalise on the interest, Cast convened a brainstorming event in October which included members of the RUC/PSNI and the London police, the Police Federation, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca) and the Ministry of Defence's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

It is understood that the Dip, would be loaded with CS gas, pepper spray or another irritant.

The Guardian said that the less lethal technology discussed included heat rays and sound weapons. One weapon that particularly interested police officers was something Cast technicians referred to as skunk oil.

The system would involve pellets containing foul-smelling liquids being fired from

weapons similar to paintball guns. Such would be the smell that individuals hit by the pellets would want to go home to change their clothes, while associates would be reluctant to stay close to them.

The Guardian also obtained figures illustrating the extent of recent spending by police forces around the country on the existing generation of plastic bullets, now referred to as attenuating energy projectiles

(AEPs). Many areas have stocked up on plastic bullets spending anything from £19,630 to £76,000 over the last two years or so.

A number of forces, including Merseyside and West Yorkshire, declined to provide information. Merseyside used the Home Office's claim that terrorism remains a "substantial" threat as a reason for not providing the

1916 Easter Commemorations 2012

ULSTER Antrim BELFAST

THE parade assembled at gates of Milltown Cemetery and marched to the Republican Plot. Proceedings were chaired there by Séan Grant.

The 1916 Proclamation was Gerard O'Neill and his daughter said a decade of the Rosary in Irish. The Statement from the Leadership was read by Geraldine Taylor and Kay Davidson read the statement from the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail.

Wreaths were laid of behalf of Óglaigh na hÉireann, by Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast and Republican Movement Belfast.

The main oration was given by Diarmaid Mac Dubhghlais, Dublin.

Armagh

THE 96th Anniversary of the 1916 rising was commemorated in Armagh City on Easter Sunday. The RUC were out in full force in a vain attempt to intimidate republicans from entering the graveyard to commemorate their patriot dead, at all times the RUC were recording the event and those attending.

Proceedings were chaired by Kevin Trainor of the Charlie Agnew Cumann Armagh City who welcomed the crowd and spoke of the importance and the message of the historic proclamation.

Malachy Trainor an ex-blanket man delivered an impassioned recital of the Proclamation to the assembled crowd. This was followed by the laying of wreaths, the first wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican movement by Caoimhe Rafferty, followed by a wreath on behalf of the Charlie Agnew Cumann Armagh City laid by Magda Trainor.

A statement on behalf of the leadership of the Republican Movement was read by local Ard Chomhairle member Cáit Trainor. A statement from the POWs was delivered by Oliver White from Newry to rapturous applause from the crowd. A minute's silence and the dipping of the flags was then observed in proud memory of all those who gave their lives in the pursuit of Irish freedom.

The main oration was delivered by invited Republican Sinn Féin activist Paddy Tidd from Kildare.

Chairman Kevin Trainor brought the occasion to a close by urging all Republicans to continue in their activism and not to be intimidated and demoralised by the obvious state force presence in the graveyard today.

LURGAN

REPUBLICANS assembled in Lurgan on Holy Saturday in the Kilwillkee Estate and marched behind a colour party to the Republican Plot in St Colman's Cemetery for their Easter Commemoration.

The Easter Statement was read, as were the statements from the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons and the Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement. Wreaths were laid and a minute's silence observed for the dipping of the flags. The RUC/PSNI had a large presence and showed large placards warning that those taking part were breaking the law and risked legal action.

The oration was delivered by Republican Sinn Féin National Treasurer Diarmaid Mac Dubhghlais.

Derry

AROUND 60 people gathered in the City Cemetery, Derry city on Easter Sunday. Mickey McGonigle chaired the proceeding and welcomed everyone.

Alice Fleming laid the wreath on behalf of the leadership of the Republican Movement. Damian McGonigle laid a wreath on Séan Keenan's grave. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Geraldine McNamara. The Proclamation was then read followed by the Easter Statement from the Leadership read by Mary Ward. Mickey McGonigle read a statement from the POWs in Maghaberry.

National PRO Geraldine McNamara, Tipperary, gave the main oration.

Wreaths were laid at the grave of Séan Larkin at the Loop by Damian McGonigle

and at the graves of hunger strikers Vols Francis Hughes and Thomas McElwaine in Bellaghy Cemetery. Micky McGonigle laid a wreath at the grave of Dominic and Mary McGlinchey.

In Dungiven Bridie Lynch laid a wreath at the grave of hunger striker Kevin Lynch; Thomas Kealy laid a wreath at the grave of Vol James Kealy; a wreath was laid on the graves of Vols O'Carolan and Kilmartin and Michael Begley laid a wreath at the grave of Tommy Toner.

Donegal

THE county commemoration took place at the Drumboe Martyrs Memorial in Stranorlar on Easter Sunday. Led by a flag-bearer and a band from Scotland, the parade marched to the memorial from Johnson's Corner.

Proceedings were chaired by Joe O'Neill, Bundoran. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Pat Barry, Bundoran and the Roll of Honour by Mary Ward who also read the Statement from the Leadership. The statement from the POWs in Maghaberry was read by Mickey McGonigle, Derry. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Republican Sinn Féin, Donegal Comhairle Ceantair and on behalf of the Republican POWs.

The oration was delivered by National PRO Geraldine McNamara, Tipperary.

Down NEWRY

A LARGE number of Republicans gathered on Easter Sunday at St Mary's Cemetery to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the historic 1916 Easter Rising.

Following the march to the Republican Plot led by a Colour Party, Cathaoirleach Oliver White welcomed all those attending. Wreaths were then laid, on behalf of the Republican Movement by Aislinn Callaghan, and on behalf of the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, by Nicola Larkin. Wreaths were earlier laid on the graves of Joe Conway and of Vol Brendan Watters. Easter greetings from Republican POWs in Maghaberry Prison were read by Damian Mac an Saoir.

The Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was then read by Eddie McKeown, brother of Vol Patrick McKeown. Following a minute's silence and the dipping of the flags by the colour party, Oliver introduced the main speaker, Cáit Trainor from Armagh city.

"The Brits can take note, Republicans will not be bought bribed or bullied, you can never censor the truth and what is right, Republicans have proved time and time again that we can flourish under all circumstances and the attempts to bully and harass us only strengthens our resolve to remove the root cause of all Ireland's woes and that is British occupation."

The crowd then reformed and marched once again to the cemetery gates concluding proceedings.

Fermanagh/Cavan

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin held a well-attended commemoration to Volunteers Pat McManus and James Crossan at Mullan Road, Swanlinbar, Co Cavan on Easter Sunday.

The joint Fermanagh/Cavan commemoration was chaired by Francis Quigley who welcomed fellow Republicans who were opposed to the continuance of two satellite administrations, one in the Six Counties, controlled from Whitehall, London, while the 26 Counties was now controlled from Brussels. Both behaving like inept beggars, looking for handouts.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement. Solidarity greetings were extended to Republican prisoners in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim and Portlaoise jail, Co Laois. Support was expressed for the demands of the POWs on the dirty protest in Maghaberry jail who are seeking political status.

John Joe McCusker delivered the oration.

Monaghan

WREATHS were laid at the grave of

Volunteer Séamus McElwaine and also at the grave of Fearghal Ó hAnluain by Republican Sinn Féin Monaghan.

MUNSTER Clare

DURING Easter Week three wreaths were laid by members of the Keane/Calligan Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, West Clare at the Maid of Honour Monument in Kiltrush. Cumann members also laid wreaths at the grave of Captain Michael McNamara, OC, Doonbeg Company IRA; Comdt Willie Shanahan, murdered by British Forces on December 22, 1920; at the grave of Séan Breen, Kilmihil, murdered on April 18, 1920 and a the grave of Martin Calligan, Kilmurry McMahon.

Cork

ON Easter Sunday Cork Republicans assembled at the Wilton Roundabout and led by a colour party followed by a lone piper and a colour party of Cumann na mBan marched to St Finbarr's Cemetery, Cork.

The Cumann MacCurtáin /MacSwiney banner and the banner of the portraits of the 1981 hunger strikers led



• The parade in Tralee making its way to Rath Cemetery.

the body of the general public as they made their way to the Republican Plot where more supporters waited for commencement of the commemoration.

The Cathaoirleach, Donal Varian opened the proceedings with the laying of wreaths. Lucy O'Leary laid the Cumann na mBan wreath; the Republican Sinn Féin wreath was laid by Noreen Varian; the Republican Prisoners' wreath was laid by Alfie McAvoy and the Republican Movement wreath was laid by the speaker, Emmett Walsh. A decade of the Rosary was given, as Gaeilge, by Kathleen Ahern. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded and the piper, Norman O'Rourke played the Lament.

The Easter Statement on behalf of the Republican Movement was read by Alfie McAvoy followed by the Easter Statement on behalf of the Republican Prisoners read by Séan McCarthy, which was received with applause.

The theme of the oration by Emmett Walsh was based on the history of betrayal of Republicanism to the present day.

The Commemoration closed with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by piper Norman O'Rourke.

Kerry

BANNA STRAND

ON Good Friday, members of Sinn Féin Poblahtach Kerry assembled at the Casement Memorial, Banna Strand, where a wreath of fresh lilies was laid to the memory of Rodger Casement, executed for his part in the 1916 Rising by the British Government, by Ger Kelliher, Tralee. Stephen Brosnan, Tralee read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic and that was followed by the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement, read by Brian Smullen.

CASTLEISLAND

ON Holy Saturday members of Republican Sinn Féin assembled at the cemetery gate in Castleisland and walked the short distance to the Republican Plot where a wreath was laid in memory of all those who gave their lives for the cause of Irish Freedom by Eamon Breen, Castleisland. The ceremony ended with a minute's silence in memory of the 1916 Martyrs.

CAHERSIVEEN

ON Easter Sunday the members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin Kerry assembled at the Republican monument at the town square.

The commemoration was chaired by Pádraig Ó Gairbhí, he welcomed everyone in attendance. He called on Tom Sullivan, Cahersiveen to lay a wreath to the memory of all those who gave their lives for the cause of Irish Freedom. The piper played a lament in memory of all those who died for Ireland.

A decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge was recited by Pádraig Ó Gairbhí and a minute's silence was observed in memory of the men and women of the 1916 Rising. The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was read by Jim O'Shea, Cahersiveen.

Joe O'Sullivan, Cahersiveen read the statement from the POWs in Maghaberry Prison, Co. Antrim, and that was followed by the reading of the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement, by Mike O'Neill, nephew of Republican martyr Maurice O'Neill executed by the Free State regime in 1942.

The Chairperson then called on Brian Smullen, Tralee, to deliver the main oration.

TRALEE

on behalf of the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry Prisons.

John Mangan, Chairperson of Republican Sinn Féin Kerry recited a decade of the Rosary, as Gaeilge and this was followed by Stephen Brosnan, Tralee reading the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

The Chairperson thanked those in attendance and the proceeding ended with a minute's silence been observed in memory of the men and women of the 1916 Rising.

Limerick

A WREATH-laying ceremony was held at the Republican Plot in Mount St Laurence's Cemetery on Easter Monday.

Tipperary NENAGH

DONAL Malone chaired the annual Easter Commemoration at the Nenagh Memorial. The Proclamation was read by Mait Ó Brádaigh, Galway; the Roll of Honour by Liam Ó Broin, Toomevara, and a wreath laid by Michael Nolan, Roscrea. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Tess Maloney (Moten). The statement from the Leadership was read by Donal Malone, who closed proceedings by thanking all those who attended.

ROSCREA

WREATHS were laid by Michael Nolan at Joe Mangan's grave and at the Memorial to Russell, Burke O'Shea and McNamara at the old prison wall in Roscrea.

Waterford

A wreath was laid in Waterford city at the statue in memory of all those who died for Ireland by Micheál Óg Ó Fiach.

Carlow

THERE was a good local turnout at the Carlow commemoration on Easter Sunday which took place in the Republican Plot in St Mary's Cemetery, Carlow town. The Proclamation was read by Jimmy Corcoran and the Statement from the Leadership was read by Donal O'Connor. A wreath was laid and a decade of the Rosary recited.

Dublin

DEANSGRANGE

ON Easter Sunday Republican Sinn Féin assembled at the gates of Deansgrange Cemetery. Led by the Tricolour carried by Maurice Isacson they marched to the Republican Plot. Andy Connolly, Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Átha Cliath chaired the proceedings and welcomed all present.

Pádraig Ennis read the Proclamation, Eoin Mooney read the Statement from the Leadership and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Movement by Andrew Fitzpatrick. Peig Galligan spoke on behalf of the National Graves Association.

A minute's silence was observed for the dipping of the flag. Séan Ó Sé gave a stirring oration. A very heavy and aggressive Special Branch presence monitored the proceedings and demanded everyone's name and address. Despite this harassment the Commemoration went ahead and will continued to be held annually.

GPO, DUBLIN

A VERY impressive colour party, as well as members of Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann, led those assembled from the Garden of Remembrance to the GPO on Dublin's O'Connell Street for the Sinn Féin Poblahtach main Easter commemoration on Easter Monday.

Andy Connolly chaired the proceedings. The Proclamation was read by Róisín Hayden; the statement from the POWs in Maghaberry by Lita Ni Chathmhaoil, Ard-Rúnaí and Pádraig Ennis read the Easter statement. A laurel wreath was laid by Margaret Mullen and a minute's silence was observed for the dipping of the flags.

The oration was delivered by Ard Chomhairle member Tomás Ó Cléirigh.

Easter Rising commemorated in Ireland



• Celia Conway, Peig King and Josephine Hayden at the Easter Commemoration in Dublin on Easter Monday.



• A section of the crowd at the Easter Commemoration at the GPO in Dublin on Easter Monday.



• The colour party leads Monday.



• The colour party entering St Finbar's Cemetery, Cork on their way to the Republican Plot on Easter Sunday.



• Pat Barry laid a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance in Bundoran on Easter Monday.



• Phyllis Cullen laid a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance in Bundoran.



• Led by a colour party at the presence of the RUC/PSNI.



• Pat Barry, along with the band and the piper at the Drumboe commemoration in Stranorlar, Co Donegal on April 8.



• Mary Ward, pictured here with Micky McGonigle, read the Statement from the Leadership at the commemoration in Derry's City Cemetery on Easter Sunday.



• Micheál Óg Ó Fiaich laid a wreath at the Quay, Waterford on Holy Saturday.



• Members of Na Fianna Éireann at the GPO commemoration.



• Brendan Madden, Galway, laying a wreath at the East Mayo Brigade Memorial on Easter Monday.



• Tomás Ó Curraoin gave the oration at Kilkenny, Co Mayo.



• Joe O'Neill chaired the commemoration at the Drumboe Martyrs Memorial, Stranorlar, Co Donegal.



• Led by flag-bearer Brian leading a march to Donaghpatrick commemoration.

Ireland, England, Scotland and the US



the parade in Wexford on Easter



• Republicans at the Fenian Monument, Ford Cemetery, Liverpool held a commemoration on Easter Sunday, organised by the John Whelan Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin.



• The colour party at the GPO, Dublin on Easter



urgan Republicans marched to St
ly Saturday, regardless of heavy



• The Easter Commemoration at Sandyhill Cemetery, Armagh, on Easter Sunday.



• Tomás Ó Cléirigh delivered the oration at the GPO, Dublin on Easter Monday.



• Cáit Trainor delivering the oration at St Mary Newry on Easter Sunday.



Éireann at the Easter
O, Dublin.



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin held a commemoration in Glasgow Cemetery on Easter Sunday.



• Walter Dunphy laid a wreath in Rathcieran Cemetery, Co Kilkenny.



• Éamonn Breen, Castleisland reading the list of the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail in Trillick on Easter Sunday. Eugene Dean is on the left.



Kilcommins, Galway Republicans
at the County Graveyard for the County



• Chris Kilcommins at the commemoration at Oughterard, Co Galway.



• The colour party at Newry on Easter Sunday.



• A wreath was laid at the Republican Plot in Kerry on Easter Monday.

1916 Easter Commemorations 2012

Cont. from page 9.

Offaly

WREATHS were laid at Republican monuments throughout the county.

Kildare/West Wicklow
REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin in Kildare held their annual 1916 commemoration at the grave of Martin O'Brien in St Corban's cemetery in Naas at 12 Noon on Easter Sunday.

The 1916 Proclamation as well as the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement along with statements from the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise Prisons were also read. A decade of the rosary was recited as Gaelige.

The oration was delivered by Republican Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Matt Conway.

Wreaths were also placed in Kildare town; Blessington; Naas; Old Kilcullen; Newbridge; Milltown; Ballymore; Hollywood/West Wicklow; Straffan; Moon; Allen and Dunlavin, West Wicklow.

Kilkenny

WREATHS were also laid in Rathcieran Graveyard, Mooncoin on the grave of Walter Dunphy. Watty Dunphy, Walter's son, laid the wreath with Mick Hunt reading the Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement.

Laois

WREATHS were laid on the graves of William O'Connor and James Lacey, Barrowhouse Cemetery; grave of Denis O'Dwyer, Wolfhill cemetery, the Republican Plot, Portlaoise and 1798 Monument, Portlaurington.

Longford

REPUBLICANS assembled at Ballymaccork Cemetery, outside Longford town to remember Henry Hughes, a native of Longford town, a Gaeligeoir, a strong advocate of Irish language and culture and a member of Longford Urban Council and Patrick McKeown, also from Longford town, died on February 23, 1922 as a result of ill-treatment meted out to him in Ballykinlar Concentration Camp in Co Down. T]

The proceedings were chaired by Seán Lynch who also read the Easter Statement from the Leadership and the statement from the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail. Mary Casey Tully recited a decade of the Rosary. The flag-bearer was Bernard Casey and the Roll of Honour was read by Paddy Dolan. Stephen Fulham and Peter Quinn laid wreaths and Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Rúnaí Lita Ní Chathmhaoil gave the oration.

Louth

DUNDALK

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin members and supporters assembled at the gates St Patrick's Cemetery and walked behind Fiachra Taffee, who carried the Tricolour, to the Republican Plot. The proceedings were chaired by Francis Hanratty and May Breatnach read the 1916 Proclamation. A wreath was laid by Seán Collins on behalf of the Republican Movement. Séamus 'Stan' Clarke read the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Meath

ON Easter Sunday wreath-laying ceremonies took place at the grave of Séamus Fox, Drumree; at the grave of Niall Fagan, Summerhill and at Ballinlough Cemetery, Kells. On Easter Monday a wreath-laying ceremony took place in Ardbracken Cemetery at the grave of Vol George McDermott.

Westmeath

AROUND 30 Republicans from around Athlone and Westmeath gathered behind the national flag at Cornamagh Cemetery on Easter Sunday for the march to the grave of the late IRA Volunteer, Captain Thomas Hughes.

The event was chaired by local Republican Ciarán Dolan who also read the 1916 Proclamation. The Roll of Honour

was read by Seosamh Ó Maoileoin, Westmeath and the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Tommy Morris from the Athlone side of Roscommon.

The POWs being held captive in Maghaberry Jail released a statement which was read by the chair during the course of the event. The oration on the day was delivered by Republican Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member from Dublin, Róisín Hayden."

Earlier in the day the Seán Costello/Martin Hurson Cumann, Athlone held wreath-laying ceremonies at the Memorial Cross, Moate at 10am; the Toby Mannion Memorial Cross, Hill of Berries, Athlone 11.45am; the Memorial to the Athlone Brigade, 12 noon and the Republican Plot, Cornamagh Cemetery, 4.30pm at the grave of Teresa Melinn, Cumann na mBan veteran.

The Séamus Ó Dálaigh Cumann, Kilbeggan laid wreaths at the Republican Plot, Kilbeggan; the Republican Plot, Meelin and the grave of James Daly, Tyrellspass.

Wexford

ENNISCORTHY

OVER the Easter weekend the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Enniscorthy laid wreaths at the following memorials: the Rafter Monument; the Athenaeum, IRA HQ and the last to surrender in 1916; the grave of Charlie Farrell, Fenian and the grave of George Keegan, Edentubber Martyr and the at the GPO, Enniscorthy. On Easter Sunday we laid a wreath on the Republican Plot in Crosstown Cemetery, Wexford.

WEXFORD TOWN

THE annual Easter commemoration in Wexford was held on Easter Sunday. Republicans gathered at 3pm in the old Dúnnes' car park in the town and, headed by a colour party, marched up along the quay and through the historic Bullring in the centre of the town and along the main street eventually reaching the spot where proceedings started.

A bus then took those who wished to the Republican Plot in Crosstown Cemetery where the second part of the commemoration was held. Mick Hunt of the local Cumann chaired the proceedings and said that earlier on that day wreaths were laid at the graves of Paddy Parle, Matthew Furlong, Matthew Moran, John Leacy, Jack Dunne and Billy Phillips, all who are buried in Crosstown, and also at the Kyle cross memorial and at the commemorative plaque for Nicky Barnes in the Old Jail.

Mick then called on Brian Quinn who read the 1916 Proclamation. PJ Kelly was then called upon to read the Wexford Roll of Honour. Wreaths were then laid on the Republican Plot by Tom Malone; on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association; James Kinsella on behalf of Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearraill and Kevin Kavanagh on behalf of Cumann Mellows/Rafter of Enniscorthy.

Joss Kavanagh read the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement, followed by a minute's silence and a lament played by a piper. Jimmy Kavanagh gave the main oration."

The commemoration ended with the piper playing Amhrán na bhFiann.

CONNACHT

Galway

DOUGHTERARD

ON Holy Saturday Republicans in Galway gathered at the Republican plot in Doughterard cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony.

The event was chaired by Chris Kilcommins. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaelige by Seán Mac an Iomaire followed by a minute's silence in memory of those who died for Irish freedom. A wreath was then laid by Jerry Fahy on behalf of Galway Republicans."

GALWAY CITY

A LARGE crowd gathered at Galway Cathedral on Easter Sunday for the annual

Easter commemoration. After assembling at the Cathedral the crowd paraded behind a piper and the Tricolour as far as the Liam Mellows Memorial in Eyre Square.

The commemoration was chaired by Chris Kilcommins who welcome everyone to the event and began by reading the 1916 Proclamation.

Tomas Ó Curraoin read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Seán Mac an Iomaire recited a decade of the Rosary followed by a minutes' silence in memory of those who gave their lives for Irish freedom.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Jimmy Murphy from Claregalway. The main speaker for the commemoration was Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton.

HEADFORD

ON Easter Sunday Republicans from all over Co Galway and Mayo gathered at Quailly's cross in Caherlistrane to take part in the Galway county Easter commemoration. The assembled crowd then paraded behind the tricolour and a piper to the graveyard at Donaghpatrick.

The commemoration was chaired by Brendan Madden. The chairperson called on Seán Mac an Iomaire recited a decade of the rosary. The Proclamation was read by Dan Hoban from Mayo. The Galway Roll of Honour was read by John Clarke. Tomás Ó Curraoin read the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement.

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Dr Seán Maguire, on behalf of Cumann na mBan by Maureen Madden, on behalf of the Tuam Martyrs by Mary Gormley, on behalf of Galway Republicans by Bert Moran and on behalf of Mayo Republicans by Pearse Murray.

Brendan then called on the main speaker for the commemoration, the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton to give the oration.

Leitrim

THE annual Easter 1916 commemoration ceremony, sponsored by the Co Leitrim Commemoration Committee, was held in Drumshanbo Cemetery on Holy Saturday at the graves of Staff-Captain Seán Mac Glynn and Captain Jim Vaughn.

MC was Micheál Mac Donagh, Drumshanbo. Wreaths were laid by Jim MacCormack, nephew of Jim Vaughn on behalf of relatives and John McGrath, Drumshanbo on behalf of the Republican Movement.

A decade of the Rosary in Irish was recited by Séamus MacGowan, Tullaghan and Thomas Kelly, Kinlough read the Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic, 1916.

Also on Easter Sunday, in North Leitrim, a wreath was laid at the Phil Gilgunn monument in Manorhamilton. Other wreath-laying ceremonies took place on the day at the graves of Jack McCabe Rossinver and Declan Curneen, Glenade at which family members participated.

Mayo

ON Easter Monday Republicans from Mayo and Galway gathered outside of the church in Kilkelly to take part in the Mayo Easter commemoration.

Those gathered then paraded behind a piper and the Tricolour as far as the East Mayo Brigade memorial on the main Sligo-Galway road. The commemoration was chaired by Dan Hoban who started by asking Dr Seán Maguire to recite a decade of the rosary. Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Peadar Murray, on behalf of Cumann na mBan by Geraldine McNamara of Tipperary, on behalf of Galway Republicans by Brendan Madden, on behalf of Dámy O'Neill by his nephew Donald O'Neill and on behalf of the men of the East Mayo Brigade by Patricia Marvin.

Chris Kilcommins then read the Proclamation. Dan Hoban read the Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement and Paddy Reilly read the Roll of Honour. Dan then

introduced the main speaker for the event Republican Sinn Féin, Galway county councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin to give the main oration.

Roscommon

AS part of its preparations for the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916, due in 2016, the Co Roscommon IRA Commemoration Committee held its annual ceremonies at three venues throughout the county on Easter Sunday.

Following Mass in Elphin, a parade took place to the Co Roscommon IRA Memorial at Shankill Cross. Dermot Mullooly, Strokestown recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish and read the Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic 1916. Frank O'Dowd, Cortober read the 41 names on the County Roll of Honour. Seán Fitzmaurice, Kilmore and Micheál Mac Donagh, laid wreaths.

At the Republican Memorial in Ballinlough at 12 noon, Joe Murphy presided and Michael Foley, Clonfower read the 1916 Proclamation. Tommy Freeman, Lisacul, laid a wreath and Séamus Caulfield read the Roll of Honour. Stephen Isaacs read the Statement from



• The banner of Cumann Mac Curtáin/Mac Suibhne at Cork.

the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

At the county commemoration in the afternoon in Castlereagh, wreaths were laid on the graves of John Vaughan, Cloonsuck, by Delia Vaughan (niece) and Seán Vaughan (nephew); on the grave of Patrick Conry, Tarmon by Michael Foley, Clonfower and on that of Patrick Flynn, Tarmon by Paddy Kelly, Tarmon.

All three unarmed men were taken from their houses by Black-and-Tans in the dead of night and shot. The houses were then wrecked or set on fire.

Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, Roscommon recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish for the repose of their souls and all those who died for Ireland.

A parade then formed up and led by a colour party and the Raheen Pipe Band marched through the town to the Church of Ireland Cemetery. En route, it paused for a minute's silence at the Fr Michael O'Flanagan Bridge, named in honour of the Co Roscommon patriot priest.

At the grave of James Monds, Southpark, Joe Murphy, Ballinlough presided. James Monds, a father of six children, a Protestant and an agitator for land division, was likewise taken from his house by Black-and-Tans in 1921, on the same night as his neighbour Patrick Conry, and was found shot dead by the roadside next morning.

His grandson, Tommy Hanley of Tarmon, laid a wreath on his grave. Patsy Haugh, bugler, Castlereagh, sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Tommy Geraghty, Athleague, read the 1916 Proclamation and Frank O'Dowd read the Roll of Honour. Henry Owens, Strokestown, read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin Fergal Moore, Monaghan, then delivered an oration.

Sligo

ON Easter Sunday, Republicans assembled at the gates of Sligo Cemetery and proceeded to the Republican Plot where a wreath-laying ceremony was held. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A decade of the Rosary was recited. The

Roll of Honour, the 1916 Proclamation and the Statement were read.

Earlier in the day graveside ceremonies were held at the graves of Kevin Coen, Seán McGoldrick and Thomas Sheerin in Sooley Cemetery; of Eamon Healy and Joseph McManus in Sligo Cemetery.

ENGLAND

LIVERPOOL

REPUBLICANS gathered at the Fenian Monument in Ford Cemetery, Liverpool on Easter Sunday to celebrate the Easter Rising 1916 and to commemorate all those who gave given their lives for Irish freedom, before, during and since that time. The monument was the only one in England dedicated to the Fenians. The commemoration was organised by the local John Whelan Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin.

Pat McDonnell welcomed all those who attended, braving the elements and a potential threat from the English Defence League. And invited Donnchadh Aghas to read the Proclamation, which he did in his usual powerful and ebullient fashion. Wesley Cunliffe then laid a wreath at the foot of the monument before Michael Logan read out the Easter Statement.

LONDON

THE annual Easter Commemoration took place in Willsden Cemetery, North London Cemetery at the grave of June O'Connor. Proceedings were chaired by Seán Holohan who read the Statement from the Leadership and the statement from the POWs was read. Michael Kennedy read the 1916 Proclamation.

Seán introduced John O'Connor, Ard-Cisteoir, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, who traveled to London for the Commemoration, to give the oration.

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin in Scotland held their annual 1916 commemoration at the Republican Plot in Glasgow Cemetery on Easter Sunday.

The 1916 Proclamation, the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement and a statement from the POWs in Maghaberry prison were read to those assembled.

Also read to those assembled was the Roll of Honour-Scotland and the poem *The Rhythm of Time* by Bobby Sands.

A bouquet of flowers was laid by a member of the Dumbarton Cumann.

The Chairman of Republican Sinn Féin Dumbarton gave the oration.

USA

NEW YORK

MEMBERS of Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta a were joined by Republican supporters from throughout the Tri-State area at Woodlawn Cemetery for Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta annual Easter Commemoration.

The assembled crowd was blessed with a remarkably mild day, allowing the piper's music to resonate throughout the gathering. Jane Enright, NIFC Chairperson, was emcee. Seosamh Ó Flathartaigh read the Easter Statement from the Republican Movement in America, and Pat Williams read the Easter Statement from the Republican Movement in Ireland.

As the event closed, Liam Ó Murchadha gave a heartfelt tribute to our recently fallen Fenian great, Brian T. Mór Ó Baoighill and a wreath was laid upon the grave of Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta co-founder Joseph Stynes by Jane Enright.

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE

IN Melbourne, copies of the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement were distributed at an Easter Commemoration by

'The centenary of 1916 has real relevance for the Ireland of today'

A VERY successful seminar entitled *Who Fears to Speak of Easter Week?* was held in the Ireland Institute, Pearse Street, Dublin on Saturday May 21, organised by Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Galway Co Councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin and Mary Ward, Donegal co-chaired the seminar which was attended by over 70 people.

The day began with a reading of the Proclamation by Mick Hunt, followed by a reading of *Who Fears to Speak of Easter Week?* by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Andy Connolly sang *James Connolly and Arbour Hill* followed by Maurice Isaacson who sang *Padraig Pearse*. Cris Ni Choistealbhá recited *Mise Éire* while the music played in the background.

Eoin Mooney read an excerpt from Thomas J Clarke's *Glimpses of an Irish Felon's Prison Life* and Andy sang *Banna Strand*.

After a short break renowned historian Ruán O'Donnell, (author of many books on Irish history the most recent the first of his three volume study of Irish Republican prisoners in English jails from 1968 to 1998) opened the proceedings with a wonderful lecture [part of which is carried here] beginning with the importance and significance of the Proclamation as a document which embraced all faiths and traditions and espoused equality for all; an amazing document of its time. He then continued:

"The forthcoming decade of centenaries promises a sequence of events in which the Irish Establishment's hierarchy of endorsement can be clearly viewed. There are signs that the key year, 1916, will witness endeavours to reduce the status of the Easter Rising in the popular consciousness.

"Advocates of this approach have long since pointed to the state supported 50th anniversary and some aver, contrary to the basic facts, that the tenor of events was at least a catalyst in the outbreak of the Long War in 1968-9.

"Those who quite reasonably contend that the events of the Great War require more publicity and reflection in Modern Ireland are unlikely to be satisfied if formal observances of the 1916 Somme catastrophe are merely given parity with the Rising.

"In all probability, issues of scale will apply, in which the actions of the Volunteers in Ireland must be diminished in comparison. The political need to placate powerful elements in the North-East, however understandable, has already ensured the prioritisation of the Somme, in which the reorganised UVF featured, ahead of the equally devastating experience of more generic Irish units destroyed in Suvla Bay in 1915.

"Commemorations of the Great War, if usually solemn in tone, are generally delivered in contexts in which imperialism is by no means identified as one of the main factors of causation. Few would welcome arguments that the Rising in Ireland and slaughter on the Western Front were both inspired by



• Ruán O'Donnell



• Des Dalton



• Ruairí Óg Ó Brádaigh

imperialist folly.

"The destruction of the Third Home Rule Bill marked the defeat of Redmondism in its constitutional format and it should be noted that those who had backed the ballot until that point in time turned their voting strength to Sinn Féin in December 1918 when the Republican separatist manifesto was emphatically endorsed.

"It is not encouraging that proposals to effectively destroy history as an academic subject are still on the table as a supposed 'reform'. Whatever the faults of the existing curriculum, no country can hope to prosper on the basis that its citizenry are ignorant of the dynamics that shaped their political, social and cultural character.

"Hopefully, the country will experience a coherent and inclusive series of commemorations and celebrations in which the integrity of actual historical forces are respected."

After some Q&A the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton made his contribution.

"Each year Irish Republicans both in Ireland and abroad have commemorated 1916 without fail. The 26-County State on the other hand has alternated between ignoring the anniversary and banning any commemoration of it. 1916 commemorations throughout the



• (left to right) Des Dalton, Mary Ward, Tomás Ó Curraoin, Ruán O'Donnell and Pat Waters who performed two of the songs from his CD *The Signatories Easter 1916*.



• A section of the packed attendance.



• Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Dr Seán Maguire at the seminar.

26 Counties were banned by the Dublin administration in 1937.

"In 1966 Republicans were baton-charged in Dublin by the 26-County police. In 1976 Republicans were prosecuted — including Fiona Plunkett sister of Joseph Mary Plunkett — and some jailed for their participation in a banned commemoration at the GPO.

"For forty years the 26-County administration ignored the anniversary of 1916 but since 2006 it has opportunistically seized on it in order to sell the big lie that history has come to an end and British rule in Ireland is now accepted.

"This is the crux of the issue, 1916 is not merely an historical event which can be taken down from the shelf every few years and dusted off like some neglected family heirloom, admired and then conveniently shelved again for another generation or two. It is an event which still speaks to the Ireland of the 21st Century.

"It is this fact which most unsettles the chattering classes in Leinster House and elsewhere. The speech by Stormont First Minister Peter Robinson marking the centenary of the signing of 'Solemn League and Covenant' in 1912 in the 26-County Department of Foreign Affairs on March 30, is the first step in a campaign to

exchange of ideas and as a result a mood of disenchantment quickly set in."

"The role of historians such as Ruán O'Donnell will be vital in the coming years in the battle to ensure a new generation is not robbed of their history or collective memory as a nation.

"Over the next four years the centenaries of the founding of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan will be marked. Next year we will remember with pride the heroic 1913 Lockout. Therein is a message to the trade union leadership of today — a stark reminder of how far removed they are from the founding ideals of the trade union movement at precisely the moment when a vibrant and radical trade union movement is most required.

"Other anniversaries including the landing of the arms off the *Asgard* in 1914 and Pearse's oration at the grave of O'Donovan Rossa act as milestones on the road to the centenary of the Rising.

"Irish Republicans unapologetically declare that 1916 will remain unfinished business while Ireland's historic right to nationhood continues to be denied by either the old imperialism of British occupation or the new imperialism of the EU and IMF.

"This is the unpalatable truth that the establishment most fear in the message of 1916 and it is what gives 1916 its continued relevance for a new risen generation. 1916 remains unfinished business while Britain holds any part of Ireland.

"The message of 1916 could not be clearer; 'Ireland unfree shall never be at peace'. "Starting today let us embark on a commemorative journey that rekindles the fires of revolution; political, social and economic, ideals and ideas which inspired the revolutionary generation of 1913-23. Let us proclaim to all that we still believe in the 'The right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland.'"

In his talk, '1916: the prophetic shock-minority' SAOIRSE editor Ruairí Óg Ó Brádaigh said the term was coined by Jacques Maritain, the French philosopher and a prominent drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

"The term prophetic shock-minority can clearly be used to explain the motivation and actions of the men and women of Easter Week 1916. Maritain calls them the 'inspired servants or prophets of the people' who act as a 'dynamic leaven or energy' fostering political movement.

"They are not necessarily elected representatives and are needed in the normal functioning of a democratic society, especially in periods of crisis, birth or basic renewal.

"In his book *Man and the State* (1954) Maritain lists examples of prophetic shock-minorities, including 'the liberators of Ireland', the originators of the French Revolution and the authors of the American Constitution, John Brown who was convinced he had a divine commission to destroy slavery by the force of arms, and who captured the

arsenal of Harper's Ferry, to be hanged some months later in December 1859;

John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave, But his soul goes marching on.

"He also includes Gandhi and the pioneers of trade unionism and the labour movement.

Their primary work is 'to awaken the people to something better than everyone's daily business, to the sense of a supra-individual task to be performed', something that Irish Republicans, faced with the task of leading resistance to British rule in this country in 2012, can readily identify themselves with.

"This is the same role as identified by the late Dáithí Ó Conaill of Cork, Republican leader and author of *ÉIRE NUA* - A New Ireland, who said Irish Republicans were 'catalysts': they caused change to happen.

"Maritain said that 'only the fact, the event can decide whether a prophetic shock-minority was right or wrong in offering itself as the personification of the people, but the only thing which can make that a success is the free approval by the people, as soon as the people can express their will'.

"In the aftermath of the 1916 Rising the free approval of the people was provided in the December 1918 All-Ireland election, when a majority of Sinn Féin candidates, going forward to secure the Irish Republic of all 32 counties, were returned."

"Maritain also warned of false prophets, of which Irish history is unfortunately full, and of how easy it is to slip from genuine inspiration to a corrupt one:

"We know that 'optimi corruptio pessima, corruption of what is best is what is worst'.

"In the Irish context those who corrupted the best of the Irish people since 1916 are the British leaders and their Irish collaborators, those who sold out the All-Ireland Republic from the Free Staters of 1922 to the Provisionals in 1986 and up to the present day."

Questions from the floor were answered by all three speakers.

Fergal Moore, Vice President read *Padraig Pearse's address at the grave of O'Donovan Rossa*; Thomas MacDonagh's address to his court-martial was read by Paddy Tidd; Martin Heffernan read *A lament for Tomas McDonagh* (Francis Ledwidge); Róisín Hayden read *The Rebel* (Padraig Pearse); Seán Dolan read *Easter 1916* (WB Yeats);

Cait Trainor read A speech from *James Connolly*; Josephine Hayden read quotations from *Séan MacDiarmada*; Shane Barnes read *The Rose Tree* (WB Yeats); Peig King read *This heritage to the race of kings* (Joseph Plunkett) and Lita Ni Chathmhaoil read *The Ghost of Roger Casement*, (WB Yeats).

Interspersed with the reading were some songs from Pat Waters who wrote *The Signatories Easter 1916*, seven songs for the seven signatories to the Proclamation, which are available on CD.

Apology Needed From Boris Johnston

A chara

We delayed commenting on Boris Johnston's remarks regarding the St Patrick's Day banquet because we wanted to see what feedback came from the Irish community here in London. Indeed the feedback is very poor.

Why do we allow such insulting remarks to pass without making a formal protest? We seem to take all those insults on the chin instead of standing up for ourselves and out country. Johnston's remarks are also very hurtful to Irish Republicans.

St Patrick's Day is celebrated in the world. Its banquets and culture are promoted around March 17. Isn't it ironic that Johnston's country has no national day of celebration, which speaks for itself.

If he made those remarks about the Notting Hill Carnival or any other ethnic celebrations he would be in serious trouble. Johnston's kind seems to think that they can say what they like. We are sure that more think the same only to keep it to themselves. Does he not know we Irish built most of the London. If Johnston had brains he would be dangerous. The trouble is his mouth is in the proper position but his brains are in his trousers. As an old Irish saying goes, 'sure, he's an auld gobs'.

The *Irish World* is seeking an apology from him. There seems little point as it would not be genuine. Just stand up for yourselves and your country as true Republicans with any pride should do.

PRO

Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann
Republican Sinn Féin
London

Tara Group Calls for Resignation

A chara

During a recent meeting in the Interpretive Centre on the Hill of Tara regarding the proposed Tara Conservation Plan being put in place for the 100 acres of State-owned lands on the Hill, it emerged that a representative for Meath County Council Steering Committee overseeing the Conservation Plan, is none other than Tommy Reilly who famously said on the

Pat Kenny show (and quoted afterwards on Prime Time) that discoveries at Tara amounted to nothing more than "pots and pans".

The Tara/Skryne Preservation Group stand utterly appalled that such a person who displays what could only be regarded as contempt for the archaeological discoveries, should be elected onto this committee. This follows the January Council meeting in Navan at which delegates from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as well as the Heritage Council outlined the commissioning of the plan. This same Tommy "Pots and Pans" Reilly was earlier mixed up in the Frank Dunlop controversy regarding the purchase of lands within the Tara Skryne Landscape and which created such a scandal that it lost him his chance to run in the 2005 by-election.

TSPG calls for the immediate resignation from his post within the Meath County Council Steering Committee for the Tara Conservation Plan, thus avoiding any further public outrage and embarrassment to the archaeological community and to those who take the conservation of our historical monuments seriously.

TSPG would also like to take this opportunity to remind Tara Skryne locals that this same Councillor also publicly vowed to shoot down the Draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area Plan even before it got to submission stage. This same plan, had it been put in place without the needless fear-mongering by a variety of Councillors and a TD, would have ensured that no inappropriate development such as that being proposed near Garlow Cross (Planning Ref na120218) which includes two 70ft Digester Towers would ever have even been proposed.

CARMEL DIVINEY

Secretary
Tara Skryne Preservation Group

The Butcher's Apron

A chara

I am an Irish Republican who detests Australia's colonial flag because of the Union Jack (the Butcher's Apron) in the corner and I am not leaving. There are hundreds of thousands of people born in Australia who detest the Jack in the flag and THEY are not leaving, so why should I? Anyway, true Irish Republicans don't run away from evil; they stand their ground and wage war on it until the evil is eradicated.



• The historic Hill of Tara (see letter on left).

The Union Jack – irrespective of what flag it appears in – is an emblem of evil. The Union Jack is an emblem of the butchering British Empire that was built on blood and desolation. The Union Jack is the emblem of those who butchered and mutilated Ireland! Any Irish person – be they clergy, politician, footballer or otherwise – who wants the colonial flag on their coffin, and any member of an Irish organisation that fly and flaunt the colonial flag on Irish property in Australia are spitting on the graves of Ireland's patriot dead, and spitting on the graves of hundreds of thousands of Irish people butchered and brutalised over the centuries by the evil anti-Christ – Masonic British Crown murder machine!

To fly the colonial flag in Irish societies is spitting on the graves of the Irish butchered by the British Black-and-Tans in Croke Park; the graves of those Irish massacred in Derry city by British paratroopers; the grave of 12-year-old Majella O'Hare on her way to confession in Co Armagh; the graves of Bobby Sands and his gallant comrades; and, of course, the graves of those heroic Irish men and others massacred by British troops at Eureka Stockade in Ballarat. It is well to remember that the Butcher's Apron in the colonial flag is also the emblem of those British aristocrats and other agents of the British Crown who engineer the throwing of pipe bombs at five-year-old Catholic school children on their way to school in Belfast.

I often dread that the handful of stalwarts of GAA Park in Keysborough, Melbourne – who have wrapped themselves in the Butcher's Apron and who participate in and attend the

Easter Week commemoration in Carleton Cemetery – might insult our patriot dead by flying and flaunting the Butcher's Apron colonial flag on the grave of Seán MacSwiney!

If they have the urge to do it on Irish property somewhere, they may have the urge to do it at Irish undertakings everywhere.

Flying and flaunting the colonial flag of Oz on Irish properties in Oz, and at Irish events, is giving aid and comfort to the powers that be in Australia who support the butchery of the Irish by Australia's Queen. This is demonstrated by the fact that not one politician in the Federal Parliament has introduced a Private Members' Bill to have Australians apprehended when in Australia and put on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ireland and Britain.

Speaking in New York after the Derry Massacre, Dr Patrick Hillery – who later became President of the British-created Irish semi-free state – said: "What England is doing in Ireland is an affront to justice. If she gets away with it, there is no justice." England is still getting away with it.

Those who fly, flaunt and eulogise Australia's colonial flag should come to the realisation that the flag is the emblem of an inferior people! Who said a gross, insulting think like that? The person who said THAT should leave! No, Australia's Queen did not say that in words but said it by her actions when she sanctioned and signed with a pen and ink the Act of the British parliament that relegated her Oz subjects to inferior and foreigner status in England – the first head of state in world history to have relegated her subjects in such a fashion!

During World War II, the

British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, with the acquiescence of King George (father of Australia's Queen), said that "Australia was dispensable" and that Australians were "an inferior people" with "poor nerves" led by a Prime Minister who was a "wretched and second-rate man". How is that for a kick in the guts to those who serve and eulogise Queen Liz, and those who flaunt the flag and fought for flag and Queen? When I go overseas, I will carry an Irish passport that will have me treated as an equal in Britain, and NOT as an inferior foreigner that are the credentials allotted to Australians by their Queen!

Australia's Queen continues to show her lack of concern for her fawning Oz subjects by not making use of her constitutional power's under Article 59 of the colonial Constitution and annul the loony trade union politician carbon tax laws that will increase poverty and crime and retard Australia's progress! If the Queen doesn't get up off her royal arse and bring a measure of sanity to our political institutions, and do something to safeguard the people from the ravages of politicians, she should immediately be given the Republican Order of the Boot! She should be replaced by a fair dinkum Aussie Republican who, as someone once said, will centre his ideals in Australia and consciously devote his life to making Australia prosper.

JOHN MURRAY
Melbourne
Australia

Internet Safety

A chara

Many communication services and social media sites, uses its Terms of Service to forbid children under the age of 13 from creating an account. Such prohibitions are not uncommon in response to the Children's Online

Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which seeks to empower parents by requiring commercial Web site operators to obtain parental consent before collecting data from children under 13.

Research shows that such bans are proving ineffective. Millions of under-13 youth are on Facebook. Underage children gain access by lying about their age during site registration, thereby allowing Facebook to avoid the 'actual knowledge' required by COPPA to trigger its protections and prohibitions.

This discrepancy prompted a survey to ask what parents know about underage children's participation on Facebook. On the basis of discussions with parents prior to conducting the survey, it was learned that parents did not identify COPPA or even the general issue of privacy as the source of age restrictions on Facebook. Instead, they often told us that Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter are 'mature' sites, meant only for teenagers who are old enough and mature enough to handle the various online safety issues present. My own research lead me to a child's site that any parent would not suspect contains unsuitable material, my first try was for Scooby Doo. I hit on sites for this cartoon dog that were definitely unsuitable for children, to say some of the pictures were lewd would be an understatement.

What is needed is an age restriction programme that parents themselves can control with the full assistance of the web site makers to put in place an age code that will refuse to give access to their sites without the code that the computer owner has. This will put the right to access into the hands of parents, who should decide what their children have access to.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

Letters to the Editor should be as short, as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page.

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

Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SAOIRSE.

Postal address: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

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Please note that all material for publication, articles, features, news reports, comhbhróin, congratulations and good wishes greetings, etc must be accompanied by a name, address, signature and telephone number for verification.

WHAT THEY SAID

"The research indicates that the interviews with soldiers are not impartial, they are not effective and they are not transparent", she said.

— Dr Patricia Lundy, Senior lecturer with the University of Ulster, has questioned the HET's independence. Irish News under the heading HET 'treated soldiers favourably', April 4, 2012. According to the University of Ulster, the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) gave favourable treatment to soldiers linked to killings during the Troubles.

The report said the HET does not investigate the cases properly [150 killings by soldiers between 1970 and 1973] — a claim the team has denied.

— Irish News.
The [RUC]/PSNI has suspended four police officers as it carries out an investigation into alleged sectarian and racist text messaging.

Police said the investigation was "in relation to inappropriate and offensive racist and sectarian text messages".

— Irish Times, April 7, 2012, Gerry Moriarty, Northern Editor.

The threat to move Harland and Wolff across the Irish Sea may have been bluff but it was credible: the yards belonged to an imperial and industrial world, not to an Ireland of romantic peasants.

Harland had let it be known (c 1886) that, if Home Rule were to be introduced, the firm would relocate to the Clyde (Glasgow) or the Mersey (Liverpool).

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 7, 2012, Century: 1912-22 by Fintan O'Toole.

It [Belfast] surged past Dublin in 1891 to become Ireland's largest city, then grew by another 35% in the last decade of the 19th century alone. Harland and Wolff, moreover, embodied Belfast's integration into both the UK and the British Empire. Edward Harland set up in Belfast only because he was refused permission to do so in Liverpool.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 7, Fintan O'Toole.

Just three months after Titanic sank, vicious and organised assaults forces all 2,000 Catholics out of the yards. But these workers had already been expelled from the official meaning of Titanic: its building was universally hailed as a "great Anglo-Saxon triumph".

Irish Catholics could not be allowed to share either that triumph or the commercial shock that followed the sinking.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 7, Fintan O'Toole.

James Connolly, writing from a nationalist and socialist perspective, saw the fate of the ship prefigured in the hardship endured by the workers who built her: "It has been computed that some seventeen lives were lost on the Titanic before she left the Lagan; a list of the maimed and hurt and of those suffering from minor injuries as a result of the accidents... would read like a roster of the wounded after a battle."

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 7, Fintan O'Toole.

"Imagine her to be split in half from bow to stern so that you could look, as one looks at a hive. You would find a microcosm of civilised society with the rulers on top, surrounded by the rich and luxurious, enjoying the best of everything.

"A ways down, you would find the servants and parasites... up above are the people who rest and enjoy; down below the people who sweat and suffer."

— Fintan O'Toole, quoting from Fintan Young's instant book on the sinking of the Titanic.

There was no doubt that social class shaped the tragedy; the rich had a much better chance of survival. Of the 1,500 dead, 700 were among the crew, made up largely of working-class men and 536 were third-class passengers, made up largely of poorer immigrants.

Only 38% of third-class passengers survived, compared to more than 60% of those in first class.

— Fintan O'Toole, Irish Times, April 7.

Many shipyard workers believed that an apprentice painter working on Titanic daubed the challenge "Let God sink this vessel if He can!" in large letter on the hull, before painting it over.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 7, 2012, Michael MacCaughan article.

After sectarian assaults on Catholic shipyard workers in the highly-charged political atmosphere of 1912 [Home Rule crisis], a belief spread among many Catholics that the sunken ship has enshrined anti-Catholic messages, such as the alleged ship number 3909 OM. This was a mirror image of the sectarian message "No Pope".

— Michael MacCaughan, Irish Times, April 7.

Virtually every book published about Titanic ever since has reproduced his photographs. He [Father Frank Browne, Irish Jesuit] also took the last photograph of Capt Edward Smith, as Smith leaned out to starboard over the emergency cutter known as Lifeboat No 1 — capacity 40, but later lowered with only 12 people.

— Rosita Boland report in the Irish Times, April 7, 2012.

Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding times.

This arises from the fact that they are produced by men who ever have been, and ever shall be, animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same results.

— Niccolò Machiavelli (Italian author and statesman, writer of The Prince) as quoted by Patrick Smyth in Century: 1912-22, Irish Times Weekend Review, April 7, 2012.

On the day he will attend [the 26-County] State's commemoration of the 1916 Rising at the GPO in Dublin, Taoiseach Enda Kenny is under fire for failing to honour a commitment to meet relatives of the signatories to the proclamation of the Republic.

Kenny has been criticised by relatives of the Volunteers, who fear the government will agree to the demolition of a large section of the historic "battlefield" on Moore Street.

[In the GPO last year] he assured the relatives that his officials would contact them before the visit of Queen Elizabeth II [of England] to schedule a meeting that would take place after the state visit in May 2011.

"I am surprised and disappointed that we have yet to meet him a year later," [James] Connolly-Heron [great-grandson of James Connolly], said.

— Sunday Business Post, April 8, 2012 [Easter Sunday] article by Niamh Connolly, Political Correspondent.

The group [of 1916 relatives] is opposed to a property developer's proposal to demolish most of the historic terrace and pathways where 320 Volunteers and members of the Irish Citizen Army staged their final battle.

— Sunday Business Post, Easter Sunday, Niamh Connolly.

"We would end up with the entire area being demolished, except for four facades [to make way for a shopping centre]. In effect it's an application to demolish a national monument," said James Connolly-Heron.

— Sunday Business Post, Easter Sunday.

[Provisional] Sinn Féin is talking about apologies and reconciliation,



• The plaque on No 16 Moore Street, Dublin where the 1916 leaders made their last stand and from which they surrendered to British forces. Four of the houses on the street have been declared a national monument but there are plans to develop the area into a major shopping centre. Relatives of the 1916 leaders have been campaigning for the entire street to be made into a national monument (see quote on left).

while [Provisional] republicans are even getting cosier with the concept of living within the union [with England].

— Sunday Business Post, Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012, Tom McGurk column

It's hard to define exactly what is changing, but never before has the North seemed so politically homogenous [dictionary definition: similar owing to common descent].

— Tom McGurk, Easter Sunday. Does "politically homogenous" then mean that people in the Six Counties are now politically all unionist, God help us?

On March 5, Declan Kearney, [Provisional] Sinn Féin national chairman, wrote in An Phoblacht: "Republicanism needs to become more intuitive about unionist apprehensions and objections, and sensitive in our response. We need to be open to using a new language and consider making our compromises."

— Tom McGurk column.

Kearney added significantly: "Regardless of the stance of others, we should recognise the healing influence of being able to say sorry for the human effects of all actions caused during the armed struggle."

— Tom McGurk column quoting Kearney.

"All sensible people would wish it had been otherwise, that these events had never happened, that other conditions had prevailed. The political reality is those actions cannot be undone or disowned. It would be better they had never happened."

— Tom McGurk column quoting Kearney.

Given Kearney's seniority in [Provisional] republican politics, the article [in An Phoblacht] was almost certainly approved at the top of the [Provisional] republican movement, and, presumably, was intended to open a debate.

— Tom McGurk on Easter Sunday. According to An Index of Deaths from the Conflict in Ireland 1969-1993 by Malcolm Sutton, 911 civilians were killed by loyalist groups backed by British forces. Add three in 1966 and 37 in 1994 (Irish Times, December 29, 1994), bring the total to 951. More were killed by them from 1995 to date bringing it up to about the 1,000 mark. The British army killed 294, other British forces 55, total 349 in period 1969-1993. Who said "sorry" for those 1,300 deaths?

Not since the late 1960s has there been any critical appraisal of journalistic standards, practices and output at the station [RTÉ]. The damage done by the censorship imposed by Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act over almost a quarter of a century was never repaired.

— Sunday Business Post, April 8, 2012, "Between the Lines" by Vincent Browne.

Racism is now like a virus that has mutated, and it can lie undetected unless you look closely. Is there ever going to be a cure? All I know for sure is that whatever is being done now to stop racism is not working, and a change is needed.

— Alexandra Kosjakova, writing in the Irish Times, April 19, 2012, under the heading 'An inclusive philosophy is vital if we are to beat racism'. Alexandra Kosjakova attends Balbriggan Community College in Co Dublin.

People need to understand racism comes from all races anywhere. There are no exclusions and nobody is immune to it. Racism these days is not about "white and black" or "natives and immigrants", as some might think. I have witnessed that immigrants can perpetrate it against immigrants.

— Alexandra Kosjakova.

I feel that, if racism is to be stopped to a greater extent, countries and nations should not boast about, for example, "Irish pride" or "being proud to be African", because it creates moral confusion in people who might take it the wrong way, thinking there is nobody better than Irish or African. As a result all sides clash, and this is where the origins of racism occur in our society.

— Alexandra Kosjakova.

As part of its preparations for the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916, due in 2016, the Co Roscommon IRA Commemoration Committee held its annual ceremonies at three venues throughout the country on Easter Sunday.

— Roscommon People, April 20, 2012.

Businessman Paddy McKillen personally owed €240 million to Anglo Irish bank in February 2011 and some €60 million of this debt was secured on his shareholding in the Maybourne hotel in London, he told the court.

— Business section, Irish Times, April 21, 2012. McKillen was giving evidence against companies controlled by two brothers David and Frederick Barkley over their bid to take over the Claridges, Connaught and Berkley hotels in London.

The nationalisation of Anglo in 2009 was a severe blow to him and his companies, he said, and he feared his loans would be transferred to the State's national Asset management Agency.

— Irish Times.

A total of 24 AIB and EBS employees are continuing to receive basic salaries in excess of €250,000 annually at a time when hundreds of staff at the institution are being made redundant, according to the Minister for Finance [Michael Noonan].

— http://www.thejournal.ie, April 21, 2012

After one year of the Coalition, only a quarter of the sample feels more confident for the future

The public is strongly opposed to some key elements of the Government's policy according to the latest Irish Times/Ipsos MRBI poll.

The strategy of introducing new taxes like the household charge as an alternative to income-tax increases is rejected by voters by a margin of more than two to one.

There is an even stronger rejection of the Croke Park agreement, with a massive majority in favour of reforming or scrapping the deal that protects public-sector pay and pensions.

— Stephen Collins, Political Editor, Irish Times, April 21, 2012.

The prospect of the Government getting limited or no support from the trade union movement for the referendum on the EU fiscal treaty increased yesterday when Mandate said it was advising a No vote to its members.

— Harry McGee, Irish Times, April 23, 2012

The decision by the union's executive comes in the wake of a detailed Siptu document last Thursday which portrayed the treaty as a one-sided austerity proposal. The

union said it would only be prepared to overcome its deep misgivings and countenance a Yes vote if the Government announced a major stimulus programme that would offset the ongoing austerity contained in fiscal policy.

— Harry McGee, Irish Times.

Mr Douglas, speaking at his union's conference in Wexford, asserted that Mandate made no apology in campaigning for a No vote in the referendum on May 31st.

"The fiscal treaty, if passed, will not create one job: on the contrary, it will legally lock down Irish economic activity at its current levels. It may even shrink domestic demand further, leading to mass unemployment, decades of emigration and sow the seeds for future social conflict," he said.

— Harry McGee.

"We did not take this decision lightly. It is becoming increasingly obvious that austerity is not working. The right-wing agenda of Chancellor [Angela] Merkel might make sense in Germany, but it is a death sentence for our economy and people.

"The backlash against austerity is no longer limited to small peripheral economies such as Greece and Ireland. The first round of the French elections shows that citizens in major, core economies of Europe are increasingly opposed to this policy."

— Irish Times, Tuesday, April 24, 2012, general secretary of the Technical Engineering and Electrical Union (TEEU) Eamon Devoy, on the union (with 40,000 members) calling for a NO vote in the upcoming referendum on the fiscal compact treaty.

Mr Devoy said under no circumstances "can we embed the draconian fiscal compact treaty in our Constitution".

"This would condemn Irish working families to decades of financial servitude to the banks.

"It would effectively transform a social Europe into a financiers' Europe permanently. There is not even any trade-off on offer in terms of a financial stimulus package, either from our own Government or the troika.

"It is ironic that even the IMF can see current EU policies are suicidal for Ireland.

"The failure of the Government to adopt the Irish Congress of Trade Unions proposal on using a proportion of pension funds to generate growth and jobs is inexplicable."

— Irish Times quoting Eamon Devoy.

The country's largest union, Siptu, said last week it would only recommend the fiscal compact treaty if the Government agreed to a new economic stimulus plan, including the provision of incentives to private pension funds to invest in the domestic economy.

— Irish Times,

But I took a stroll past where the pub once stood during the week and it struck me that I might be the first person ever to have noticed a certain Joycean wit in the location of the nearby Republican Sinn Féin headquarters.

These are positioned at the very end of what used to be Great Britain Street, just before it becomes Little Britain Street. And the wit of the address is only slightly undermined by the tautology of a banner celebrating the party's centenary. "100 years of Unbroken Continuity" this reads: which, unless it's conscious homage to Joyce's gigantism, is surely one word too many.

— Frank McNally, An Irishman's Diary, Irish Times, April 25, 2012.

"There are decades when nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen" — BI Lenin (1870-1924) — and decades into which centuries are compressed.

— Century — The Years that shaped Northern Ireland 1912-22, Irish Times special supplement, April 25, 2012, edited by Patrick Smyth.

EX-PRISONERS VICTIMISED UNDER OASA

50 Years Ago

THE May issue of *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* carried a banner headline: **Ex-Prisoners Victimised — Abolish the Offences Against the State Act.**

With the release unconditionally of all Republican prisoners in the 26 Counties, the political campaign had moved on. The issues now were the released of the remaining 43 prisoners in Belfast Jail and of three in England and the victimisation in employment of ex-prisoners south of the Border.

The campaign against full immersion in the "Common Market"; or the EEC was pushed with the publication of three leaflets: (1) Sinn Féin Opposes EEC Ties; (2) The Border and the Common Market and (3) The Alternatives to the Common Market.

The veteran Parish Priest of Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh, Thomas Canon Maguire spoke out early on the question of the remaining prisoners. He wrote a letter to the *Irish Press*, parts of which were published on March 2, calling for the release of the prisoners.

"As an old chaplain to the Monaghan Flying Column I make this appeal," he wrote. "We are all brothers, then let all prison gates be thrown wide open."

The Republican organ asked in May 1962: "How many people realised that the 26-County government's persecution of the released prisoners had not ended?"

It invoked Section 34 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 to punish them further. Section 34 stated that anyone sentenced by the infamous Military Tribunal would be subject to the additional penalty of seven years unemployment. That was as far as the 26-County administration could ensure.

In addition, pensioned employees were to be denied the fruits of a lifetime of service; any superannuation allowance, pension or gratuity — to which a prisoner might have contributed out of his earnings over the years — would be denied to him or her.

A circular letter was sent out by the 26-County government to all Civil Service departments, local councils and their subsidiary bodies, and to all semi-state bodies such as Bord na Móna, CIE, the ESB, Aer Lingus, Comhlucht Siúce Éireann, Irish Shipping Ltd, and so on.

A full list of the names and addresses of the 31 Irishmen sentenced by the Military Tribunal in recent months accompanied the circular. Instructions issued were: do not employ any of these men for seven years; if they are already in your employment, confiscate their pension fund or any other gratuity due and dismiss them summarily!

At least four of the prisoners recently released were affected. Of these two were married — one with a large family. They were: **Tomás Mac Giolla** (35), Dublin: ESB employee — married and a native of Nenagh, Co Tipperary;

Liam Boylan (21), Dublin: Aer Lingus employee;

Séamus Ó Dóráin (24), Dublin: CIE employee; and

Thomas O'Neill (36), Dublin: Dublin Corporation employee — married with five children.

The first three were arrested in a swoop on their homes by Special Branch the previous November. Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act gave power to arrest them without warrant or charge. Under Section 52 they were jailed for refusing to answer questions.

Thus by a series of technicalities under OASA Irishmen were arrested, jailed and deprived of their employment for seven years.

The *United Irishman* of May 1962 called on the Irish people to waken up to what was happening in their midst — and in their name. The unconditional release of the prisoners was not enough — the silent, sinister move to deprive all 31 released men of employment in their own country for seven years had to be defeated.

It called for the abolition of the OASA for all time. It was "a bulwark of British rule in the Six Counties and a complete denial of the fundamental democratic rights of the Irish people."

It was the 26-County counterpart of the Special Powers Acts in the Six Counties, designed and used for the same purpose — maintaining British rule in Ireland.

A. P. A.

ANTI-PARTITION ASSOCIATION

WE OWE NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION TO ANY PARTY

PARTITION MUST GO!

We believe the Six Counties to be an integral part of the Republic of Ireland.

We intend to bring an end to Partition by peaceful means, by taking a vote in the whole of Ireland and by accepting as law the popular will of the majority of the people.

We feel it is ridiculous to state that Partition will go when (and if) we join the Common Market because this is not so. It is true that the Common Market would do away with customs barriers and there would be a free movement of workers.

BUT even when there is complete political integration there would be a local government in the North and a separate one in the South.

Unification will be practically impossible if we join the Common Market, therefore it is imperative that unification be brought about at an early date.

World Powers state that Germany and the Congo should be integrated by the voice of the majority — WELL, WHY NOT IRELAND?

It is illogical to state that Irish troops have been and are being used to force Katanga Province (against her will) to be integrated as part of the Congo. Why not Irish troops for Ireland?

WE STAND FOR IRELAND!

What do you stand for?

A MARCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY FROM ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN TO CROKE PARK AT 1 P.M. — ALL ARE WELCOME.

Contributions would be gratefully accepted and should be sent to THE HON. TREASURER, A.P.A., Room 7, 13 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2.

• *With the halting of the Resistance Campaign in Occupied Ireland on February 26, the Anti-Partition Association re-emerged with a march on St Patrick's Day. Note: They rejected the idea of the EEC being a solution as "ridiculous". In fact they saw it as an obstacle to unification.*

When the circular letter was read at a meeting of the Tralee Vocational Education Committee on March 26 by Dr Joseph G Hill, CEO, Michael O'Regan made a protest.

"On principle I could not agree with that circular," he said; "It is most unreasonable. If a man has certain beliefs, I don't think he should be victimised to that extent."

Thomas Ryle, chairperson of the UDC, said it was possible that the circular letter was drafted before the recent change in circumstances and it might not hold much longer.

Rev P Scott, chair of the VEC, stated that if the position arose they could discuss it fully. At that time it was only theoretical.

In its Comment, the Republican organ said: "Mr O'Regan deserved credit for speaking out. Mr Ryle apparently hoped that the matter would be quietly dropped by the 26-County authorities and that that would relieve him of taking a stand on the question."

And the matter was not just theoretical. Even on March 26 men had already been dismissed from employment. All Irish people should be concerned about such victimisation.

Teachers were also involved. **Ruairí Ó Brádaigh** had been suspended by the 26-County Department of Education since 1957 from his post under Co Roscommon VEC.

Domhnall Ó Lúbhlaí was likewise treated since 1957 also. Both had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment by the District Court. Ó Lúbhlaí had been employed by South Tipperary VEC but again the Department of Education intervened to deprive him of employment.

On March 16, the *Irish Times* carried a letter from Dr Owen Sheehy-Skeffington in which he drew attention to the circular sent to all vocational education committees in the 26 Counties by the Department of Education.

Referring to the black-list of persons to be victimised, Sheehy-Skeffington said: "In days gone by this would have been termed 'felon-setting'. Today the term has gone out of fashion, but not apparently the thing."

"Whatever he thought of this ministerial endeavour to have people punished twice, it is difficult to accept it as coming from a Minister (DR PJ Hillery) who is interested in protecting teachers."

Next day [March 17] the *Irish Times* responded with an editorial headed "The Quality of Mercy". In general it supported the 26-County Administration against Sheehy-Skeffington but asked: "Is the complaint, therefore, that the Minister for Education is now seeking to prevent

persons with convictions [by the courts in political cases] from gaining certain employment?"

It continued: "In the first case [above], he is going outside the scope of the Act and is, indeed, acting unjustly."

"Assuming that Dr Skeffington has overstated the case, it may still be timely to draw attention to the fact that the Government has power to pardon and reinstate. Magnanimity is not incompatible with justice;..."

"It is not the place of this or any newspaper to tell the Department of Education whom it should or should not employ; but it is essential, if Dr Skeffington is correct that the public should know;

"And if Dr Skeffington's zeal has outrun his research, it might be worthwhile to ask the Cabinet to look into its heart and see how much has had to be forgotten and forgiven to bring about the amenable conditions under which Irishmen of all classes, creeds and parties have in recent years tended to draw together..."

The editorial was lengthy. In single column it went down the entire 21 inches of a page of the newspaper. A news item of 14 single column inches was carried in the same *Irish Times* on St Patrick's Day.

On the previous Sunday, the *Sunday Independent* had a report of six-and-a-half inches (single column) on the same topic entitled "Penalty for State offenders". Clearly, this issue was not going to go away.

The *Irish Independent* of May 4 reported that Seán Treacy, Labour TD, had raised the matter in Leinster House. Charlie Haughey, Minister for Justice told Brendan Corish, head of the Labour Party, that local authorities or semi-state bodies had no discretion in the matter.

He had a similarly hard-line attitude to Seán Treacy. He told Dr Noel Browne that the circular sent out by his Department [of Justice] was not associated with the recent amnesty [all Republican prisoners in the 26 Counties were released on April 20]. "It had been sent out after the Special Criminal Court was set up which was long before the amnesty had occurred."

Dr Hillery told Dr Browne and Jack MacQuillan (both National Progressive Democrats) that no circular concerning the re-employment of former internees had been issued by his Department.

But the question of victimisation of ex-prisoners did not end there as will be seen next month.

The May 1962 issue of *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* carried the text of the Easter Statement from the Resistance Movement in British-occupied Ireland as distributed by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau.

Its wording was as follows:
EASTER Statement

"On the occasion of the Easter Week Rising the Irish Resistance Movement sends greetings to our people throughout the world who are assembled in commemoration of our heroic dead."

"It is customary in this annual Easter Statement to review the progress of the Resistance Movement towards its objective during the previous year."

"The Irish Republican Publicity Bureau statement of February 26 last which announced the decision to end the Resistance Campaign in British-occupied Ireland contained such a review of the entire five-year period, December 1956-February 1962."

"It also indicated clearly the nature of the Resistance Movement's future intentions towards the complete overthrow of British rule in Ireland."

"Notwithstanding the ending of that Campaign seventy-four Irish Republicans prisoners are still held. Forty-three are serving long and savage sentences in Belfast Prison and two life-sentence men and one woman are in English jails."

"The unconditional release of all of them is one immediate objective which calls for the unstinted support of Irish people everywhere."

"Recent weeks have seen a further attempt in the form of new 26-County legislation to break the Prisoners' Dependents Fund. By continually striking at the dependant relatives of prisoners the collaborationist politicians hope even now to bring the men in jail to their knees."

"And having served their prison sentences those jailed by the recently-revived Military Tribunal are to be further victimised. In so far as the influence of the 26-County government extends they are to be denied employment for seven years."

"Such mean and vicious victimisation of Irish Republicans must be exposed for what it is and ended forthwith."

"The sacrifices of ten young Irish lives in the most recent phase of the fight for freedom and the continuing sacrifices of the prisoners will serve to inspire our people to a renewed effort for the enthronement of the Republican of all Ireland. The spirit of our volunteer soldiers is not broken; rather have they gained in experience from the dearly-bought lessons of five years of incessant guerrilla warfare. The Resistance Movement is intact and has already embarked on the work to be done in the new era."

"It remains then for the Movement to put before the youth of Ireland the ideal of service to the Cause of freedom and to call on the members of the Irish race at home and abroad for whole-hearted support."

"The objective of the generations of our patriot dead will not be realised by the present move to link the 26 Counties with a grouping of European states and all the political, economic and military commitments that involves. Such attempts to compromise the national demand for full freedom will not only lead to further disappointment and disillusionment but actually threaten to smother for all time the idea of Ireland as a distinct and unfettered national entity."

"Only when the Irish people — using every honourable means in their power — assert their right to control their own destinies in every part of Ireland will the Proclamation of the sovereign, democratic Irish Republic issued 46 years ago be made effective; then and only then will the ideals of our Republican dead become a living reality among our people."

The Republican newspaper carried also reports on Easter commemorations, the most important being the address of Tom Mitchell at the grave of Fearghal Ó hAnluain in Lathlurcan Cemetery, Monaghan.

"They [the Leinster House politicians] had hoped to see the end of Republicanism in Ireland, that the Irish Republican Movement would find its grave in the prisons and concentration camps and churchyards of Ireland."

"But they were wrong. The Irish Republican Movement was not dead but lived on and would remain intact while the task of freeing Ireland remained to be accomplished."

"The Resistance Movement was in a position to go on indefinitely but it was decided to halt the Campaign in order to conserve existing resources and to build up the Movement in readiness for what we all hope will be the final and successful assault on British occupation in Ireland."

"Active resistance may have ceased for a while but only in order to strengthen the Movement. **This is a time for preparation and not a time for rest.** The work to be done now is as important as what has been done in the past five years."

"This is perhaps a difficult time, especially for those who have played their part over the recent past. But we must adjust ourselves to the work that lies before us."

"We must build our hopes anew and plan now for the future. We shall fight England in our own time and in our own way. We will not be lured into any false positions."

"In standing at this grave today we are gathered in a spirit of hope and confidence — hopeful of the future of Ireland and confident in our own ability to enthrone the free Republic for which Fearghal Ó hAnluain died at Brookeborough."

The full text may be read from the Republican organ, *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, May 1962. It was indeed a prophetic oration as hindsight from 1969 onwards shows.

On the ground training camps were already being held both in the Occupied Six Counties and in the 26 Counties. Also, the Special Branch in the post-Easter period of 1962 resumed their surveillance of Tom Mitchell.

For him it was back to the days of the early 1950s, before the historic Omagh Raid when British Occupation troops were engaged in a fire-fight by Irish Republican soldiers for the first time in 30 years.

The "powers that be" in the 26 Counties realised the importance of what Tom Mitchell had to say on Easter Sunday 1962 in Monaghan. Hence the Branch activity...

In Newry on Easter Sunday the Irish National Tricolour was carried at the head of the parade from the Mall to St Mary's Cemetery. Two days later a young Newry man, Francis Gerard MacAleavey, was arrested in his house and sentenced to two months in a British court for displaying the Irish Tricolour in public.

In 1961 Daniel Moore was sent to prison for three months for the same "crime". He was a former Republican internee in Belfast jail.

Cont. on page 17.

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

It was thought that President Obama would relax the intense scrutiny of the prior Bush administration that was using us Federal government resources to gather information on Americans. In the case of Bush any dissenters to his policies were suspect and monitored.

Obama has become paranoid and turned into another Bush. He stated his administration would be transparent; instead, he has instigated more secrecy and is severely punishing those who exposed what he is doing. We can expect worse in a second Obama administration.

Three people who are called “whistleblowers” warned the American people a year ago that the National Security Agency (NSA) was collecting and storing massive amounts of private information on innocent Americans with no connection to terrorism or any crime.

Now the Attorney-General of the United States is making, what has been suspected for a long time, into official policy with new guidelines that permit the deferral government investigators to collect, search and store data about Americans who are merely political and involved in legitimate political issues. George Orwell’s Big Brother has arrived.

This is very disturbing. Now, the government is admittedly storing information on Americans who are not involved in criminal activity and are not even thinking about criminal activity. The government is resorting to fear-mongering to justify it. This is what Bush did to justify the Patriot Act after 9/11.

Obama is going to make it easier for counterterrorism analysts to retrieve store and search information about Americans gathered by government agencies for purposes other than national security purposes.

US PARTNER

merica’s partner in this new scheme is the “United Kingdom” who receives

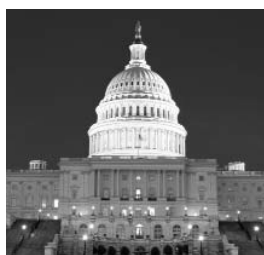
data access on any American who might be involved in activity involving the “UK”. You know who that is aimed at. It is part of the cooperation between the two countries that was agreed when the “peace process” went into effect. The US and the “UK” do not trust any of the players in the “peace process” and those who are out to destroy it. Partition in Ireland relieves one area of concern of the two countries so they can concentrate in other areas. But they monitor everyone still.

All law enforcement and national security agencies can copy entire databases and sift through the data for suspicious patterns to stop potential terrorist threats. There is an obvious fallacy here that investigating innocent people tells you nothing about the guilty. It does tell you their politics.

Where do you store the data and how long do you keep it? There is under construction in Utah a massive NSA facility designed to store a yottabyte of data, which would be equal to 500 quintillion (500,000,000,000,000,000,000) pages of text. This is extra-legal activity by the government which translates to mean it is surely illegal. The government’s answer is to make it legal. This is a war against innocent people to be controlled by fear.

It was considered fair game for NSA to collect foreign intelligence from overseas on possible enemies of America, but that capability is being used to collect against US citizens and everybody else in the United States of America.

Privacy in America is eroding as technology offers government increasing ways to monitor and spy on citizens. The focus is now on citizens. We are the potential enemy if we have ideas that are different from our leaders. There are presently 3,984 federal state and local organisation working on domestic counterterrorism. For example the NSA collects hundreds of millions of emails, texts and phone calls every day and has the ability to



collect and sift through billions more. All this to be stored in the Utah facility. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has more than 1.5 billion government and private sector records about US citizens collected from commercial databases, government information and criminal probes.

MORE than 62 million people in the US have their fingerprints on file with the FBI. This is shared. Over 126 million people have their fingerprints, photographs and biographical information accessible on the Homeland Security System.

More than 110 million people have their visas and more than 90 million have their photographs entered into the US Department of State Consular Consolidated Database. This system adds 35,000 people a day. DNA profiles on more than 10,000,000 people are available from the FBI.

The NSA has become the largest, most covert, and potentially most intrusive intelligence agency ever. As noted, they have under construction the blandly-named Utah Data Centre. This is a project of immense secrecy and it is the final piece in a complex puzzle assembled over the past decade.

Its purpose is to intercept, decipher, analyse and store vast swaths of the world’s communications as they zap down from satellites and zip through the underground and undersea cables of international, foreign and domestic networks. The \$2 billion centre should be up and running in September 2013.

America’s partner in this project, Britain, has a notation in England – a listening post that monitors transmissions. They have coded words that spill out certain designated information. They have all the Irish slang that the IRA may use to communicate. They do the same for

others.

The Utah base will have information stored in near bottomless databases in all forms of communication, including the complete contents of private emails, cell phones, Google searches, as well as all sorts of personal data trains – parking receipts, travel itineraries, bookstore purchases and other digital pocket litter.

It is, in some measure, the realization of the Total Information Awareness programme created by the Bush Administration – an effort killed by the Congress after an outcry in 2003 over its potential for invading Americans’ privacy. What Bush could not do, Obama has done, plus more. Obama was one of Bush’s biggest critics on that project.

The enormous Bluffdale Utah Centre will have another important and far more secret role that until now has gone unrevealed. It is critical for breaking codes. And code-breaking is crucial because much of the data that the centre will handle – financial information, stock transactions, business deals, foreign military and diplomatic secrets, legal documents, confidential personal information – will be heavily encrypted.

According to another top official also involved with the programme, the NSA made an enormous breakthrough several years ago in its ability to cryptanalyse, or break, unfathomably complex systems employed by not only governments around the world but also many average computer users in the US. This means that everybody is a target; everybody with communication is a target.

EAVESDROP

The NSA also has the ability to eavesdrop on phone calls directly and in real time. According to an employee of NSA, basically all rules were thrown out the window and they would use any excuse to justify a waiver to spy on Americans.

Even journalists calling home were not excluded. So much for Freedom of the Press and Free Speech. Many of the calls were intimate personal calls. NSA workers found this distressing.

There is reason for distress because once the door is open for the government to spy on US citizens, there will be the temptation to abuse the

power or political purposes. Ronald Reagan did it and so did George Bush. Truthfully, all the Presidents have abused the power.

Ronald Reagan spied on Irish Americans for Maggie Thatcher and used spy cameras from space to help the British in the north of Ireland and in the Malvinas War.

Obama was supposed to reform the programme, but he has endorsed it and expanded it. One former NSA employee said we are very close to a police state of totalitarian proportions.

People wonder why so much is being stored at the Utah facility. What can’t be broken in code today can be broken tomorrow then you can see what they were saying in the past. Information on innocent people is supposed to be destroyed, but it now can be held for five years and ten or more is being considered.

What is the goal of NSA? It is to have every person in the world on its database from birth. This project dwarfs any other spying on anyone in the past, making it so minuscule and insignificant.

THOSE who have tried to stop it and those that have exposed it have suffered career ends and Obama’s administration is going to prosecute any who are deemed guilty of telling the truth. He did not want the American people, let alone the world, to know.

A new history of the world is being constructed by the NSA and it will be about people’s private lives that are no longer private. It is a history not meant to be by the right-thinking.

Obama comes across as likeable, but he is sneaky and has no mercy to those who seriously oppose him. His opponent is worse so where does that leave us? As I have said before, in this presidential election we need to ABSTAIN and not give a vote to either major candidate.

As a protest write in the name of someone you respect. What about Mario Biaggi, a great friend of Irish Republicanism and not afraid to publicly endorse its aims. Or if you really want to make a statement write in the name Ruairi Ó Brádaigh for President and Des Dalton for Vice-President. That is what I am going to do.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Cont. from page 16..

50 Years Ago

At the gates of Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, eight hundred people joined a Republican parade which had marched through the Falls Road area. Seán Keenan of Derry city spoke.

A commemoration ceremony was held at Meenan Park, Derry where Seán Ó Gormaille of Tuam, Co Galway gave the oration. At Lurgan in North Armagh the 1916 commemoration was held at the Republican Plot in St Colman’s Cemetery.

Other ceremonies were held at Mullaghbawn, Killeen and Crossmaglen in South Armagh and at Drumboe in Cop Donegal where large contingents from Tyrone and Derry were in attendance.

Not alone was the last paragraph of the IRPB statement of February 26 halting the Resistance Campaign read into the record in Westminster, Stormont and Leinster House, but the unionist newspapers in the Six Counties gave the fullest coverage to it.

The daily *Belfast Newsletter* of February 27 editorial quoted the vital points: “The IRA statement is, however, qualified in a marked way. It declares that the movement remains intact ‘and is in a position to continue its campaign in the occupied area indefinitely’.

“The time has come, it states, to conserve its

resources, to augment them, and to prepare for a more favourable situation. On the fact of it, therefore, this is not an abandonment of the campaign, with the intention of fighting another day.”

This is a misquote. There was no “for” in the actual statement.

The evening *Belfast Telegraph* of February 27 in its editorial said: “If, as the IRA statement says, the future plans of the rebel organisation is to retire and consolidate...” in its news report, the *Telegraph* placed the vital last paragraph of the statement in position as the third paragraph.

When all was said and done, the publication of the IRPB statement of February 26 was indeed a coup. Nobody, unionist or nationalist, British or Irish, could be unaware of the real situation of the Irish Republican Army.

The time would come, it was said. It came in 1969. A heroic and successful campaign followed. But it was betrayed by a leadership which seized control.

And what of the “resources” which were “augmented” and stored carefully for that other day.

Listen to Brian Faulkner, Home Affairs Minister, speaking in Stormont just after the announcement of the “halt”.

“The [Stormont] Government will await with keen interest the practical outcome of the offer by the Government of the Republic (*sic*) to members of the IRA to surrender their arms, as this is a touchstone at the very heart of the problem.

“The abandonment of the means to wage war will be an earnest of good faith: the retention of such will be an indication of the interest to resume the campaign.” (*Irish Independent*, February 29, 1962.)

The outcome: *Sunday Independent*, April 1: “The amnesty granted by the Minister for Justice [CJ Haughey] for the handing up of illegally-held arms ended yesterday. A good response was reported.”

Irish Independent, April 6: “Mr Haughey told Mr Pattison (Labour) that it would not be in the public interest to give the quantity of arms and ammunition handed in to the authorities during the February-March arms amnesty period.”

There was nothing to show, no photographs triumphantly exhibited. Haughey’s “amnesty” failed miserably.

There would be another campaign, this time a success, Republicans hoped.

But in the early 2000s lorry-loads of Seán Quinn’s cement – at the command of the British government – buried the “resources” gathered from around the world. General Army Order No 11 was not enforced in 1962 because there was no need.

But in 2000 and 2002 the future of the IRA and the All-Ireland Republic was buried in cement, the traitors hoped, while they themselves got positions of power and money under British rule.

However, the end is not yet. The historic Republican Movement survives and with it the future...

(More next month. *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, April and May 1962; *Irish Press*, March 2; *Irish Times*, March 16 and 17; *Sunday Independent*, March 11, March 1; *Irish Independent*, February 28, April 6 and May 4; *Belfast Newsletter*, February 27; *Belfast Telegraph*, February 27.)

Comhbhrón

CULL, Deepest sympathy is extended to Tommy Cull, Arigna and Dublin on the death of his sister recently in Dublin. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach; Comhairle Chonnacht and the Cull/Tymon Cumann, Arigna, Co Roscommon.

HAIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Adrian Haire on the death of his cousin recently. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach; Comhairle Chonnacht and the McNeela/Gaughan Stag Cumann, Mayo.

LYONS, Deepest sympathy is extended to our friend Colm Lyons on the sudden death of his father Brian. From Paddy White and family Newry Oliver and Georgina, Oxo, Eddie and Nicola, Newry.

LYONS, Deepest sympathy is extended to Colm Lyons on the sudden death of his father Brian. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach; the Republican Movement Newry/South Down; Comhairle Atha Cliath, Republican Sinn Féin and Comhairle Laighean.

PASTEUR, Deepest sympathy is extended to Ann and the O’Neill and Pasteur families, Ballyshannon and Bundoran on the death of her husband Pieter. From the Ard Chomhairle Comhairle Uladh and Donegal Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

I gCuimhne

PHILLIPS – 1st Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Billy Phillips, Wexford, whose first anniversary occurred on April 28. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill, Loch Garman and the Wexford Republican Graves Association.

Khader Adnan released

GERALDINE McNamara, National PRO, Republican Sinn Féin said on April 24 that "it was with great joy that we greet the news that Palestinian political prisoner and hunger striker Khader Adnan has been released."

"Kadar had been interned without trial in an Israeli jail and went on hunger strike until his release was guaranteed. Kadar was one of nearly three hundred Palestinian people who are being interned without trial in Israeli jails in what the Israeli's call 'administrative detention'."

In a statement following his release Kadar thanked his Irish supporters: "I ask God to move the consciences of the free people around the world. I thank them all, especially Ireland, for they have stood by my hunger strike. I ask them to stand in solidarity with all the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in the past, present and future, with our tortured and oppressed people who live under the injustice of occupation day and night." — Khader Adnan.

Geraldine concluded by sending solidarity greetings to Kadar Adnan and his family on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin and hoped that one day he will see the freedom of his homeland.

Philippines: massacre and violent demolition

IN the early hours of April 24, resident were massacred and their homes violently demolished in the Silverio Compound in Paranaque City.

It was reported that the incident occurred as the 23,000 population of the area defended their legitimate right to housing against the so-called development plans of the local government and SM mogul Henry Sy (chairman of SM Prime Holdings, the largest retailer and shopping mall operator in the Philippines.)

Republican Sinn Féin International spokesperson Dieter Blumenfeld said: "I want to send our condolences to the families and their relatives of all those killed on April 24. All this massacre has achieved is that the will of the people to overthrow the counterrevolutionary regime and imperialism will only be strengthened. We commend all revolutionary fighters of the Philippines for the brave defence of their people against imperialist aggression."

Four residents were killed in the violent demolition on April 24. One of them is resident Arnel Tolentino, 36 years old, three others are still unidentified. Meanwhile, two minors identified as Boding Isaia, 16, and Rodman Isaia, 16, reportedly sustained gunshot wounds. Some 36 were wounded and 30 arrested.

The massacre happened on the day of the thirty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. The issued NDF 12-point programme since then has served as the framework for building the Filipino people's unity under the banner of the national democratic revolution.

In a statement the NDFP said: "The Filipino people are today confronted with the reactionary ruling Aquino puppet regime. As the current caretaker of the rotten semi-colonial and semi-feudal system, the Aquino regime is implementing the worst of the neoliberal economic policies imposed by US imperialism and its financial and economic agencies, exhibiting the most detestable forms of subservience to its imperialist masters and employs the most brutal tactics of suppression combined with outright deception." Amidst their worsening socio-economic conditions, the Filipino people demand to intensify their mass struggles and armed resistance. They demand to unite the broadest number on the basis of their demands for social justice and their patriotic aspirations for national," the statement continued.

Cuba urges states to remain united against US

CUBA has claimed that the US has not changed its policy towards Latin America and the Caribbean nations, and called on the regional countries to maintain unity against Washington's attempts to "divide and derail" the states.

"In the face of attempts to divide us and derail us that will come again, [Latin America] needs to stay united," said the strongly-worded statement published in the government-owned newspaper, *Granma* on April 18.

The statement condemned US President Barack Obama's call for democratic reforms by Havana during the recent Summit of the Americas in Colombia's Caribbean resort city of Cartagena, saying Obama is in no position to talk about democracy. "President Obama should realise that the Cartagena summit was not propitious for advising democracy in Cuba," it added. "We Cubans will take care of Cuba."

The two-day-long summit of the Organisation of American States (OAS), had gathered leaders and representatives of member countries of the Western Hemisphere except Cuba as the US insists that Havana implement democratic reforms before returning to the hemispheric set. The Cuban daily also said that Americans "should take care of their own wars, crises, and dirty politics; what pertains to Cuba will be dealt with by us Cubans." The statement referred to the OAS as an "unburied corpse" and endorsed Argentina's "inalienable right of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands..."

The US and Canada refused to support Argentina's claim to the territory. Argentinean President Cristina Fernandez left the summit before its official closing ceremony. The summit was concluded without a joint declaration due to a lack of consensus over issues such as the participation of Cuba and Malvinas.

Britain destroyed records of colonial crimes

THOUSANDS of documents detailing some of the

WORLD NEWS



• **Argentinian protesters burning the Union Jack outside the British Embassy in Buenos Aires on April 2, remembering the 30th anniversary of the Malvinas War.**

most shameful acts and crimes committed during the final years of the British empire were systematically destroyed to prevent them falling into the hands of post-independence governments, an official review has concluded.

Those papers that survived the purge were flown discreetly to Britain where they were hidden for 50 years in a secret Foreign Office archive, beyond the reach of historians and members of the public, and in breach of legal obligations for them to be transferred into the public domain.

The archive came to light last year when a group of Kenyans detained and allegedly tortured during the Mau Mau rebellion won the right to sue the British government. The Foreign Office promised to release the 8,800 files from 37 former colonies held at the highly-secure government communications centre at Hanslope Park in Buckinghamshire (the files came from 37 different former colonies). The first of them were made available to the public on April 18 at the National Archive at Kew, Surrey.

The papers at Hanslope Park include monthly intelligence reports on the "elimination" of the colonial authority's enemies in 1950s Malaya; records showing ministers in London were aware of the torture and murder of Mau Mau insurgents in Kenya, including a case of a man said to have been "roasted alive"; and papers detailing the lengths to which the British went to forcibly remove islanders from Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

However, among the documents are a handful which shows that many of the most sensitive papers from Britain's late colonial era were not hidden away, but simply destroyed.

Among the documents that appear to have been destroyed were: records of the abuse of Mau Mau insurgents detained by British colonial authorities, who were tortured and sometimes murdered; reports that may have detailed the alleged massacre of 24 unarmed villagers in Malaya by soldiers of the Scots Guards in 1948; most of the sensitive documents kept by colonial authorities in Aden, where the army's Intelligence Corps operated a secret torture centre for several years in the 1960s; and every sensitive document kept by the authorities in British Guiana.

The documents that were not destroyed appear to have been kept secret not only to protect the UK's reputation, but to shield the government from litigation. If the small group of Mau Mau detainees are successful in their legal action, thousands more veterans are expected to follow.

It is a case that is being closely watched by former EOKA guerrillas who were detained by the British in 1950s Cyprus, and possibly by many others who were imprisoned and interrogated between 1946 and 1967, as Britain fought a series of rearguard actions across its rapidly diminishing empire.

Painstaking measures were taken to prevent post-independence governments from learning that the 'watch' files had ever existed. One instruction states: "The legacy files must leave no reference to 'watch' material. Indeed, the very existence of the 'watch' series, though it may be guessed at, should never be revealed."

Some idea of the scale of the operation and the amount of documents that were erased from history can be gleaned from a handful of instruction documents that survived the purge.

Only one sixth of the secret archive has so far been transferred. The remainder are expected to be at Kew by the end of 2013.

Full report in the *Guardian*, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Argentinean protesters clash with police

CLASHES erupted between Argentinean police officers and angry protesters rallying outside the British embassy in the capital Buenos Aires on April 2, the 30th anniversary of the Malvinas War.

The protesters marked the anniversary of the war with Britain, which killed 650 Argentineans (323 of them on the *General Belgrano*) by burning the British flag and images of Britain's Prince Williams while marching outside the UK embassy building.

They also attacked and painted graffiti on a nearby branch of

the British bank HSBC.

Argentina's President Cristina Kirchner said: "It is injustice that in the 21st century, a total of 16 colonial enclaves still exists, including 10 ruled by Britain. We ask for justice so that they don't continue depleting our environment, our natural resources, fishing and oil resources, justice so that our territorial integrity is respected."

The Malvinas Islands, located about 300 miles off Argentina's coast and home to about 3,000 inhabitants, have been declared as part of the British Overseas Territories since Britain established its colonial rule in the islands in 1833.

In 1982 Britain and Argentina went to war for 74 days over the sovereignty of the islands which ended with the British side claiming victory. A year after the war, Britain enforced the British Nationality Act of 1983, which offers citizenship to the island's residents.

Meanwhile, the head of the Union of South America (UNASUR), Secretary General Maria Emma Mejia, met with UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday to reinforce the support of its 12-nation-member organisation for Argentina in its row with Britain over the Malvinas Islands.

The Malvinas Islands, located about 300 miles off Argentina's coast and home to about 3,000 inhabitants, have been declared as part of the British Overseas Territories since Britain established its colonial rule in the islands in 1833. However, Argentina has repeatedly dismissed the British claim, saying that London should concede the sovereignty of the islands.

Tensions between the two countries have escalated since 2010, when Britain authorised the exploration of oil around the Malvinas waters.

Workers at Brazil's Belo Monte dam go on strike

NEARLY 7,000 workers building the massive Belo Monte dam in Brazil's Amazon rainforest went on strike to protest their working conditions, according to the consortium in charge of the project.

The Belo Monte Construction Consortium said the workers launched the walkout on April 24 as many labour unions blocked the road to the dam near the town of Altamira on the Xingu River in the northern Brazilian state of Para.

Their demands include free air fare, permissions to visit hometowns every three months instead of the current six-month period and a higher-value monthly meal vouchers.

In June 2011, the Brazilian environmental agency approved the construction of Belo Monte hydroelectric dam in the Amazon jungle state of Rondonia, despite the strong opposition of indigenous people to the project.

The indigenous groups, environmentalists and activists have waged protest efforts against the project, saying a six-fold increase in the deforestation of the Amazon was detected in March and April 2011. The enormous deforestation in the country has made Brazil one of the world's top greenhouse gas emitters. While the construction of the dam will create some 18,000 new jobs, it will also displace some 16,000 people, according to government figures.

The project has been halted on several instances due to protests by environmentalists and the indigenous people of the region. However, the government refuses to back down from the project, saying that the Belo Monte plant is essential, given the country's desperate need for energy.

Three-month sentence for anti-nuclear court graffiti protest

TWO Scottish peace activists, Barbara Dowling and Janet Fenton, were sentenced on March 19 in Dumbarton Sheriff Court for painting "political graffiti" on the walls of the court following a 2010 trial in which they were accused of a breach of the peace during a blockade of Faslane naval base, home to Britain's Trident nuclear weapon submarines.

Justice Ross refused to hear their defence. She would not allow them to put their argument that they had a right to disrupt the illegal work at Faslane under international humanitarian law.

Immediately following the trial they painted on internal walls of the court slogans indicating the failure of the court to uphold international law. At the trial last month Barbara and Janet accepted that they had painted the court's walls but maintained their not guilty plea as they felt that the public needed to know that the court did not uphold international law.

Barbara Dowling, a retired Occupational Therapist, of Knightswood was given three months in prison and Janet Fenton, Secretary of Scottish CND was given 120 hours Community Service. Barbara Dowling also has an ongoing court case in relation to the 2011 Census. Her trial in the census case is scheduled for May 15 in Glasgow Sheriff Court.

Canadian police arrest 90 protesters in Montreal

CANADIAN police arrested at least 90 demonstrators protesting in the city of Montreal against a planned mine construction in the province of Quebec.

The protest, organised by students and environmentalists on April 21, turned violent after police clashed with the protesters who were trying to disrupt a conference on Quebec Premier Jean Charest's plan for the construction.

The protest came a day after the Montreal police clashed with students at a protest rally against tuition fee hikes. Riot police used tear gas, projectiles and rubber bullets on hundreds of students protesting outside a convention center in downtown Montreal where Charest was scheduled to give a speech.

At least six protesters were wounded and 20 others arrested in the clashes.

The Fools, The Fools, The Fools...

(They have left us our Fenian dead and while Ireland holds these graves Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.)

ITS referendum time again. While the German Eagle cruises overhead waiting to pounce, the politicians in Leinster House fearfully avert their eyes and pretend there is an easy way to tell people to f*** off.

The Irish people, as is their wont, now and again seem

sickened by the whole debacle and just want their leaders to grow a set of you know whats. However, generations of kowtowing to colonial masters has left the bunch up in the Big House incapable of doing anything.

They just "go with the flow" like addicts on a road to nowhere who believe they have found meaning in the study of existential life.

Well, there really is an Eagle cruising overhead and if the Free State Government gets its constitutional change and

legalises foreign intervention the Big Bird in the sky will drop down on all of us and the Free State and international courts will back them as happened in Libya...

Sometimes hard decisions need to be taken. We are used to those who make hard decisions based on the Judas Iscariot method. That is where for one's own aggrandisement and survival it is deemed necessary to betray even those they love. Undoubtedly, that is a hard thing to do (but not as hard as enduring for one's beliefs).

So now, finally, we get to compare the courage of those who claim to govern a Republic of 26 Counties and those who continue to follow the Proclamation of Independence.

Those who claim a *de jure* Republic exists now must defend it. Will they? One suspects that those who claim leadership of that republic hope that as in 1916 the ordinary people of Ireland will reject that which they lack the courage to stand against themselves.

On the other hand maybe we should look at the positive

aspects. This may indeed be the 26 Counties' *Titanic*. Just think of it. They can invite Peter and Martin down from Stormont. Open a memorial to the unemployed and *émigrés*. The German and French language teachers could do very well.

I mean after all as Peter Robinson indicated when he opened the Titanic Centre, 1,500 dead, mostly poor Irish and women and children, can bring a lot of wealth to the rich if the thing is handled well.

So the selling of a country. Now somewhere, someone must

be getting a brown envelope. On this occasion they need one last vote from the people of the 26 Counties to legalise their future activities.

At the grave of O'Donovan Rossa Patrick Pearse reminded the Quilings of his time (and a British Empire that makes this bunch of Irish and European opportunists look like raggle-taggle gypsies) that some laws are immutable.

— Mac Cool

Where are the Spartans?

I ATTENDED yesterday's rally, April 22, in support of Marian Price, where I met up and walked with several former Blanketmen, among them Willie G, my friend Sa and Davy Glennon.

Just after the speeches a former Blanket man/Hunger Striker from Belfast, Hodgje, approached me and asked did I see the banner.

The banner he referred to was a drawing of Marian with the question above it ... 'Where are The Spartans?' (sic)

The Spartans are how Richard O'Rawe referred to Blanket Men in his first book of that name.

Speaking for myself I must say I was angry that someone had gone to the bother of not only making such a banner but that it was held up beside the

platform. And this while former Blanket men from Derry and Belfast stood among the crowd in support of Marian.

Indeed if the question was asked, 'Where are the Spartans?' I'll attempt to answer.

In the years since the Blanket protest many of those whom Richard called The Spartans have died; quite a few killed by British forces or loyalist killer gangs, others have died of natural causes. In fact I've heard that at least 50 have died, maybe even more.

A few are now running the North on behalf of the British;

pushing through Tory cuts and criminalising Republicanism. In the words of Bobby Sands they are now: "Systemised, institutionalised, decent law-abiding robots." They have done well for themselves; they are landlords, business owners and have holiday homes in Portugal or Gweedore. The lesser among them are in jobs funded by Britain and they dare not speak of Marian or injustice, never mind protesting, for fear of being seen as dissenting and thus losing favour and those jobs.

Then there are the former Spartans who are still imprisoned by the past and wasted years.

Last night in a bar with my wife we sat beside two young

girls and got talking to them. Their surname brought back memories of a young boy who was just 16 when he went on the Blanket protest. I hadn't heard of the lad in many years even though he lived only a few miles away across the river. The girls told us that indeed he is their uncle, the brother of their father. He had got married many years ago in the US and the marriage lasted only 3 weeks. Today, they told us, he is still in jail. That jail is a small flat he only leaves to get a few messages. He cannot escape from the memories of 30 years ago.

In Derry I know there are many other former Blanketmen like that, worse even. Some find escape in alcohol, others have serious mental problems; like

the lad who talks to the Hunger Strikers and phones a friend, another former Blanketman, to ask him does he remember the time the screws came into his cell at four in the morning to beat him and his cellmate senseless.

I saw a former Blanketman standing close to the platform, a big man who had just been operated on to cut cancer from his body. He leant on a walking stick and when I asked him how he was after the rally, the pain etched on his face as he spoke, said more than what he told me.

I'm told that there are many former Blanketmen going through what I described above in other parts of the North. I cannot speak for them but I hope I've answered the question

asked by those holding up the banner as to the whereabouts of 'The Spartans'.

Indeed the question should have been: 'Where are all those who passed through the prisons since the Cages and Internment?'

Then again, maybe the answer is similar to that of 'The Spartans'?

— Thomas Dixie Elliot

This article was carried on April 23 in Anthony McIntyre's blog *The Pensive Quill*. <http://thepensivequill.com/> Thomas Dixie Elliot is a former Blanketman.

Dick Smith

ON April 23 the remains of life-long Republican Dick Smith were removed from O'Connor's Funeral Home in Kenmare.

His coffin was draped in the National Flag and accompanied by a Republican Sinn Féin guard of honour flanking both sides of the funeral hearse. It proceeded a short distance away where it stopped and the guard of honour was dismissed.

The cortege then journeyed to Dick's home village of Lauragh, Co Kerry

which lies on the Beara Peninsula. The guard of honour formed up again and accompanied the cortege to the church.

Following Funeral Mass on April 24 members of Republican Sinn Féin in full uniform placed the National Flag on top of the coffin along with Republican trappings of

a beret and gloves.

The colour party flanked both sides of the hearse as did a Republican Sinn Féin Guard of Honour and was led by a lone piper for a short distance. The guard of honour was dismissed and the cortege then journeyed the five miles distance to Kilmaculogue Cemetery near the village of Lauragh.

Near the cemetery the colour party and guard of honour formed up again and led by the piper accompanied Dick's remains to the graveside.

Following graveside prayers, Stephen Brosnan,

Publicity Officer, Republican Sinn Féin, Kerry read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, ironically Dick's burial was on 24 April the actual date of the 1916 Rising.

Brian Smullen, Republican Sinn Féin, Tralee, stepped forward to deliver the funeral oration.

Brian began with offering sincere sympathy to Dick's family, his comrades in the Republican Movement and his many friends. Brian outlined Dick's lifelong commitment to the Republican Cause and his work over many decades to

restore the All-Ireland Republic and remove foreign rule from his native land. He went on to say that Dick Smith carried out his work quietly and without fuss or bother, and his love for his family and his country knew no bounds.

In the 1970s when our people in the Occupied Six Counties were under siege, it was then that Dick's nationalist and Republican flame shone brightest, and his dedication and the work he did most of which may never be known or documented, such was the man.

Brian concluded with a verse from a poem written by Republican Martyr, Michael 'The' O'Rahilly, killed in action in the 1916 Rising.

Thou are not conquered yet dear land The spirit still is free Though long the Saxon's ruthless hand Has triumphed over thee Thou oft obscured by clouds of woe Thy sun has never set Twill blaze again in golden glow Thou are not conquered yet.

The funeral ceremony ended with the piper playing *Amhrán na bhFiann*.

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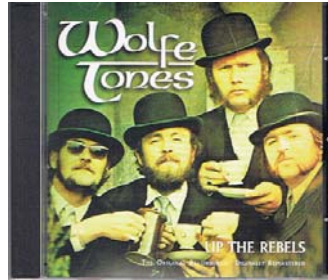
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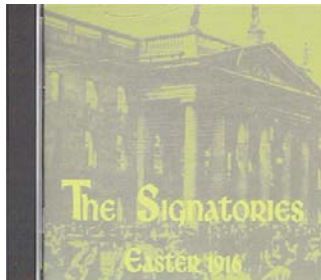
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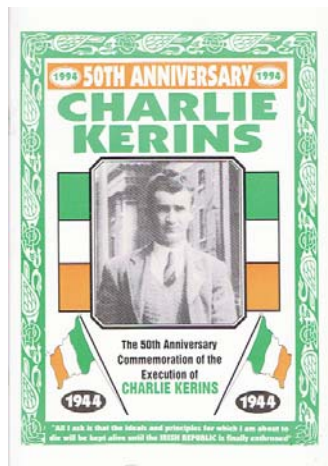
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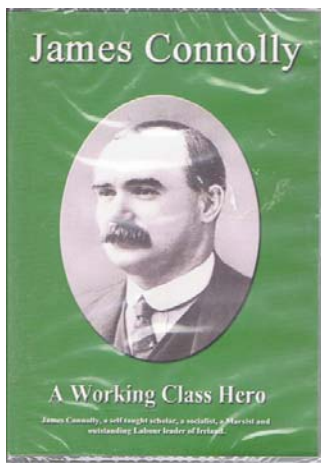
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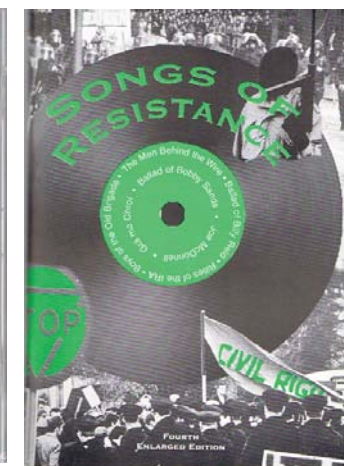
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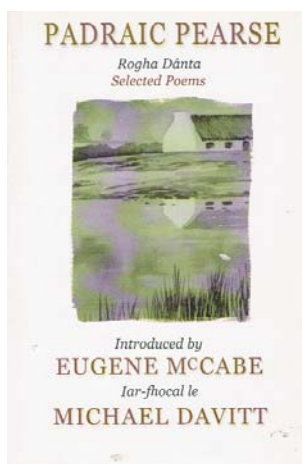
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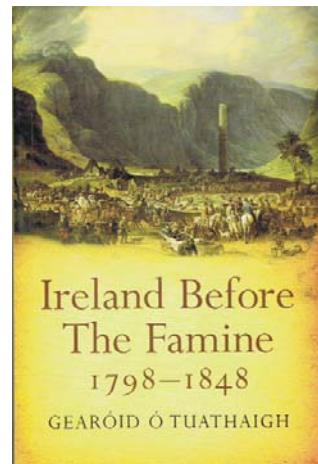
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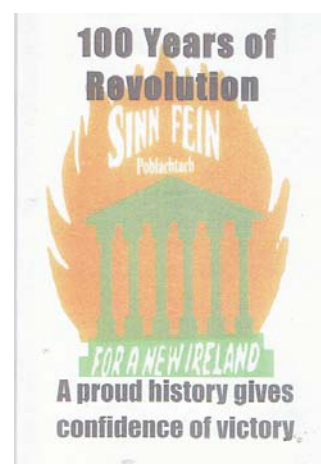
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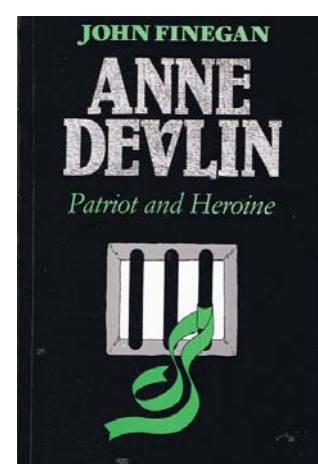
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