

# SAOIRSE

## IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



*Nollaig Shona  
dár  
leitheoirí*



UIMH 236 NOLLAIG — DECEMBER 2006 <http://saoirse.info> €1.50 (£1 stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

**Stormont like 'a dead man walking'**

# Failure and Farce

**Féilire Poblachtach  
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COMPROMISE!**  
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ONCE again the attempt by the British government to reconstitute Stormont has failed. November 24 was the absolute deadline we were told again and again by the Brits and the Dublin administration.

November 24 came and the Provos for their part toadied up to the latest amendment to the Stormont Agreement of 1998, the St Andrews Agreement of 2006. On the other hand Paisley and his DUP failed to deliver.

British supremo Peter Hain accepted Paisley's fudge as a "Yes, I want to be first minister" which it obviously was not. In its editorial next day (November 25) the *Irish Times* accused Peter Hain of "reinterpreting what Dr Paisley actually said in order to keep the St Andrews Agreement alive."

It went on: "The [Stormont] Assembly's credibility has been damaged by this kind of Alice in Wonderland politics. And Mr Hain's authority has been undermined. It may have been a necessary fudge in order to buy time and to keep the process going, but at what cost?"

The facts are that the DUP is split three ways: those like Paisley who

want to grab hold of power in Stormont under certain humiliating conditions for the Provos; those who want to slow that process up led by Nigel Dodds; and the element headed by people such as Rev William MacCrea who do not want to share a limited control locally under British rule.

Look at the record. On November 14 last the *Irish Times* quoted Mr Hain as saying that the nominations (of first and deputy first minister) from the DUP and [Provisional] Sinn Féin must occur in the Assembly.

"The nominations are a bridge to the transitional Assembly, the consultation with the people (ie the March election) and the restoration on March 26 of the full Assembly. If you don't cross the first bridge,



then you have dissolution," he said.

The *Irish Times* report continued: "The bottom line he made clear, was that if the nominations did not happen on Friday week (November 24) then it was curtains for the current 'Hain' Assembly, Assembly pay, and the St Andrews Agreement and all the financial and other promises contained in the deal."

We all know that Paisley did **not** nominate "in the Assembly". We saw him on television and heard him on radio. Yet Stormont

goes on and on, the salaries and expenses are paid, the deadline has passed and the "Assembly" with all its extravagant buffoonery continues.

The alternative is natural exercise of power and decision-making, according to local majorities in a nine-county Ulster with optimum devolution to the regions, districts and local communities. This would of course require a complete disengagement from Ireland by the English government.



**Seán Sabhat  
Commemoration**

**Sunday, January 7  
2007**

Mount St Lawrence  
Cemetery  
Assemble Brannigan's Bar,  
Mulgrave Street, Limerick,  
1.45pm

**Vol Fergal O'Hanlon  
50th Anniversary  
Commemoration**

**Sunday, January 14  
2007, 2pm**

Assemble: The Cathedral,  
Monaghan  
for march to Latlurgan  
Cemetery  
Óráid: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh



**DÁITHÍ  
Ó CONAILL**

**COMMEMORATION**

**January 1, 2007  
New Year's Day**

Assemble:  
Gates of Glasnevin  
Cemetery, Dublin  
12.45pm



## RUC barracks attacked in Armagh

IT was reported on November 9 that shots were fired outside the RUC/PSNI barracks in Keady, County Armagh. Ulster Television said that bullet holes were visible in the security fence and wall.

A local person living across from the barracks said that an explosion rocked his house just before the gunfire and he said a helicopter was out all night but no members of the British Crown Forces landed until morning. UTV also said that two of the British colonial police were in the barrack yard when the shooting started and hid in the barracks. They later phoned nearby residents to ask what had happened and could they see anything.

In a statement released to the media on November 25 the Armagh City Brigade of the Continuity Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for the attack on Keady RUC/PSNI barracks on November 9.

The statement said: "Two fully armed units descended on Keady early in the evening to ensure the area was secured. Volunteers observed the station and noted two RUC/PSNI officers positioned inside the

perimeter fence, the signal was given for the lead unit to employ their mission. A Volunteer armed with an AK-47 assault rifle opened fire whilst a second threw a blast bomb.

"The following day the media reported the successful attack and heard from a local resident that the blast bomb attack had shaken his home and the gunfire could clearly be heard in the surrounding area, he continued to say the RUC/PSNI had phoned him to ask if he had heard the attack as they were afraid to leave the station and check for damage in case they were attacked, as they had no back up."

In their statement the CIRA said that such attacks against the British police forces would continue, and shop owners in Lurgan, Armagh, and Keady were warned that serving the RUC/PSNI would not be tolerated, and direct action would be taken against them if



• Keady, Co Armagh RUC/PSNI barracks.



• Pictured above are Armagh CIRA members on patrol during the loyalist marching season in a photograph received from media outlets last September.

they continued.

"Responsibility for this attack was issued to the *Irish News*

newspaper and UTV by way of a recognised code word," the statement ended.

### CUMANN NA SAOIRSE NÁISIÚNTA

#### 12th ANNUAL AWARDS TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta will hold its 12th Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner, on Friday January 26th 2007, at the Astorian World Manor in Astoria, Queens to recognise and honor Irish Americans and others for their contributions to the promotion of Irish history, literature, human rights and Irish freedom.

The Honorees for the 2007 NIFC Awards are:

**Michael Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award:** Michael Skeahan

**The Pearl Flannery Humanities Award:** Patsy Ó Brádaigh  
**The Sr Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award:** Kathleen Montague

Tickets for the 2007 Testimonial are \$75.00 per person. For ticket information please call Bob at 845-354-2473.

A Memorial Ad Journal will be produced to mark the event. Journal ads are \$100.00 for a full page and \$60.00 for a half page.

For more information please email nifcmem@optonline.net or call 732 441 3679



• Michael Flannery



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## Gearrscóalta

### Bomb found in Fermanagh

IT was reported on November 9 that a bomb had been found during an RUC/PSNI search operation in County Fermanagh. In a statement the Continuity IRA said it had abandoned a landmine near the border village of Roslea. A caller using a recognised codeword phoned a newspaper in Enniskillen to say the device had been left on the Clough Road. The caller said that the main charge failed to detonate and after assessing the situation the bomb was abandoned.

### GAA player arrested

IT was reported that a well-known Gaelic footballer was arrested during an RUC/PSNI operation at his home in south Armagh on November 30.

The family of Jonathan Hanratty, who plays for Crossmaglen Rangers, said members of the British colonial police entered their home and arrested him and his father.

Jonathan Hanratty is part of the Crossmaglen Rangers squad, the dominant club in Armagh senior club Gaelic football, having won 11 titles in a row. They defeated Ballinderry in the Ulster senior club championship final at Casement Park in Belfast on December 3. The winners will go on to contest the All-Ireland club semi-finals next year.

It appears that the arrests arose out of an incident on November 8 when an RUC/PSNI member drove his vehicle onto the Hanratty's property. Jonathan Hanratty's father objected to the presence of the RUC/PSNI member on his property and is alleged to have obstructed and threatened the policeman.

Two members of the RUC were said to have been assaulted during the arrest of the elder Hanratty on November 30, and as a result Jonathan Hanratty was arrested as well. Both men were said to have been injured during the British police operation.

The RUC/PSNI said a 19-year-old man had been charged with obstruction, resisting arrest and assault on the British police and was expected to appear at Newry Magistrates Court on December 20, say someone had been seen in our front room with a gun."

### Ardoynes residents targeted by loyalist gang

SUPPORTERS of the Shoukri brothers were believed to be behind the death threats issued to around a dozen Ardoynes residents.

The RUC/PSNI called to the homes of 11 people on November 14 to warn them that their lives are in danger. The British colonial police told them that they are being targeted by a loyalist group called the Protestant Reaction Force. The name is thought to be a cover for supporters of the Shoukri brothers.

Since being forced out of the UDA in the summer the Shoukri mob has been behind a number of incidents designed to embarrass the organisation. In September 26-County administration official Aine de Baróid was forced to quit her Belfast home after being given a death threat. The threat came from supporters of the Shoukri brothers. She had been involved in a series of meetings between the 26-County government and the UDA.

### Provos join policing committees in 26 Counties

IT was reported in the *Irish News* on November 28, that a Provisional TD Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Dublin, had taken a seat on a Dublin police body and that 17 Provisional councillors are also taking seats on the new policing committees. Larry O'Toole, a Provisional city councillor was selected as vice-chairman of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee which will see the local authorities and the gardai liaising on law enforcement in the community.

### Results of National Draw

**Iú Duais:** Ticket no 7943, Two All-Ireland Tickets and €500, Adrian Haire, Mayo  
**2ú Duais:** Ticket no 1005, €500, P McCaughey, Co Tyrone  
**3ú Duais:** Ticket no 12981, €300, J O'Donnell, London  
**4ú Duais:** Ticket no 13455, M O'Connell, London  
**5ú Duais:** Ticket no 14880, Bodhrán, Ann Kennealy, Clare

### Results of Dublin raffle

NOVEMBER Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 559; 2nd prize 134; 3rd prize 470; 4th prize 120; 5th prize 223; 6th prize 471; 7th prize 038; 8th prize 102.

**SAOIRSE January edition published 10/1/2007**

## JOIN REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN



### OUR AIMS

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland . . . The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC . . . The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland . . .

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Formed in 1905 . . . We are the oldest political organisation in the country . . . Organised throughout the 32 Counties . . . We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country . . .

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**For a full British withdrawal from Ireland**



## Gearrsc alta Republican Sinn F ein commemorations held

REPUBLICAN Sinn F ein in West Limerick and Ballylongford, Co Kerry held commemorations on Sunday, November 19.

The West Limerick commemoration honoured the sacrifice and memory of the H-Block hunger strike and was the first to be held in Broadford, Co Limerick by the newly-established Smith-O'Brien/Colbert cumann.

The main speaker was Des Long who welcomed those attending despite the atrocious weather conditions. He then went on to provide a very thought-provoking analysis of the situation Republicans who remain loyal to a 32-County Ireland find themselves in. He called for Republican unity and to those Republicans who now see the great betrayal perpetrated on the Republican cause to return to the struggle.

He said: "Republicans take the long view – our history teaches us that in every generation there will be an uprising against the British presence in our country and if that challenge is met by force of arms, then there will be a suitable armed response from the Irish people.

"In the coming days and weeks the political shadow boxing will continue but one thing is certain, we will see the Provisionals even further humiliated by having to swear oaths to the British police and the Crown.

"The 1981 hunger strikers died for a united Ireland, for the All-Ireland Republic. Those brave men who sacrificed their lives and all the Irish people deserve nothing less, so let us leave this place here determined that they will not be forgotten and let us pledge ourselves to achieving their goal – a new and united Ireland."

A wreath was laid by Mick Ryan from Limerick on behalf of the POWs and the proceeding were brought to an end.

Later that day a commemoration was held in Ballylongford, Co Kerry to remember Vol Eddie Carmody, murdered by British forces during the War of Independence.

John Mangan, Cathaoirleach, Chomhairle Ceantair Chiarraí, Sinn F ein Poblachtach, chaired the proceedings and asked those attending to remember the POWs at Christmas. A wreath was laid by Betty Sheehy and a decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaelige by John Mangan.

## Com radh ar an Athair M iche l   Gr iofa

IN ainneoin na h-aimsire a bheith go h-ainnis ar an Domhnach, Samhain 19, mharsa il dosaen duine m le go leith  n mbunsc il i mBearna, Gaillimh go dt  Cloch Scoilte,  it ar fritheadh corp an Athar U  Gr iofa i 1920, tar  is do fh rsaf Shasana   a dh nmhar . Ag an leacht chuimhneach n, bh  Tom s   Curraoin mar chathaoirleach. D irt Se n Mac an Iomaire deichni ir den Phaidr n, leag Kay U  Churraoin bl thfhleasc agus sheinn an p bairse marbhna. Seosamh   Murch , Baile an Lochs, Roscom in, a thug  r id gearr don d  sc r a bh  i l thair.

## Charlie Kerins commemorated in Kerry

THE annual Charlie Kerins commemoration took place in Tralee, Co Kerry on December 1. The parade moved off from the Pikeman statue in Denny Street led by a lone piper and a colour party from Limerick and Listowel.

The proceedings were chaired by Seoirse de R s. A decade of the rosary was recited as Gaelige by John Mangan, Ard-Chomhairle, Sinn F ein Poblachtach and three wreaths were laid on behalf of the POWs by Matt Leen, on behalf of Sinn F ein Poblachtach, by Dan Keating, Republican Sinn F ein Patron, and on behalf of the Republican Movement by Tom Lawlor.

The oration was given by Se m s   S illabh in, Limerick who gave a rundown on the life and history of Charlie Kerins. His contribution was very informative and very much appreciated.

The proceedings closed with the playing of Amhr n na bhFiann.

## RUC anonymity

THE Hamill Inquiry said on November 9 that it is to appeal a decision granting anonymity to members of the RUC giving evidence in the case of Robert Hamill, from Portadown, who was beaten to death by loyalists in 1997 while the RUC looked on.

Sir Edwin Jowitt's panel wants the retired RUC men to give evidence openly about their role. A spokesman for the tribunal said: "A notice of appeal is to be lodged on behalf of the Robert Hamill Inquiry against the judgment of Mr Justice Morgan sitting in the High Court of Northern Ireland (sic) on judicial review.

"The judgment ruled against the Inquiry's decision to refuse the applications for anonymity made by a number of serving and former police officers."

## 'Widespread' collusion by British forces in atrocities

WIDESPREAD collusion between British Crown forces and loyalist death squads was behind many, if not all, of a number of atrocities in both the Six and 26-Counties that resulted in 18 deaths in the mid 1970s, a Leinster House subcommittee concluded in a report published on November 29.

A subcommittee of the 'Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice' said it was "horrified" that people employed by the British administration were "engaged in the creation of violence and the butchering of innocent victims".

The subcommittee which considered Judge Henry Barron's report into nine loyalist attacks, including the bombing of Kay's Tavern in Dundalk, Co Louth, the Three Star Inn in Castleblayney, Co Monaghan, and the attack on the Miami Showband near Newry, Co Down, said it believed that unless the full truth about collusion is established, and unless those involved admit to or are fixed with responsibility, there cannot be closure for the families.

In its report, the subcommittee said there were acts of "international terrorism" that were colluded in by the British Crown forces. "The British government cannot legitimately refuse to co-operate with investigations and attempts to get to the truth", it said.

The committee found that the British cabinet was aware of the level to which British forces had been "infiltrated" by loyalists and said there was inadequate response to this.

The committee said it further believed that unless the full truth about collusion is established there is always the risk of what occurred in the 1970s occurring again some day.

However the subcommittee fell short of calling for a full public inquiry into the atrocities, much to the disappointment of survivors and relatives of those killed who attended the report launch in Leinster House, and instead called for a full debate in the Leinster House assembly.

The report noted that at the time

of the atrocities the 26-County administration at all levels could have been more "vigorous" in their attempts to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators.

The 26-County administration complained to the British government in August 1975 that four members of the RUC in the Portadown area were also members of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

The subcommittee said it could not understand why the documentation in relation to this stops dead in its tracks on September 3, 1975, given the gravity of the issue.

In relation to the Miami Showband murders, the committee noted that three serving members of the British army's Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) were convicted and two other serving members of the UDR accidentally blew themselves up at the scene of the attack. They noted the conviction of three RUC members in connection with the attack on the Rock Bar in Co Armagh in June 1976.

### THE ATROCITIES INVESTIGATED

- The bombing of Kay's Tavern in Dundalk Co Louth, in December 1975 in which Hugh Waters and Jack Rooney were killed.

- The bombing at Castleblayney, Co Monaghan, in March 1976 in which Patrick Mone was killed.

- The Dublin airport bombing in November 1975 in which John Francis Hayes was killed.

- The gun and bomb attack at Donnelly's Bar, Silverbridge, Co Armagh, in which Patrick Donnelly, Michael Donnelly and Trevor Brecknell were killed.

- The attack on the Reeve family in Markethill, Co Armagh, in January 1976 in which three brothers, John Martin, Brian and Anthony, were killed.

- The attack on the Step Inn in Keady, Co Armagh, in August 1976 in which Betty McDonald and Gerard McGleenan was killed.

- The attack on the O'Dowd family in Gilford, Co Down, in January 1976 in which three brothers Barry, Declan and their uncle Joe were killed.

- The atrocity at the Rock Bar, near Keady, Co Armagh, in June 1976 in which nobody was killed but a number were injured.

- The attack on the Miami Showband in July 1975 in which Francis O'Toole, Anthony Geraghty and Brian McCoy were killed.

The identities of the killers of the Miami Showband, who were massacred on July 30 1975, were known within weeks to the highest levels in the British government, the Leinster House joint subcommittee reported.

The Showband, led by Fran O'Toole and then one of the most popular music groups on the island, played its final gig in the Castle Ballroom in Banbridge, Co Down.

In the early hours, the group left the town to head back into the 26-Counties in a minibus where they were flagged down by a group of armed men near the border.

The checkpoint was being operated by the British army's UDR. The band's members were told to get out with their hands up. A few seconds later, there was an explosion, killing two of the British soldiers. This was followed immediately by gunfire that killed three of the group, Francis O'Toole, Anthony Geraghty and Brian McCoy.

Stephen Travers was badly injured and Des McAlea managed to escape by fleeing across a field in the darkness.

Two serving members of the UDR were charged with murder,

convicted and sentenced to 35 years, while a third was arrested later and sentenced to top life imprisonment.

Judge Henry Barron noted that a former RUC member, John Weir, alleged the bomb used in the attack had come from a farmhouse at Glenanne which was frequented by British army intelligence.

The Miami case, and others investigated by him, said Judge Barron, "paints a clear picture of collaboration between members of the security forces (sic) and loyalist extremists. The inquiry would be shutting its eyes to reality if it accepted that such collaboration was limited to the cases in which collusion has been proven."

By September 1975, the identities of the loyalist death squad was known, judging by minutes of a meeting involving then British prime minister Harold Wilson, the Six County British direct-ruler Merlyn Rees, the future British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and Airy Neave, the Conservative Party spokesperson on the Six Counties, who was assassinated by the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) in a car bomb in 1979.

The subcommittee report concluded: "The secretary of state was more worried about sectarian murders than about the bombings in Belfast, and it was unfortunate that certain elements in the police were very close to the Ulster Volunteer Force and prepared to hand information to, for example Mr Paisley. It [the minutes of the meeting] states the army's judgement was that the UDR was heavily infiltrated by extremist Protestants (sic) who could not be relied upon to be loyal in a crisis. The regiment which could not be relied upon in a crisis was mobilised in south Armagh in the wake of the attacks at Donnelly's Bar, Kay's Tavern, on the Reavey and O'Dowd households and the Kingsmills massacre," the subcommittee report said.

## Shell protest escalates

ON November 10 the Shell to Sea group held a 'day of action', which was described as the most violent since protests over the Corrib project began, involved more than 100 local people and an additional 80 to 100 supporters.

As the second of two such 'action days' since Shell resumed work at the terminal, it was planned to mark the 11th anniversary of the execution of Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight Ogoni activists who were opposed to Shell's presence on their lands.

As supporters of the Rosport and Glengad communities travelled to Mayo on November 9, gard ai were erecting roadblocks on all access routes to the terminal site. It was at one such roadblock at about 7am on November 10 that the first in a series of confrontations began.

At this point, some 130 gard ai had been deployed and the so-called 'public order unit' or riot squad was on standby.

School principal Maura Harrington who had been injured at the site in October, began driving her mini-van towards a line of gard ai and blowing her horn. Her vehicle was pushed through the Garda barriers, and two gard ai used truncheons to

smash the side windows and pull her out. Her van was taken away for so-called "technical examination".

Several small groups of demonstrators passed the checkpoints some dispersing into the bog, followed by gard ai, and others making their way on to the main road.

As before, many of the 200 demonstrators were local people in an age range from mid-30s to late 70s, with between 80 and 100 from Dublin, Cork, Galway among other areas.

Many sustained bruises on legs and arms from police truncheons, some were thrown into a ditch with a drop of about 10ft. Clothes and uniforms were torn.

One local man was taken to hospital after a gard a pushed him into a water-filled ditch and was pulled in after him.

There were further serious injuries later when, several miles away, protesters began picketing several suppliers to the Shell terminal site. Gard ai removed



• Dan Donohue, RSF Ard Chomhairle, Philip McGrath of the Rosport Five and Pat Cannon of Mayo RSF at the Shell protest rally in Dublin on December 2.

protesters from an access road linking the Lennon quarries, and then proceeded to Barrett's builders' providers to break up another group there.

One local man sustained fractured ribs, while another protester had his nose broken. Two people were arrested.

Meanwhile Pat O'Donnell of the Erris Inshore Fisherman's Association (EIFA) said local fishermen had agreed at a meeting on November 7 to prevent Shell's plans to locate an effluent out pipe in Broadhaven Bay, by using their fishing vessels to blockade Broadhaven Bay.

The fishermen are concerned

about an out pipe which will pump effluent into the sea close to a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and damage marine life.

The Shell to Sea campaign cancelled plans for a "Day of Solidarity" in north Mayo planned for November 24 on grounds of health and safety.

A national rally to highlight concerns about the Corrib gas project took place on December 2 in Dublin at the Norwegian Embassy. The campaign also reiterated its proposal for a commission of inquiry which it described as the "only viable method to resolve this crisis".

# For The Record

**MON. OCTOBER 30:** A bomb attack on the home of Polish nationalists in Toberrill Gardens, Antrim was being treated as racist.

**TUES. OCTOBER 31:** PW Botha, one of those responsible for the apartheid laws in South Africa, died aged 90. It is estimated that his security forces killed more than 2,000 people and that 25,000 were detained without trial and often tortured.

A petrol bomb was thrown at the RUC/PSNI in Warrenpoint, Co Down when around 40 youths attacked them.

Homes in Omagh were evacuated as a suspected package was investigated.

Tony Blair said there will be no amnesty for the 'on the runs' and that his government had no intention of bringing back legislation on the issue.

Over 100 British soldiers from the Black Watch based at Palace Barracks, Hollywood, Co Down left for a six-month tour of duty in Iraq.

**WED. NOVEMBER 1:** Drift-net fishermen held a protest outside Leinster House in Dublin in protest at the complete ban on drift-netting for salmon, as well as angling curbs on 30 rivers, which comes into force within the next few weeks.

Shell E&P Ireland sought and secured an adjournment of its application to discontinue its legal action which it alleges is no longer necessary in light of its agreement to modify the route of the gas pipeline. Protests continue at the Bellanaboy site on a daily basis.

**THURS. NOVEMBER 2:** The Provisional leadership said that an agreement on the timetable for transferring powers on policing from Westminster to the Stormont assembly had to be agreed before they will hold a special Ard-Fheis to drop their opposition to the RUC/PSNI.

The 26-County Administration is considering plans to pass on control of rivers and lakes in the State to private companies and community interests.

**FRI. NOVEMBER 3:** A gun attack on a group of young nationalist in Somerset Drive, Coleraine, Co Derry was being investigated as a sectarian shooting.

**SAT. NOVEMBER 4:** Campaigners against the planned route of the M3 motorway close to the Hill of Tara held a protest march in Navan and urged people not to vote for politicians who are responsible for the proposed motorway at the next election.

**SUN. NOVEMBER 5:** Iraq's High Tribunal found Saddam Hussein guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced him to hang for the 1982 killing of 148 Shiites in Dujail. Also sentenced to hang were his half-brother and former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim and former head of the Revolutionary Court, Awad Hamed al-Bandar.

**MON. NOVEMBER 6:** The Provisionals' Ard Chomhairle accepted the St Andrews Agreement.

Clifford McKeown, jailed for the murder of nationalist taxi driver Michael McGoldrick in 1996, had his appeal dismissed.

Approximately 35% of recent immigrants say they have been insulted, threatened or harassed in public because of their ethnic or national origin according to a new report by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and that 21% seeking jobs face discrimination.

Around 150 former workers of the Irish Sugar plant at Mallow, Co Cork, staged a protest outside Greencore head office in Dublin and called for the company to pay them their redundancy.

**TUES. NOVEMBER 7:** Ian Paisley said there must be 'delivery of support' for the RUC/PSNI by the Provos before the St Andrews Agreement can move forward.

**WED. NOVEMBER 8:** US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld resigned after the Democratic Party's victory in the congressional elections.

Members of the Shell to Sea campaign held a protest outside the Burlington Hotel in Dublin where the *Exploring Atlantic Ireland* conference was held.

**THURS. NOVEMBER 9:** A section of road was closed off in Co Fermanagh after a caller claiming to represent the Continuity IRA said a landmine was abandoned on the Clogh Road, Rosslea after failing to detonate.

Shots were fired at Keady RUC station in Co Armagh.

The Hamill Inquiry is to appeal a decision granting anonymity to members of the RUC giving evidence about Robert Hamill who was beaten to death by loyalists in Portadown in 1997 as members of the RUC looked on.

A woman won the right, under the freedom of



• 26-County police clash with Shell to Sea protesters, Bellanaboy, Co Mayo.

Information, to see a negative reference supplied by a former employer to a perspective employer.

**FRI. NOVEMBER 10:** The Gardaí were given the report on the Leas Cross nursing Home by the Health service executive (HSE). The report exposes 'shocking deficits in the care provided to elderly residents' and concluded that the level of care provided constituted "institutional abuse".

Four people were injured when gardaí baton charged the Shell to Sea campaigners at the Shell site at Bellanaboy, Mayo.

**SUN. NOVEMBER 12:** In an unprecedented move, the Morris Tribunal asked Frank McBrearty Jnr to undergo 'a full psychiatric and psychological assessment'. The Tribunal also wants reports into his former mental condition. McBrearty branded the request 'sinister' because the assessments would be carried out by practitioners appointed by the tribunal.

There are still 440,000 too many people on the electoral register despite the incorrect removal of ten of thousands of voters from the register according to the *Sunday Tribune*.

Two separate attacks in Co Antrim over the weekend were being treated as racist. In one incident the home of three Polish nationals in Cullybackey, near Ballymena was attacked with petrol bombs. In another attack two cars belonging to members of the Indian community were completely destroyed.

According to Ian Paisley the attitude of the Provos is a 'stumbling block' to the restoration of power-sharing in the Occupied Six Counties.

**MON. NOVEMBER 13:** Members of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (ASGI) voted in favour of co-operating with the Garda Reserve when the part-time force comes into operation in December. In the 26 Counties the first of 37 members of the Garda Reserve began their training in garda stations in Dublin, Cork and Galway.

In the Occupied Six Counties Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) [civilians] are to undertake 'neighbourhood policing' in support of the RUC/PSNI.

Peter Hain, British Secretary of State in the Occupied Six-Counties, insisted that devolving policing and justice powers to a restored executive was a key element of the St Andrews Agreement. The date set under the St Andrews Agreement for the transfer of these powers is May 2008.

The Supreme Court in Dublin overturned an unconstitutional a new electoral regulation, in Section 46.4b, compelling all of the 30 people required to nominate a non-party candidate in general elections to personally attend at local authority offices to authenticate nominations. The court also ruled that Denis O'Riordan, one of those challenging the regulation, was not entitled to describe himself on nomination papers as 'Independent' rather than 'non-party'.

Assembly elections to Stormont were set for March 2007.

**TUES. NOVEMBER 14:** The Glanbia plant in Rooskey, Co Roscommon is to close with the loss of 85 jobs.

A shipment of mixed oxide (MOX) nuclear fuel from Sellafield will pass through the Irish Sea on board the *Atlantic Osprey* in the coming days.

Stephen Mills, director of international programmes with the Sierra Club, a US environmental organisation, intends to lobby political contacts in support of the Shell to Sea campaign which he claimed was not just national but international.

A unit within the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) is to investigate allegations of State collusion in sectarian murders in the Occupied Six Counties.

Omar Bakri Mohammad, an Islamic cleric who was exiled from Britain, advocated an attack on Dublin airport according to a BBC *Newsnight* investigation

**WED. NOVEMBER 15:** American forensic expert Dan Krane told Belfast Crown Court at the trial of Seán Hoey, charged in connection with the Omagh bombing, that incriminating material could have been spread to bomb components during processing at a laboratory.

The Foyle Ethical Investment Campaign are demanding that Derry City Council adhere to a motion passed in 2004 that it would withdraw support from Raytheon if it emerged that Raytheon was used to manufacture arms or weapons components.

**THURS. NOVEMBER 16:** A second forensic expert questioned the evidence used against Seán Hoey. Professor Allan Jamieson said the 'low copy number' DNA technique used by prosecution experts was flawed and the results were wide open to interpretation.

**FRI. NOVEMBER 17:** The RUC/PSNI Gaelic football team won the Thomas McCarthy Cup for the first time beating the Garda Síochána. The match was played in Westmanstown, Dublin and was the fifth annual game.

The B&Q store in Newry, Co Down was evacuated following the discovery of a suspicious device.

**SUN. NOVEMBER 19:** Fire-fighters from Northland Road fire station in Derry came under air rifle attack as they were returning from a call-out.

Michael McDowell, justice minister in the 26 Counties put in place 'enabling provisions' which allow for the electronic tagging of offenders under the Criminal Justice Act (2006).

**MON. NOVEMBER 20:** The home and car of a Lithuanian couple in Bushmills, Co Antrim were damaged in a racist attack during the night.

Justice Girvan, Belfast High Court, queried whether Peter Hain was guilty of perverting the course of justice in relation to the appointment of Bertha McDougall as victims' commissioner in the Occupied Six Counties.

Nuala O'Loan is to investigate some of the circumstances surrounding the murder of Eddie Fullerton in Buncrana, Co Donegal by the UDA in 1991. His family claim that the murder was not investigated properly by gardaí at the time and also alleged there may have been Six-County security force collusion.

Philip Johnston, a farmer from Irvinestown, Fermanagh, was awarded €30,000 damages for assault and false imprisonment by the Garda Síochána. He was stopped at Blacklyon, Co Cavan in 2001, pulled from his 4X4 vehicle and kicked and punched by four members of the 26-County police before being handcuffed and put into a police car.

**TUES. NOVEMBER 21:** Pierre Gemayel, member of the Phalange Party and Lebanon's industry minister, was shot dead.

**WED. NOVEMBER 22:** The inquest into the death of Terence Wheelock was adjourned so that the State pathologist Marie Cassidy can view photographs that are said to show abrasions and lacerations on his body. Terence Wheelock died in hospital three and a half months after being found unconscious in a cell in Store Street Garda station, Dublin last year. According to Simon Doherty, arrested with Terence Wheelock, gardaí assaulted Terence and 'whacked his head off the side of the [police] van'. Solicitor for Terence Wheelock said that experts from England are to carry out an independent examination of his clothes.

M15 has advertised for an 'English Language Monitor' to work at its new HQ in Hollywood, Co Down.

Homes were evacuated and traffic diverted during a security alert at Coleraine Courthouse where a suspicious package was found.

A man was arrested after two pipe-bomb type devices were discovered during a search at Rathmore Gardens, Antrim town.

The High Court reserved judgment on an application by two opponents of the route of the

Corrib gas pipeline for an order that a document of Shell E&P Ireland's lawyers can be used in proceedings against the company.

**THURS. NOVEMBER 23:** A new prison is proposed at Kilworth, north Cork to replace the existing prison in the city. The current prison in Rathmore Road, Cork was built in 1800 as a British military prison for around 150 prisoners. However it houses approximately 300 prisoners at the moment.

A pipe bomb left outside the Homebase store in Newtownabbey was defused by British army bomb experts.

A 'whistleblowers charter' was published by Michael McDowell. It will provide protection for people reporting corruption and malpractice in the 26-County police force.

The British Attorney General is to appoint independent counsel to investigate the appointment by Peter Hain of Bertha McDougall as victims' commissioner for the Occupied Six Counties.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair held talks with Ian Paisley in an effort to devise a formula to resolve the standoff over the nominations of first and second minister.

Almost 80 members of the RUC/PSNI have been suspended over the last five years following allegations which range from attempted murder to driving without insurance.

**FRI. NOVEMBER 24:** More than 500 women and 1,000 children sought refuge from domestic violence last year, according to the Sonas Housing Association which provides transitional housing for victims of domestic violence.

Over 5,000 children and young people are in the care of the Health Service Executive (HSE) — almost 4,250 children, 84%, are in foster care.

Michael Stone, the loyalist killer released under the Stormont Agreement, attempted to launch a gun and bomb attack in Stormont.

Five native Irish speakers lost a High Court bid to restrain a developer from selling a number of houses in a small housing development in An Rinn, the Ring Gaeltacht in Co Port Láirge/Waterford, to people without proven competence in written and spoken Irish.

Seamus McMahoon, Ashbrook, Dundalk, was acquitted in the Special (non-jury) Court in Dublin of membership of an unlawful organisation on October 7, 2004.

**MON. NOVEMBER 27:** A 15-year-old Russian boy was attacked in Ballymena, Co Antrim by two youths. The attack was being treated as racist.

Ian Paisley denied there was a split in the DUP over power-sharing with the Provos. However there are clear differences right down the middle of the parliamentary party and in the assembly group.

**TUES. NOVEMBER 28:** The 26-County State was one of 11 EU states criticised by a European Parliament committee investigating the transport and illegal detention of prisoners by the CIA.

St Vincent de Paul spent €41 million last year to help families in need in the 26-Counties.

Niall Binéad and Kenneth Donohoe, two Provos serving four years for membership of an illegal organisation, lost their appeal against conviction.

Judgement was reserved in the case of Brendan 'Bic' McFlarane charged in connection with the kidnap of Don Tidey in 1983. McFlarane is seeking an order prohibiting the DPP from taking any further steps in the criminal proceedings against him.

Under the Criminal Justice Act 2006 gardaí are to get new powers which will enable them to hold persons for 24 hours, rather than the current 12-hour period, on the word of a chief superintendent.

Allegations by Det Sgt John White that intelligence in the possession of the gardaí before the Omagh bombing was not passed on to the RUC/PSNI, were dismissed by an official enquiry.

**WED. NOVEMBER 29:** Nationalists in the Six Counties urged the British Parades Commission to reverse a decision allowing the Apprentice Boys feeder parade to pass close to a nationalist area of Castlederg, Co Tyrone on December 2.

**FRI. DECEMBER 1:** The family of Brian McDonald, a Co Tyrone taxi driver, shot dead in Donaghmore, Dungannon in 2002, complained for third time to the ombudsman for a third time about the way the investigation into Brian's death was handled.

Two men were released without charge after being questioned about a bomb find at the courthouse in Coleraine, Co Derry.

Three families were forced to leave their homes in Ballyness Park, Coleraine after loyalists broke into the home of one of them and threatened all three.

**SUN. DECEMBER 3:** According to the *Sunday Tribune* the source of the allegations that led to the setting up of the Morris Tribunal was a retired garda.

**MON. DECEMBER 4:** Laurence O'Neill, a Provo veteran from Ballymena, Co Antrim, resigned from the party allegedly after a disagreement over policing.



## Protests in support of Maghaberry prisoners

**THE Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) (www.politicalstatusnow.net) held a very successful white-line protest on November 18 in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. Over 60 supporters of the Irish Republican POWs currently on protest in Maghaberry jail turned up and showed their support.**

More than 1000 leaflets were distributed to the local people in Dungannon, with many asking questions. They were astounded when told that a large number of Republican prisoners were protesting for the same rights won for Republican prisoners by the hunger strikers of 1981 and could not believe that former Republicans would simply sign away the rights that were gained with such high a price.

The RUC/PSNI were out in force and used every opportunity to harass and intimidate the protesters.

When the white-line protest ended a large crowd gathered for a public information meeting which was addressed by the RPAG's national spokesperson Tony McPhillips. He said that the prisoners were fully committed to seeing their protest through to a successful conclusion but stressed that the protest was nearing a new and more confrontational stage.

He said that Republican POWs had tried to resolve this issue with the British prison service and had failed and said that the prisoners would use every form of protest available to them. He also said that the tactic of a media blackout of the protest along with the British government and others ignoring it and hoping that it would just go away was helping to escalate matters.

Former 1980 hunger striker Tommy McKearney said that this type of conflict has been repeated through out the British-Irish conflict.

He said they were imposed as a punishment on those prisoners to keep the prison services supporters happy and he called the regime in Maghaberry totally unjust — an abuse of the prisoners human rights — and said the people present should be applauded for taking to the

streets in support of those prisoners held in these inhumane conditions.

On Saturday, November 18, members of the Glasgow branch of the RPAG distributed over a thousand leaflets to fans going into Celtic Park at the Springfield Road and Janefield Street entrances to the ground. The response from the fans was positive.

As part of an ongoing campaign of harassment by Strathclyde Police against Irish Republicans outside the ground, a member of Sinn Féin Poblachtach who was selling SAORSE and distributing RPAG leaflets had a leaflet and copy of the paper confiscated and his personal details taken. The incident has been logged with a solicitor.

The Glasgow branches of RSF and RPAG refuse to be intimidated and will continue to publicise the prison protest in Maghaberry outside Celtic Park.

Members of Republican Sinn Féin from Waterford and Kilkenny held a picket in the centre of Waterford city in November in support of the protesting prisoners in Maghaberry jail.

Hundreds of leaflets were distributed to the general public, many of whom showed a keen interest in the plight of the prisoners and promised their support.

On November 23 the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) said Republican POWs held in segregated conditions in Maghaberry have been engaged in an ongoing protest since the June 19, 2006. The British Government and the Prison Service in the Six Counties are well aware of their five demands.

The RPAG went on "The POWs commenced this protest



• Members of the RPAG held a white-line picket in support of the protesting POWs in Maghaberry in Newry, Co Down on December 2.

as they felt all other avenues open to them had been exhausted. The Prison Service's statement of November 16 appears to be based on the Separated Regime Review published in May 2006. The Review failed entirely to address the major issues concerning the plight of the POWs, and nothing of significance is contained in this latest statement.

"Any attempt to rehash a document which only solidified the belief amongst the POWs that representations made on their behalf were being ignored is futile. The British Government and their Prison Service are playing a dangerous game with the health and safety of the POWs and should instead seek to resolve the real issues and concede the POWs' five demands."

On November 25 there was a colourful display of tricolours on the large Irish section of the annual Scottish Trade Union Congress march against racism in the centre of Glasgow. Placards were carried calling for an end to Irish racism by the political establishment which has imposed a ban on a pro Irish march in Ayr and Coatbridge, and resorts to anti sectarian legislation to harass and

demonise Irish political activists. The banner of the Glasgow-based Francis Hughes Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach was carried and activists from the RPAG handed out leaflets to publicise the ongoing prison protest in Maghaberry by the Republican POWs for the restoration of political status.

Speaking on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach at a meeting held after the march, Stephen Coyle explained how the events of 1981 politicised a large section of working class youth from Irish backgrounds and led to the development of a significant solidarity campaign capable of mobilising thousands of people onto the streets of Scotland's main towns and cities. He went on to give a Republican perspective of the so called peace process which is doomed to failure because it ignores the essence of the problem, namely Britain's illegal and immoral occupation of the 6 Counties and the denial of all Ireland democracy to the Irish People. He also called on people to campaign in support of political status for the POWs by joining the RPAG.

A white-line picket in support of the protesting POWs in Maghaberry was held in Bridge Street in Newry, Co.

Down, on Saturday, December 2. It was organised by the Republican Prisoners' Action Group (RPAG). A large number of leaflets were distributed, and passing motorists displayed their support. Following the picket a rally took place nearby.

Ruairí White, Newry, chaired the proceedings. He introduced Richard Walsh, Derry, the PRO of the Republican Prisoners' Action Group and a member of the Ard Chomhairle of Republican Sinn Féin, who was the main speaker on the day.

Richard Walsh outlined the ongoing protest of the Republican POWs and their five demands. They have been on protest since the June 19. He added: "Political status was signed away by former Republicans under the terms of the Stormont Agreement in 1998. However, the POWs have made it clear that they will never allow themselves to be criminalised by traitors or anyone else." Referring to the recent decision by the Provos to nominate to a policing partnership in Dublin, he stated that the 26-County police were renowned for their harassment of Republicans.

"Furthermore, this is clearly a move in the direction of seeking endorsement for the

RUC. They may have changed their name and their emblems, but their primary function is still to serve as the first line of defence for English rule in Ireland. They will continue to imprison Republicans or kill them. Regardless of what the Provos say or do, the only attitude of true Republicans to the British Colonial Police is one of eternal hostility."

Richard Walsh concluded by saying that everyone had a duty to ensure that the current protest was brought to a successful conclusion, and that the demands of the POWs were conceded.

An Chathaoirleach then introduced the national spokesperson for the RPAG, Tony McPhillips of County Fermanagh who stated that "one of the most important words to Republicans is 'continuity'".

He also called for support of the POWs, and stated that another protest would be held by the RPAG in Shipquay Street, Derry City at 1.30pm on Saturday, December 16. "We will then have held a protest in each of the Six Occupied Counties," he added.

## Council to sell off public land

**RECENT developments in County Westmeath show the impact of 'Celtic Tiger' greed on the local authorities of the county, who have decided to sell off publicly owned land and evict small landless farmers from their traditional grazing.**

For over 50 years Westmeath Co Council has administered a system of communal land renting on 'Cowparks'. There are 20 cowparks in the county, averaging 35 acres each. The Council rents this land to local landless labourers for the grazing of a few cows and calves. A few years back the lands were given in trust to the local authorities, free of charge, on the abolition of the Land Commission.

The Council has now decided to sell off this land to farmers, to sell sites or for (unspecified) 'community and sporting' activities.

Obviously the sale of Cowpark

land will ONLY benefit large neighbouring farmers who can afford to buy up any land that becomes available. The tenants will have no option but to sell their livestock and go out of farming for good. Profit will have triumphed over people.

A Committee of Councillors was established to decide on the future of the cowparks. Not one tenant was asked for his/her views. Neither was the local community in any area consulted.

The tenants of Cowparks in the county have now formed the Westmeath Cowpark Users Group

(WCUG) to ensure that the tenants have a collective voice in lobbying. A public petition seeking support has been organised.

WCUG stressed that they are not opposed to the interests of 'the community', in fact they are part of the community. They argue that funds raised from cowpark rents should be channelled into local community or youth projects on an annual basis.

Such a policy would provide a long term income source for such groups and would ensure that the largest number in the community benefits from the income from public land.

WCUG would be particularly interested in making contact with cow park tenants in other counties. More information from Pat at 087 7542896.

## Christmas Morning Swim

**Inchicore, Dublin, 12 noon sharp (opposite Blackhorse Inn)**

**All proceeds in aid of CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants' Fund)**

**Sponsorship cards available from 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1**

**Remember the Prisoners at Christmas  
Send your donation to CABHAIR, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1**





# RUC/PSNI FIRE LIVE ROUNDS IN BELFAST

## A Belfast Chronology

**Monday, October 30, 2006.** At the enquiry into the murder of Billy Wright in the Maze in 1997, Stephen Davis, security governor at the time in the Maze, stated that there was no internal prison report after the killing because the RUC were immediately involved.

**Wednesday, November 1, 2006.** The retail store Homebase at Boucher Road, Belfast was damaged in an incendiary attack during the night. The roof was blown off after a gas cylinder attached to a forklift truck exploded.

**Thursday, November 2, 2006.** Archaeologists unearthed a new site in Warring Street, Belfast which revealed 17th Century housing, rubbish pits, pottery and clay pipes.

Responsibility for the destruction of security files on hundreds of men held in the Maze prison were destroyed on the orders of Martin Mogg, the then governor of the prison and who has since died. A public inquiry into allegations of state collusion in the murder of LVF leader Billy Wright in the Maze prison in 1997 was told there is no written record of the order for the destruction of the files. Maureen Johnston, now a governor at Maghaberry jail, told the inquiry that Martin Mogg ordered her to destroy the files in late 2001 or 2002. He cited the new Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts as the reason for the destruction – despite an instruction circulated to all prisons in 1997 specifically prohibiting the destruction of records.

St Mary's Church in Chapel Lane, Belfast held a special Mass to commemorate of the Hungarian uprising in 1956. Many refugees from the uprising sought refuge in Ireland.

**Friday, November 3, 2006.** The RUC/PSNI chased a lorry through the busy streets of Belfast and fired live rounds at the wheels to bring the lorry to a stop. They initially tried to stop the lorry on the MI but the lorry continued into the St James' area close to the Falls Road. The lorry was believed to be carrying fuel, which raises questions as to the safety of members of the public in the area at the time. Had a lorry load of fuel crashed it would have had very serious consequences for people

nearby. The lorry hit a Citroen car before being brought to a stop at the junction of St James' Park and the Falls Road.

Nationalists have criticised the decision of the Belfast High Court granting anonymity to members of the RUC who will appear at the Robert Hamill Inquiry.

A letter signed "Orange Volunteers, Action Force Department", and dated November 3 was sent to the Falls Road office of Republican Sinn Féin, threatening that members of Republican Sinn Féin will "pay a heavy price" for any attacks on British forces.

A major report on collusion between loyalists and members of the British Crown forces which resulted in the murder of 77 Nationalists was released in Belfast.

**Monday, November 6, 2006.** Professor Douglas Cassel, who headed up the investigation which resulted in the Collusion report, said he was shocked at the extent of the collusion.

**Wednesday, November 8, 2006.** Two houses in the Dunmurry area on the outskirts of west Belfast were badly damaged in a suspected arson attack.

**Sunday, November 12, 2006.** Leading members of the Provisional leadership said they received death threats. Slogans appeared on the walls in Belfast accusing the Provos of selling out on the policing issue.

**Monday, November 13, 2006.** A man picked up an RUC/PSNI bullet-proof vest and cap off the road in the Ligonell area of north Belfast.

Nuala O'Loan cleared members of the RUC/PSNI 'of any wrongdoing' after they used CS Spray during clashes in Strabane and Belfast in 2004.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006.** The family of a man believed to be on a CIRA list left their home in Poleglass, Belfast. The Housing Executive was in the process of applying for an ASBO in relation to a male in the family to have him banned from entering the estate.

Up to 11 people in north Belfast were warned by the RUC that their lives are in danger from loyalist groups.



• St Dominic's School in west Belfast was evacuated twice in the last week of November following hoax bomb warnings.

**Thursday, November 16, 2006.** According to the fire service two fires in Belfast docks were started deliberately. It took 24 fire-fighters five hours to extinguish the blazes in Corporation Square.

A nationalist man was forced to leave his home in south Belfast and his job after being threatened by a loyalist gang.

**Tuesday, November 21, 2006.** A new website was launched which brings together 50 years of parliamentary papers in the Six Occupied Counties online. Some 92,000 pages of Hansard reports are available at: [www.stormont-papers.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.stormont-papers.ahds.ac.uk)

**Wednesday, November 22, 2006.** The charge of the attempted murder of Mark Haddock UVF leader, was withdrawn against Ronald Bowe, Mount Vernon Gardens, Belfast.

**Thursday, November 23, 2006.** A youth was injured as he tried to assist a woman whose home was the target of a petrol bomb attack in New Barnsley Crescent, west Belfast. He is in a critical condition in hospital.

**Saturday, November 25, 2006.** Two teenagers were released on bail after being arrested in connection with a bomb attack on a house in New Barnsley, Belfast.

**Monday, November 27, 2006.** Loyalist Ihab Shoukri was refused

bail at Belfast High court. The judge ruled his release 'would pose a risk to the public'.

Craig Anthony, Clondeboy Drive, Short Strand, Belfast, was charged with firebombing Smith's toy store in Boucher Road, south Belfast on November 1.

A public meeting held in Conway Mill, Belfast was attended by the 32-County Sovereignty Movement, the Provos, and the IRSP as well as members of the general public.

Geraldine Taylor, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast, said changes announced by the NIO minister with responsibility for prisons would only serve to create a 'more oppressive regime' within the segregated wings in Maghaberry.

**Thursday, November 30, 2006.** Forty jobs will be lost when some of Rankin's cafes close in Belfast, Portadown and Lisburn.

Loyalist Mo Courtney walked free from court when an appeal to overturn his acquittal for murder. The prosecution said it will take the case to the Court of Appeal.

A protest against water charges took place outside the BBC in Belfast as Peter Hain arrived for a televised debate on the issue.

It was reported that a damning report from Nuala O'Loan into

loyalist murders linked to the Mount Vernon UDA is expected to be published in January 2007.

Darren Moore, Mount Vernon, north Belfast, accused of the attempted murder of Mark Haddock, walked free from court as the charges against him were dropped.

**Friday, December 1, 2006.** The mother of Alan McCullough, murdered during a loyalist feud in 2003, said she has lost faith in the system after loyalist William Mo Courtney walked free as the judged ruled he had no case to answer on the murder charge.

Families of the victims of the McGurk's bar bombing in which 15 people lost their lives in December 1971 have launched a website: [www.themcgurksbarmassacre.com](http://www.themcgurksbarmassacre.com).

St Dominic's Grammar School in west Belfast was evacuated for the second time in a week following telephone bomb warnings which turned out to be hoaxes.

**Monday, December 4, 2006.** Jane Winter of Irish Rights Watch has criticised the judicial system in the Occupied Six Counties in relation to the treatment of Christy Walsh from the Falls Road who was found guilty of possession of a coffee jar bomb in 1992. Christy Walsh has always protested his innocence.

## Kevin Barry remembered in Rathvilly

**SPEAKING** at Republican Sinn Féin's annual Kevin Barry commemoration in Rathvilly Co Carlow on Sunday November 5, RSF Ard-Rúnaí Líta Ní Chathmaoil said that the ideals which inspired Kevin Barry and his generation continue to inspire young Irish people today.

"Kevin Barry died for the All-Ireland Republic, proclaimed in Easter Week, established by the First All-Ireland Dáil Éireann in 1919 and sold out by traitors in 1921. He gave his life for the complete separation of Ireland from England, for Wolfe Tone's definition of freedom, to ... "break the connection with England ... the cause of our never-failing ills ..." His idealism and steadfastness in the face of British intimidation and torture has inspired young people down through the years since his untimely death. He did not die for the Free State or Six-County parliaments set in

Ireland by the British in 1920 and 1921.

"Today we see another brand of sellouts in the Provisional Movement. Twenty years ago this year they accepted Leinster House and have gone on, as true Republicans said they would, to accept Stormont and even to serve as Ministers of the Crown in a Stormont assembly.

"In 2005 they committed the ultimate crime against the 32-County Republic when they decommissioned all of the weapons they had received for the purpose of removing the English presence from Ireland. Their latest effort to curry



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin at the graveside of Frank Drivers in Ballymore Eustace, Co Wicklow on November 5.

favour with the Brits will be their forthcoming acceptance of the British police in the Six Counties so that they may return to serve as Ministers of the British Crown in a reactivated Stormont along with Ian Paisley and his sectarian DUP.

"Kevin Barry's last words to his comrades, before he faced the hangman on England's gallows tree were: 'Fight on! Live for the ideal for which I am about to die.' Let his words be our inspiration for the future."

Republicans from Carlow,

Kildare, Dublin, Kilkenny and Wexford took part in the commemoration which was led by a colour party. At the Kevin Barry monument they were joined by a Wexford Pikeman. The ceremony was chaired by Republican Sinn Féin Leas-Uachtarán Des Dalton, Kildare.

Kitty Hawkins, from Ballymore-Eustace, Co Kildare laid a wreath on behalf of Kildare and West-Wicklow Republican Sinn Féin, Pat Kavanagh laid a wreath on behalf of the Pádraig Ó Pearaill Cumann, Wexford.

Earlier Republican Sinn Féin members gathered at the grave of Frank Drivers, in Ballymore Eustace, Co Kildare and held a wreath-laying ceremony on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his death.

At the graveside proceedings were chaired by Des Dalton, Kildare, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin and a wreath was laid on the grave by Líta Ní Chathmaoil, Ard-Rúnaí.

Des Dalton gave those present a short account of the life of Frank Drivers, a life-long Republican activist.

## 26-County administration 'leaving pensioners in the cold'

**THE 26-County Administration was condemned on November 22 for its refusal to raise the income levels for social welfare fuel allowances, despite almost 210,000 pensioners being left out in the cold.**

Just 16,000 of the Free State's 225,458 contributory pensioners, or 7%, are eligible for the fuel allowance.

Age Action Ireland is calling for the criteria for fuel allowance to be revised. The organisation has pointed out that, currently, a person is ineligible for the allowance (€14 a week) if they receive the

State Contributory pension (€193.30) and earn more than €50.79 extra per week.

The recent increases in gas, electricity, coal and turf mean that people who are refused the allowance can still face huge financial difficulties to pay their fuel bills.

"Everyone should be warm this winter, regardless of

whether they are rich or poor," said Eamon Timmins of Age Action. "The fuel allowance is really only a supplement for an inadequate pension, and serves to help people who would otherwise be torn between paying for food or fuel."

Age Action also wants the current 29-week payment period for the fuel allowance to be extended. In its pre-Budget submission, it urged the 26-County Government to increase the weekly payment from €14 to €25.

A spokesperson from the MacCurtain /McSwiney Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Cork said the Estimates showed the 26-County Government to be "a big spender who cannot deliver real improvements for those who need it. Almost 210,000 of our contributory pensioners are being left out in the cold in yet another example of this Government's inability to target resources where they are needed, despite spending a fortune of taxpayers' money."

## Ferry group pays eastern Europeans €2 an hour

**EASTERN Europeans employed on a ferry that operates between Dublin and England are being paid just over €2 euro an hour, according to union officials.**

An inspector with the International Transport Worker's Federation (ITF) said on November 24 that some of the 22-strong crew on board the vessel also claimed they were being treated like "prisoners" and had not been paid for more than four months.

The boat is a roll-on-roll-off freight ferry that is part of the Norfolk line fleet and sails regularly between Dublin and

Heysham port, near Morecambe. It is registered in the Bahamas and is Latvian owned.

The Norfolk Line expressed their concern at the allegations and met with representatives of the ITF in Dublin on November 27.

Ken Fleming of the ITF said that he was invited on board the vessel by a number of crew who claimed that the 22 crew

members on board, most of whom were of Polish, Ukrainian and Russian origin, had not been paid any wages for several weeks.

The ferry is not obliged to pay the 26-County minimum wage. However, the international rate as agreed by the ITF is around \$3 (€2.30 an hour). Agreed overtime rates increase to between \$10 and \$16.50 an hour.

The ITF said there was no evidence to suggest these rates were being paid. Ken Fleming said he was in the process of considering the "lawful arrest"

of the vessel on behalf of the crew members to reclaim wages in accordance with their employment contracts.

"SIPTU and the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union in the UK will be calling for the fullest investigation by the Irish and UK maritime authorities on all Irish ferry roll-on-roll-off vessels trading in the Irish Sea.

SIPTU general president Jack O'Connor called on authorities to enforce international law and rectify the injustice the seafarers had suffered.

## Families seek new Stardust inquiry

**FAMILIES of the Stardust victims have called for "a new public inquiry" into the fire tragedy, which led to the deaths of 48 young people in the Artane area of Dublin on February 14 1981.**

Speaking at a press conference in Dublin on November 21, Antoinette Keegan, a survivor of the fire, said on behalf of the families that such an inquiry "should be established as soon as possible". She also said that from November 22 the families intend to picket the 26-County assembly at Leinster House until a new inquiry is announced.

"Having regard not only to the strength of the new evidence but most importantly of all to the entitlement of the families to an effective and transparent investigation, a new public inquiry must be established as soon as possible.

The families cannot have any closure until the truth as to the cause and circumstances of the Stardust fire are publicly established. For 25 years they have been seeking the truth and will accept nothing but the truth as to how and why their loved ones perished," Antoinette Keegan read from a statement.

Gertrude Barrett explained how she spent four days in the city morgue before her son Michael was identified,

agreed to a public inquiry was because it would open a can of worms".

Brid McDermott talked about losing three of her

suffered enough," she said.

Geraldine Foyle, a researcher working for the families, told the press conference that the crime



• **Relatives of victims of the Stardust tragedy in 1981 protesting outside the 26-County Government Buildings in Dublin on November 22 last. They are calling for a public inquiry into the fire in which 48 young people died.**

the last victim whose identity was established. It was "horrendous" what had been done to the families down the years, she said.

Patricia Kennedy spoke of "the corruption back then" in 1981 and speculated that the reason the 26-County administration had not

children, William, Marsella and George, to the fire and of "what that tragedy has done to my family".

It "broke up my marriage. My husband was a fireman and the fact that he was not there to save his children broke his heart. We want closure to this. We have

scene maps used by the Stardust tribunal were wrong. "It is time for Bertie, the Forensic Science Laboratory, the gardai to come clean and state exactly where it is documented they have considered this new evidence, or set up a new inquiry."

## Gearrsc alta

### Poverty level in 26

### Counties remains high

**THE UN Development Programme's Human Development Report 2006, published on November 9, put the 26-County State at 17 out of 18 selected high-income OECD states in its human poverty index, with only Italy ranking lower.**

This index was compiled by calculating life expectancy, adult literacy, long-term unemployment and risk of poverty. The report said the 26-County state's public expenditure on education, as a proportion of GDP, fell from 5 per cent in 1991 to 4.3 per cent in 2002-04.

On unemployment, the report noted that the proportion of young people without a job was 8.3 per cent; almost double the national total across all age groups. The report also shows that in the 26-County state women tend to earn significantly less than men.

The report also highlighted an ever-widening development gap between the world's richest and poorest countries. Sub Saharan Africa, in particular, is stagnating. It calls for urgent action to resolve a growing water and sanitation crisis. Overall, some 1.1 billion people lack safe water and 2.6 billion lack access to sanitation.

## Migrant mushroom workers call for end to exploitation

**MORE than 100 migrant workers and supporters who met in Monaghan on November 26 called on the 26-County administration, mushroom growers and supermarkets to end the exploitation of workers in the €30 million industry.**

The event, organised by the Mushroom Workers Support Group, called for a new culture of compliance and fair treatment in the industry for the workers, 1,200 of whom are based in the Cavan-Monaghan area.

The group, initiated by the Migrant Rights Centre in Ireland, has more than 50 members, most of whom are migrant women from Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, China and Thailand.

Bill Abom, co-ordinator of the support group, said there were many instances of workers receiving far below the minimum wage and living in very poor accommodation.

## Rossiter findings to be published

**THE 26-County Justice minister Michael McDowell, as reported in *The Irish Times* on November 27, said that he intends to make public a sworn inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the arrest and detention of a 14-year-old boy who fell unconscious while in Garda custody and subsequently died.**

The report was compiled by Senior Counsel Hugh Hartnett into what exactly happened to Brian Rossiter, who was found unconscious in a cell in Clonmel Garda station on the morning of September 11, 2002.

Cian O'Carroll, solicitor for Brian Rossiter's parents, Pat and Siobh  n, said that Michael McDowell had confirmed in writing to them that the report would be made public soon after he received it from Hugh Hartnett and had an opportunity to study it.

Brian Rossiter died at Cork University Hospital on September 13, 2002, two days after he was found unconscious at Clonmel Garda station. He had been arrested the previous night for a suspected public order offence.

## New booklet to be launched in Limerick

**A NEW booklet commemorating the 50th anniversary of the deaths of Se  n Sabhat will be launched in the Gaelic League Hall on Tuesday, December 19 where the Limerick man was recruited into the Irish Republican Army.**

Se  n Sabhat was killed in action on New Year's Day, 1957 during an assault on the Brookeborough RUC Barracks. A section leader in the Pearse Column of the Irish Republican Army, Se  n Sabhat introduced the black beret as part of the IRA dress before his departure to take part in then 1956 Border campaign.

*Awakening the Spirit of Freedom* is edited by Limerick man Des Long from Corbally. Men who were with Sabhat on the night he died have given their accounts of the raid to the publication. The book also contains the memories of men who knew Sabhat and worked with him in Limerick. Illustrated with pictures from that time, the book also contains a photograph of the 2006 commemoration led by Joe Lynch, secretary of the Se  n Sabhat committee.

*Awakening the Spirit of Freedom* will be launched by Professor Ruan O'Donnell at 8pm where a commemorative DVD will also be shown. All are welcome.



# 102nd Ard-Fheis of Republican Sinn Féin held in Dublin

**OVER the weekend of November 11 and 12 Republican Sinn Féin held its 102nd Ard-Fheis in Dublin. The over-all Cathaoirleach of the Ard-Fheis was Josephine Hayden, Dublin.**

The Ard-Fheis was attended by delegates and visitors from Ireland, Scotland and the US, as well as visitors from two Welsh Republican independence groups and a representative from the Ireland Information Group in Sweden.

On Saturday morning the DVD *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* was shown to the delegates and was followed by a discussion on the struggle for independence from British rule.

The Ard-Fheis was addressed by Seán Harrington, brother of Máire Harrington, one of the leaders of the Shell to Sea campaign in Ros Dumhach, Co Mayo, who informed delegates about the ongoing campaign. Joel Hogberg of the Ireland Information Group in Sweden and Simon Foster of the Welsh Republican Party also addressed the Ard-Fheis. A statement of support was received from EMGANN, the Breton Independence Movement.

Dan Keating, the 104 year-old patron of Republican Sinn Féin, the last and faithful survivor of the Tan War was in attendance on both days and received a standing ovation when he addressed the Ard-Fheis on November 11.

On Saturday the Ard-Fheis was addressed by representatives from **CABHAIR** (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund), Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann. Statements were read on behalf of the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and from the protesting prisoners in Maghaberry jails and received an enthusiastic welcome.

On Sunday, November 12 Ruairí Ó Brádaigh delivered his Presidential Address covered in a number of the print and broadcast media, including RTÉ and TG4.

The plenary sessions began with resolutions on Political Policy at 3.30pm on Saturday, November 11. The cathaoirleach of the session was Seán Ó Brádaigh. In a lively debate many resolutions were debated. Amongst the resolutions passed were two from the Ard Chomhairle, the first read "That this Ard-Fheis recommends that Republican Sinn Féin concentrate its energies towards advancing the national struggle for freedom and independence, in which so many Republicans gave their lives as we are the only organisation attempting to bring about the restoration of the Irish Republic." The second read "That we acknowledge that this Ard-Fheis derives its mandate from the First Dáil Éireann and as such we pledge allegiance to its principles."

Two motions called for a British withdrawal from Ireland, one came from the Bobby Sands/Liam Lynch Cumann, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny: "That this Ard-Fheis reiterates that the demand for a full British withdrawal from Ireland is at the top of the Republican Sinn Féin agenda."

Three cumainn, John Mitchell Cumann, Dungiven, Co Derry, Kevin Coen Cumann, Co Roscommon and Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann, Co

Monaghan, had resolutions reaffirming: "...the right of the Irish people to use controlled and disciplined force to drive the British forces of occupation out of Ireland and restore the All-Ireland Republic."

Speaking on a resolution from the Ard Chomhairle calling a redoubling of efforts to "build our links with other National Liberation movements as an expression of our common struggle against imperialism" Vice-President Des Dalton said that it was



• **Andy Connolly, Dublin Comhairle Ceantair, addressing the Ard-Fheis.**

vital that the Irish struggle was placed in an international context. "The imperialist powers are more than willing to cooperate in furthering their agenda across the globe, likewise Irish Republicans should cooperate with fellow anti-imperialist national liberation movements, putting our cause on an international stage. The use of Shannon by US warplanes highlights the extent of collaboration that exists in furthering Anglo/US imperialism." The resolution was supported unanimously.

Four resolutions addressed the issue of British forces being invited to play Gaelic games. One from Comhairle Ceantair Ciarraí called for the reintroduction of the GAA's 'Rule 21', which banned members of the British Crown forces serving in Ireland playing Gaelic games. The rule was dropped by the GAA in 2001. Kerry delegate Pat Quirke asked would members of the British Crown forces be invited to play in Maurice O'Neill Park in Cahersiveen or Tomás Ashe Park in North Kerry.

The Kevin Coen Cumann, Co Roscommon resolution highlighted the St Brigid's GAA club, Belfast who played a challenge Gaelic football match against a team from the British colonial police: "That this Ard-Fheis condemns St Brigid's GAA club in Belfast for playing against the RUC/PSNI or any British occupation forces." All resolutions were passed.

The John Mitchell Cumann from Dungiven, Co Derry condemned recent attempts to involve the British forces in the playing of National games: "That this Ard-Fheis reaffirms its hostility to the British Crown



• **A section of the crowd at the Ard-Fheis on November 11.**



• **Joel Hogberg of the Ireland Information Group in Sweden addressing the Ard-Fheis on November 12.**

Forces, and condemns recent attempts by the enemies of Republicanism — in particular the Provos — to promote and encourage RUC participation in our National games."

Resolutions were passed from the Ard Chomhairle, Cumann Wolfe Tone, Tallaght, Co Dublin, the Joe McDonnell Cumann, Dublin and the Kilkullen Cumann, Co Kildare which ruled out any cooperation by Republican Sinn Féin with groups claiming to represent Irish Republican opinion, the resolution from the Ard Chomhairle spelled out Republican Sinn Féin's position: "That this Ard-Fheis reaffirms its commitment to the long-standing policy of Sinn Féin as set out in the statement issued on September 1, 2006. We reject alliances or any cooperation with groups or organisations who claim to represent or give leadership to Irish Republican opinion in Ireland or abroad other than the true Irish Republican Movement." The resolutions were all passed unanimously.

Another two resolutions from the Ard Chomhairle as well as Comhairle Laighean called for the organising of a boycott of the 26-County elections in 2007.

Finally a resolution from the McNeela /Gaughan/Stagg Cumann, Co Mayo warned Irish Republicans to be "cautious" about the new 26-

County police reserve: "That the Republican Movement be cautious and vigilant of the proposed new part-time police reserve in the 26-Counties as it will be another Free State obstacle to hinder our progress." A resolution from the Bobby Sands/Liam Lynch Cumann from Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny demanded "...that the RUC/PSNI and the Garda Síochána be disbanded and replaced with one just and accountable democratic police force for the 32-County All-Ireland Republic."

The International Affairs session took place on Saturday evening, chaired by Josephine Hayden. Joel Hogberg of the Ireland Information Group in Sweden addressed the Ard-Fheis and said: "On behalf of the executive of the Ireland information group in Sweden, I would like to thank the Ard Chomhairle for inviting me here to attend the 102th Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin. Coming from a fairly young organisation I personally feel honoured to be invited, and we see the invitation as a recognition of the work that we carry out in support of the National Liberation Movement in Ireland."

"Our work is mainly focused on the Prisoner issue, and throughout these last years we have organised several raffles, pub evenings and large meetings in support of the POWs, and always with a good turn out. The

latest of these big meetings was held in Uppsala, in support of the ongoing protest in Maghaberry, with Des Dalton as the main speaker, and approximately 60 people in the audience. That is a very good attendance for any political meeting in Uppsala.

"Beside the solidarity with the prisoners, one of the most important sides of our work, perhaps the main purpose of the organisation is to challenge the consensus in the liberal media on the Irish issue, to challenge the myth that there can be lasting peace while the British presence remains. In no way did the Stormont sell-out of 1998; the betrayal of core Republican beliefs and principles by the Provisionals; or the decommissioning of the people's arms — in no way did these things create the necessary conditions for a just and lasting peace. Real peace comes through complete British withdrawal and self-determination."

During this session Adam Foster of the Welsh Republican Party also addressed the Ard-Fheis.

The first resolution in this session, proposed by the Francis Hughes Cumann, Glasgow, called on the Ard-Fheis to extend solidarity with the Celtic Nations in their struggle for national, economic and cultural freedom and reaffirmed RSF's support for the creation of a Celtic League, was passed unanimously.

Resolutions condemning the Israeli attack on Lebanon, the inaction of the United Nations "to the naked aggression of Israel" and viewing the illegal Israeli attacks on Lebanon as "mass murder" were also passed unanimously and the Ard-Fheis congratulated the people of Lebanon on their historic stand against the "occupation of their country by the Israeli army which is armed and backed by the US" and further congratulating the fighters of Hezbollah for their fearless fight against the Israeli army.

Solidarity greetings were sent to national liberation movements around the world, in particular to the Palestinian and Lebanese people at this time and the Ard-Fheis supported a motion from the Carroll/O'Donovan Cumann, Dublin calling on all members, supporters and the general public to boycott all Israeli goods that

# 'Unite Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter

**We publish here an edited version of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's Presidential Address to the 2006 Ard-Fheis. The full text may be read on the internet at [rsf.ie](http://rsf.ie).**

**A Chathaoirleach, a Theachtai is a Cháirde ar fad, Fearaim céad míle fáilte romhaibh go léir ag an Ard-Fheis seo an 102ú de chuid Shinn Féin.**

The past year has been an extremely busy one for our members. No sooner was the Christmas period of collections and fund-raising over for the dependants of the Republican Prisoners. – and this was very successful I am glad to report – than we were faced with a proposed Loyalist-march through the centre of Dublin.

Most insensitively the march was scheduled to pass by Parnell Street, Talbot Street, Sackville Place and South Leinster Street which were the scenes of no-warning bombings which killed many innocent civilians. These were perpetrated by Loyalist death-squads operating in collusion with British forces of occupation in Ireland.

In the armed struggle for Irish national independence since 1969 more than 1,000 members of the British forces and over 400 Republicans were killed. The nationalist community lost in excess of 1,000 innocent and uninvolved people due to deliberate assassinations carried out as a matter of policy by the Loyalist death squads.

The *Sunday Business Post* of September 4 last year stated that of the 698 members of the unionist community killed "340 died at the hands of loyalists". It went on: "Since the first ceasefires in 1994, the vast majority of Protestant (their term not ours) victims have been killed by loyalists in internecine feuds". It would appear, then, that the sponsors of the Dublin march should have been marching on the UDA and UVF headquarters in Belfast.

Keenly aware at grass roots level of the rising tide of disquiet and concern in Dublin and beyond, Republican Sinn Féin sought to give this debate a political focus by mounting a peaceful protest picket on the route of the proposed march. We did not seek to stop it and we departed the scene when the march was abandoned.

Republican Sinn Féin asked publicly if nationalist parades of whatever kind, would be allowed through Belfast's Royal Avenue or the centre of Portadown. The British forces would certainly block them.

Those who failed to have this loyalist march forced through the centre of Dublin at the end of last February had claimed a near-monopoly of suffering for themselves and ignored the sacrifices of the nationalist community over the past few decades. Republican Sinn Féin would not allow such a distortion of events to go unchallenged through the centre of our capital city.

Further, we acted in solidarity with the beleaguered nationalists of the Garvaghy Road, of Ardoyne, the Lower Ormeau Road, Dunloy and other areas which have had triumphalist loyalist marches imposed on them year after year. In contrast the 26-County Administration and others had turned their backs on these communities by collaborating with the attempted loyalist march.

When the British government finally leaves Ireland and loyalist marches will no longer be a question of supremacy of unionists over nationalists, then all interests will be welcome and free to parade wherever they choose. On that day in Dublin Republicans stood under a banner which quoted Wolfe Tone's immortal words: "Unite Protestant,



• **Ruairí Ó Brádaigh delivers the Presidential Address.**



• **Pat Quirke, Kerry delegate.**

Catholic and Dissenter ... to break the connection with England".

Of course, our statements, press conferences and political appeals issued since mid-December due to our awareness of the situation were ignored by the 26-County media. Only the northern press, radio and television took notice of our concerns. When the Dublin media finally reacted it was much too late. They deplored the situation which they had deliberately ignored for months. We stated that the march was ill-advised but they would not listen.

Similarly, Republican Sinn Féin will oppose politically the proposed official visit of the Queen of England to Dublin, the first such visit since 1911 – 95 years. There is nothing personal in this attitude. Republicans simply contest and reject the claim of the English Establishment to style her "Queen of Northern Ireland". That is all. When that claim to part of Ireland is relinquished, then the crowned head of England will be received just as any other head of state. But not until then ...

This past year has been the 25th anniversary of the H-Block hungerstrike deaths in 1981. Republican Sinn Féin's ceremonies were worthy and respectful. They kept to the letter and the spirit of what the 10 hunger strikes died for and began with a very fitting event at the graves of Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan in Ballina, Co Mayo in February.

May saw the Bobby Sands commemorative parades in Dublin and Galway on the sixth and at the grave of Raymond MacCreesh in Camloch, Co Armagh on the 21st.

In June and July Joe Mac Donnell was honoured at Carrick-on-Shannon and Martin Hurson in Longford-Westmeath. A most inspiring event was held at

Dungiven in honour of Kevin Lynch and the other Co Derry hunger-strikers on the last Saturday in July.

Other commemorations were held farther south; those in Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny and Cahersiveen, Co Kerry were particularly successful. The annual parade with bands through Bundoran, Co Donegal at the end of August for all the hunger-strikers was the biggest and best since 1981.

Seán Maguire's address at Bodinstown 2006 quoted two telling points from notable Englishmen. AJP Taylor, Professor of History at Oxford University wrote in 1973 in the course of reviewing a book on Roger Casement: "Here is Casement's message for the present day. There is no Irish problem without solution. The problem that had marked Ireland for centuries is the British presence in Ireland. That problem can only be solved by British withdrawal". Of interest also is the quotation from General Macready, British military commander in Ireland, in a memorandum to the British Cabinet, May 23, 1921; "I am convinced that by October, unless a peaceful solution has been reached, it will not be safe to ask the troops to continue there another winter under the conditions which obtained during the last". So much for the claim that the IRA was exhausted at the Truce of 1921.

Eventually, in April last, following on 22 years of diligent research came the publication of the biography of the President. It has been launched each month since at different venues in the four provinces and in the United States. The various historians, academics, journalists and community workers who have performed the launching ceremonies have all agreed that this is an important book.

This book, taken together with the original source material lodged last year with the James Hardiman Library in the National University of Ireland Galway, provide a valuable basis for the study of Irish Republicanism in that period of history by journalists, historians, students and all interested parties. It is useful to have the record set down and available to all.

The year now drawing to a close has marked the 90th anniversary of the historic Easter Rising of 1916. This event brought about the birth of the world-wide anti-colonial movement, caused the renaissance of idealism in Ireland and broke the imperial myth that the Irish people could not resist English occupation in arms.

True Republicans have had their commemorations banned and attacked by British and 26-County forces, the public display of the national flag prohibited and have suffered imprisonment for insisting on honouring 1916. On the other hand, the 26-County State has ignored and denigrated the memory and legacy of 1916 for 35 years – more than a generation. This year they rushed to claim ownership of the 90th anniversary and the centenary celebrations. They accused faithful Republicans who have never abandoned 1916 of hijacking its legacy.

All of our commemorations last Easter showed a marked increase in attendance. Noteworthy were the unveiling on Easter Monday in Bundoran of a number of plaques at the Republican Memorial Garden there and the ceremony outside the Dublin GPO on the weekend anniversary by date of the Rising. The booklet *Our Own Red Blood*, by Seán Cronin, first published in 1966 and re-issued in 1976, was brought out again this year by Irish Freedom Press. Its last sentence makes the point for all to see; "Accordingly, the promise of the Easter Rising, as enunciated in the Proclamation, remains unfulfilled".



• **(left to right) Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Peig King, Tomás Ó Curraoin, Jo November 12.**

Very far removed from the spirit of 1916 was the decision of the GAA in 2001 to allow members of the British forces of occupation in Ireland to join the association.

The change to the 117-year old policy came "just weeks after the RUC came to be known as the PSNI". The paper recorded that "throughout the conflict GAA members travelling to and from games were targeted by the RUC, Ulster Defence Regiment and the British Army". It took until 2005 for the RUC/PSNI cadets team to be admitted to the Sigerson Cup students competition, while "their senior counterparts have found it more difficult to find opponents", the paper went on.

The harsh political reality was that by hosting such games the GAA is sending out a signal that the British colonial military and police are a normal part of Irish society, he continued. The British military and police presence was abnormal and the root cause of conflict in our country.

Such games were an attempt to encourage young Irish people join the forces of the British Crown in Ireland by instilling in them the notion that the RUC/PSNI are a normal police force, policing a normal society, he concluded.

How long will it be before the naming of GAA clubs, teams and grounds in honour of Irish patriots is forbidden by the GAA? During the same month of August, the hunger strike martyr Kevin Lynch who had captained the Derry under-16 All Ireland hurling champions in 1972, had the local GAA park in Dungiven and a senior hurling club named in his honour. Is not the premier GAA stadium in Ulster named after Roger Casement?

Throughout the Six Occupied Counties repression is visited officially on faithful Republicans while unofficial loyalist gangs prowl the streets in some areas targeting ordinary nationalists for mayhem and even murder. During June Republican homes in Co Fermanagh were raided by British Crown Forces in the Lisnakea area. In one area all members of the family were put out on the street while the house was minutely searched. The father, a member of the Ard-Comhairle of Republican Sinn Féin was taken to Antrim barracks for interrogation before being released.

In another instance the family were herded into one room while the house was ransacked. A computer, all documents and papers dealing with



• **A section of the crowd, including Sinn Féin, at the Ard-Fheis on November 12.**

family finances and the business in which they are engaged were seized. No supervision of the raiding in either case was permitted. The name of the RUC has changed but otherwise these aspects of British rule remain the same.

The sectarian murder of 15-year old Michael Mac Ilveen who died on May 8 following a beating by a loyalist gang in Ballymena, Co Antrim the previous day was another barbaric reminder to nationalists of how little has changed. A companion who had visited a local cinema with him was chased by the gang and fortunately escaped.

Indeed, given the absence of the national question from publicised debate in the Six Counties since 1998, the incidence of segregated housing and sectarian attacks has increased greatly. A DUP councillor (Roy Gillespie) said publicly that young Michael Mac Ilveen "won't get into Heaven unless he is saved". An Irish flag with the murder victim's name inscribed on it was burned on a loyalist bonfire locally, but there were no prosecutions under the much-lauded British legislation outlawing "Incitement to Hatred". All-Ireland democracy with maximum local power, as provided for in the *ÉIRE NUA* programme, is the sure antidote to such excesses.

The findings of the Barr report into the John Carthy siege at Abbeylara, Co Longford in April 2000 were published last July. They exposed a complete lack of humanity and basic common sense by



# ...to break the connection with England'



*Josephine Hayden and Des Dalton on the platform at the Ard-Fheis on*



*Dan Keating, Patron of Republican member 12.*

the 26-County police in their failure to deal competently and compassionately with a mentally-ill young man.

Taken together with the Morris findings into the disgraceful conduct of members of the Garda in Co Donegal, we have seen a totally unaccountable force with its Emergency Response Unit being allowed by the 26-County State to act with impunity against ordinary citizens. This is something to which Republicans can only too well testify. Members of the force have been exposed "planting" explosives, arms and ammunition for "discovery" later on both sides of the Border.

Similarly, the Barron investigation into the Dublin-Monaghan bombings of 1975 has been obstructed in its work by the total refusal of the British government to cooperate with it. In addition, relevant files have been "missing" from the 26-County Department of Justice and also from Garda headquarters. To date Barron points at "probable collusion" between the British forces and loyalist paramilitaries but finds its work blocked at political and official level by both British and 26-County states.

In the case of the cross-border murder of Séamus Ludlow in 1976, there was another downright refusal by the British forces to cooperate despite significant evidence pointing at four perpetrators. The British security service — the M15 — was believed to be heavily involved in such cross-border bombings and

assassinations in the 1970s.

It is relevant to note that in the new Stormont proposals the M15 — and not the RUC/PSNI — will be responsible directly to the British Cabinet for so-called "national security" in the Six Occupied Counties. Whitehall and Downing St. will continue to hold the whip-hand in such matters.

Even as we deliberate here this weekend a massive new headquarters for the M15 in the Six Counties is being built in the greater Belfast area — a portent of things to come.

Agus muid i dtreo chomórachd an chéid d'Eirí Amach 1916, tá sé thar am again muid féin a Ghaeil agus pleán céimniithe deimhniithe a leagan síos chuige sin. Má glactar le scéim chuimsitheach de phleananna grádaith chéig bhliana i dtosach. Bfódh gach pleán chéig bhliana i bhform molaí; roghnóidh in bhallraíocht trí chinn ar a laighead asta seo, siad sin na baill i ngach brainse de Ghluaiseacht na Poblachta. Déanfar é sin a mhonorú agus é dá chur i bhfeidhm.

Thiocfadh liosta eile molaí le roghnú as ón Ard-Oifig faoi cheann cúig bhliana agus mar sin ar aghaidh ar feadh 32 bhliain go dtí 2048, Comórachd Eirí Amach 1848. Faoi'n am sin bhéadh na seanfhóndúirí nach bhfuair seans í a fhoghlaim — sna Sé Chontae nó sna 26 Chontae — básaithe, agus cuid mhaith dínn-ne ina measc siúd. Beidh am-mhéadú ar scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ar fud na tíre faoin sprioc-bhliain le Cúnamh Dé. D'fhéadfadh sé go n-eireodh lena leithéid seo de phlean. Cuirimis chuige, in ainm Dé

What is being advocated, as we approach the centenary of 1916, is a definite step-by-step programme to Gaelicise ourselves and Our Movement. This could take the form of a comprehensive scheme of Five Year plans over a 40 year period.

For instance small steps to begin with, e.g. in the first five years the membership would pick at least three from five recommendations.

Members would be asked to pick three of these. They are so simple that I would hope all five would be chosen. Practical steps such as these would be so much more attainable than passing pious resolutions which do not require us to do anything concrete.

This year 2006 marks the centenary of the birth of Máirtín Ó Cadhain, the most acclaimed writer of prose in Irish in the 20th century. An active

Republican for many years, on his release from the Curragh Concentration Camp in 1944 he devoted the rest of his life to writing and campaigning for the Irish language. His novel, *Cré na Cille*, was chosen by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, for translation into several European languages.

A chairde, the Irish language is central to our being; it is an essential part of the Irish nation. Just as the national territory cannot be abandoned, even by referendum, an Ghaeilge cannot be thrown away even by plebiscite. To do so would be treason to the Irish nation and would be a giant step towards its destruction — something we in Republican Sinn Féin will never tolerate.

On the international scene the imperialist war in Iraq, begun by England and the United States in defiance of the United Nations, has continued with the number of Iraqi civilians killed now numbering more than 600,000. The Dublin government keeps providing Shannon Airport as a feeder base for the war. Even with the Guantanamo Bay barbarity and the Abu Graib brutality, no measures are taken to ensure "rendition" flights do not avail of facilities at Shannon.

The United Nations rapporteur on torture, Manfred Novac, stated on the Pat Kenny Show, RTE radio on May 9 last: "flights through Shannon should be inspected including private aircraft used for State purposes". But no, the 26-County establishment will not assert Irish neutrality. For our part we must continue to support anti-war protests.

Ar chósta thiar na h-Eireann, i gceantar Iorrais, Co Mhuigheo tá agóid ar bun le sé bhliain anuas i nGaeltacht Ros Dumhach. Teastaíonn ó mhuintir na h-áite go ndéanfar gás na "Coiribe" a scagadh amuigh ar an bhfarrige in ionad é a dhéanamh i measc an phobail ag Béal an Átha Bui. Cúrsaí sláinte agus slándála atá ag déanamh tinnis dóibh ach chosnóidh bealach oibre na ndaoine níos mó ar chomhlacht Shell. Sin é croí na ceiste.

The 26-County police were deployed in support of Shell at Ros Dumhach and against the local people. Early each morning they escort the Shell contractors into the proposed terminal site at Bellanaboy. We witnessed on television Máire Harrington being deliberately knocked down and hospitalised by the Gardaí. We pledge our continued support to the Shell to Sea protest. A campaign spokesman accurately described the police action as "a co-ordinated assault designed to delegitimise and criminalise local opposition to Shell's project in Mayo".

In the same manner Irish Ferries, Gama and other big companies seek to exploit workers, both foreign and native. Our members took part and carried banners in protest marches against the action of Irish F erries in displacing Irish workers by making them redundant and replacing them by foreign operatives for much reduced wages. Gama was found to be exploiting foreign workers in a most outrageous fashion.

An urgent problem facing the entire international community is the question of global warming caused by the emission of greenhouse gases. It is difficult to envisage this being countered without the cooperation of some of the world's largest carbon dioxide emitters, e.g. the US and China. These two countries are not bound by the 1998 Kyoto Protocol which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels lower than those in 1990. Indeed the US which has 4 per cent of the world's population continues to emit 25% of world greenhouse gases.

Washington refuses to be bound by Kyoto on the grounds that the agreement would damage the US economy.

A matter that has touched the hearts



• Tomás Ó Cléirigh

and minds of Republicans in recent months has been the protest campaign by the prisoners in Maghaberry Jail, Co. Antrim. They seek political status, won by the hunger-strikers in 1981 and abolished under the Stormont Agreement of 1998.

The right to wear their own clothes was retained and earlier protests in 2001 and 2003 won back the right to abstain from penal labour and separation from loyalists and ordinary prisoners.

But in their separate accommodation they have been victimised and treated in many ways worse than ordinary prisoners. "Free Association" on landings has been completely removed and is replaced by "controlled movement". Prisoners have been made to choose between daily exercise and education.

They are denied facilities to organise their own education and the right to spend their time in prison constructively. They are locked in their cells for alternately 21/23 hours per day while the Governor has power to punish by taking away remission of sentence.

The first phase of protest continued for a month but despite constant press releases no publicity whatever was gained. Then during July the prisoners embarked on a 24-hour hunger strike once a week, later increasing to a 48-hour strike and eventually stepped up to a 72-hour or three-day strike every week. In this action they were supported by Republican prisoners in Portlaoise prison who went on a similar hunger strike each week in sympathy with their comrades in Maghaberry.

On the outside support demonstrations for the protesting prisoners were stepped up. White-line pickets, public meetings and leafletting were engaged in. The Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) deserves great commendation for its work in producing leaflets, organising events and co-ordinating activities with Republican Sinn Féin in this regard.

At this point certain matters need to be emphasised and brought to people's attention. First of all, the protest campaign in the prison was decided on, and embarked upon, by the prisoners themselves and by them alone.

Their statement of June 20 says clearly: "The protest which we now embark upon will not end until our demands are met." The conditions under which the protest will end will be a matter for the prisoners themselves and for them alone. Accordingly, we here this weekend salute the Maghaberry prisoners on their stand and on the action they are taking, and we pledge ourselves to continue our actions in support of them. We can do no less and

still regard ourselves as true and faithful Republicans.

Also during October came the St Andrews Agreement between the British and the 26-County governments. It was described officially as the "basis for an agreement" and "a formula to restore Stormont". Ireland was initially partitioned by the Government of Ireland Act 1920 of the British parliament.

The undoing of Partition and of English rule in our country thus required a decision of Westminster. Far from evolving towards Irish National Independence, subsequent legislation of the British Parliament put additional locks on any movement in that direction.

By the Ireland Act 1949, passed in Westminster, a decision by Stormont as well as by the British parliament was made necessary. Then the enactment by Westminster of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1998, embodying the Stormont Agreement, enshrined the Veto on a free and united Ireland in the artificial and local Unionist majority in the Six Occupied Counties. In this manner was the triple lock on progress towards Irish Independence put in position.

Now following on the St Andrews Agreement between London and Dublin, Paisley was able to announce that there was a "DUP Veto" on the much-vaunted cross-border bodies. Westminster Veto, a Stormont Veto, a Unionist Veto and the latest a DUP Veto. Further it has to be borne in mind that in the end of the day, the British Cabinet is master and has power to overcome all vetoes.

In 1986, 20 years ago, we were told that the Provos would "never, never, never" enter Stormont or Westminster. Now, having, so far as was in their power, stopped the war of national liberation and destroyed all arms under their control, they propose to accept and join the British police in Ireland.

And they will go even further. When they don the Black-and-Tan uniform and take up the Black-and-Tan gun and point it at us, and at the nationalist population generally, does anyone think they will hesitate if ordered by their British masters to shoot? The sheer logic of the situation demands such an outcome. They will protect their ill-gotten gains, just as history teaches us.

This is the stark reality behind Gerry Adams's words when he tells a meeting in Belfast that he "accepts policing". We all accept policing but not British policing in Ireland. This is the harsh actuality behind the Provo Ard-Chomhairle's "qualified acceptance" of the St Andrews proposals. Let no one say that they were not told the plain unvarnished truth of the matter.

But history also teaches us that there is no final settlement short of British disengagement from Ireland. No matter what Blair and Hain, Ahern and Kenny, Adams and Paisley tell us, that is the situation. While the British government remains in Ireland, the historic Irish Question continues to be unsettled with all the consequences of that position.

Those who ignore such realities have blinded themselves as to the way forward. The best hope in the wake of British disengagement lies in a nine-county Ulster, as part of a new four-province federation, with power and decision making shared naturally — not artificially — according to local majorities.

All sections would, we believe, feel comfortable in such a New Ireland.

Victory to the Irish people!

An Phoblacht Abú!

# 102nd Ard-Fheis of Republican Sinn Féin held in Dublin

enter the country.

A motion from Comhairle Uladh, the Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann, Monaghan and the Liam Lynch/Armagh Martyrs Cumann, Armagh/Keady condemning the "continued occupation of Iraq by US and British forces and the 26-County Administration for allowing the use of Shannon by the US and British forces" was passed. The Casement/Hughes Cumann, Dún Laoghaire/Ballybrack called for the immediate lifting of the trade blockade on Cuba by the US government and was supported by the delegates and the same Cumann proposed sending good wishes to Cuban President Fidel Castro who is ill. The Francis Hughes Cumann, Glasgow called for support for the jailed Cuban activists known as the Miami Five. Both motions were supported.

The Ard-Fheis sent solidarity greetings to the oppressed people of the world who are struggling for freedom and condemned the use of Shannon Airport for troop movement and rendition flights.

Culture/SAOIRSE/Education was the final session on Saturday but with little time left only one resolution was debated. A resolution on the need for an updated education booklet fell as there was no proposer or seconder. However the Education Committee have taken the suggestion on board and a new handbook for new members is being prepared. Four resolutions dealing with the need for more historical/cultural material in SAOIRSE — including the need to promote the Irish language and for a more balanced reporting of major events — and to increase the sales of the paper were referred to the incoming Ard Chomhairle.

A resolution from the Ard Chomhairle which read: "Ós í an Ghaeilge príomh-theanga na nGael is den riachtanas é go mbeidh gach ball de Ghlúaiseacht na Poblachta gníomhach i gcónaí i dtaobh í a athréimniú mar phríomhtheanga úsáide ag muintir na hÉireann uile. Chuirge sin beidh sé riachtanach go mbeidh ar a laghad 10% de gach doiciméid, póstaer, oráid, miontuairiscí etc, i nGaeilge feasta agus i nGaeilge amháin i ngach Gaeltacht. Tuigeanann gach duine gurb í ár n-aidhm i gcónaí Éire Saor Gaelach a bhaint amach mar a thuar Pádraic Mac Piarais ag uaigh Uí Dhomhnaigh Rosa i 1915" and called on SFP to actively promote by example over a number of years, the use and education of the Irish language, was passed unanimously with an addendum incorporating a timeframe. The Ard-Fheis "accepted willingly that the restoration of Irish is a central policy of the Republican Movement".

Organisation and Activities were discussed on Sunday morning and the session was chaired by Tomás Ó Curraoin. A motion from the Patrick Cannon Cumann, Dublin instructing the incoming Ard Chomhairle to devote most of its time and energy in office to recruitment was passed, as was a motion from Cumann Mac Curtáin/Mac Suibhne, Cork calling for the handbook for action to be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Resolutions calling for more to be done to promote the Wolfe Tone



• Tomás Ó Cléirigh and Pádraig Ennis manning the Irish Freedom Press shop at the Ard-Fheis.

Commemoration in Bodenstown tabled by Kerry Comhairle Ceantair and from Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath for the 50th anniversary of Seán Sabhat and Feargal O'Hanlon to be commemorated appropriately were passed.

Cumannn were encouraged to submit ideas to improve the annual Ard-Fheis and a resolution from Comhairle na Mumhan said that more use should be made of the name Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

It was emphasised in a motion from Comhairle Ceantair Áth Cliath that members must give priority to national rallies over all events.

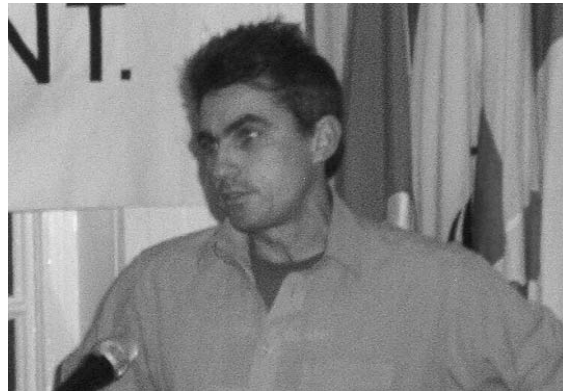
The social and economic policy resolutions were debated on Sunday November 12; the cathaoirleach was Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President Des Dalton. A resolution from the Joe McDonnell Cumann, Dublin called on Sinn Féin members "...to get involved in local issues." A resolution from Cumann MacCurtáin/MacSwiney, Cork said: "That SAOIRSE dedicate a section to social issues, eg housing, child poverty, father's rights etc."

Cumann Wolfe Tone Tallaght, Co Dublin in a resolution deplored "...the ongoing crisis in the health services in the 26-Counties and proposes continually publicising our policy on health service delivery in a New Ireland. This can be done by members around the country writing letters to the papers/phone in local radio etc at every opportunity." A resolution from Comhairle na Mumhan called for the upgrading of the Ennis and Nenagh hospitals.

A resolution from Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath made a call to "...to expose the silence of the constitutional parties, both north and south, of their failure to highlight the daily cost of living increases." This resolution along with resolutions from the Carroll/O'Donovan Cumann, Dublin condemned the increase in charges for essential services such as gas and electricity as well as service charges such as bin charges.

The Ard-Fheis also passed resolutions from the McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann, Co Mayo as well as Comhairle Ceantair na Gaillimhe supporting the Shell to Sea campaign in Ros Dumhach, Co Mayo.

A resolution from Comhairle Ceantair na Gaillimhe slammed the



• Adam Foster of the Welsh Republican Party addressed the Ard-Fheis on November 12.



• Tomás Ó Curraoin, Gaillimh.

selling out of fishing rights to foreign fishing boats. A resolution from Comhairle Cuige Connacht demanded, "...that the rules governing affordable housing be strictly adhered to by everybody." This referred to the practice of local authorities of accepting financial levies from developers rather than insisting a percentage of any housing developments is given over to affordable or social housing.

A resolution from Cumann Wolfe Tone, Tallaght, Co Dublin called on "...local authorities to consult with local people before building hundreds



• Ruairí White, Newry, reading the statement from the Maghaberry POWs.

of high-rise apartments and houses in the area with little or no infrastructure."

The section on Prisoners on Sunday was addressed by Briege O'Connor, whose son Joe is currently a political prisoner in Maghaberry prison in the Six Counties spoke about the conditions in Maghaberry and the campaign for political status.

She said: "I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Breige O'Connor and I am the proud mother of a Republican prisoner at present in

Maghaberry jail.

"It was quite a shock to have my son locked up by the British Establishment but it was another matter not to be able to see my son because a stupid dog decided against it.

"A sentenced prisoner is only entitled to one visit a week so when you are turned away from your visit by the sniffer dog you forfeit your visit until the next week. My son had his visit cancelled four weeks in a row which meant he had no connection with his family in over a month. This is a constant worry to all prisoners and their families especially when the families to travel so far for a visit with their loved ones.

"I have spoken at length to a few of the families and we are growing concerned by the loss of weight of our loved ones. Since political status, which was won by the hunger strikers in 1981, has been signed away by the Provos in the Stormont agreement, Republican prisoners today demand the right to have political status reinstated.

"So I ask everyone here today to come out and support our young men at this crucial time. No one wants a return to the dark days of 1981. So please spare a thought for all our young men and their families especially at this time of year. In the words of a famous nobody, they haven't gone away you know."

Briege received a standing ovation in tribute to the protesting prisoners in Maghaberry.

The first resolution in the Prisoners' section called for the restoration of political status to the protesting POWs in Maghaberry. Cumann from all over the country, and the Ard Chomhairle, penned their name to a resolution that sent "fraternal greetings to our comrades in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons and assure them of our unwavering support. We pledge our full support to the protesting prisoners in Maghaberry jail in their ongoing struggle for the restoration of political status, sold out in the Stormont Agreement of 1998".

Resolutions praising the work of the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) and pledging support to them in the struggle for political status were passed.

The POW Dept of Republican Sinn Féin also received the endorsement of the Ard-Fheis and members pledged their support to it in the ongoing struggle.

The Monaghan and Armagh/Keady Cumann's resolution congratulating "CABHAIR on their work for Republican prisoners and their dependents" and urging members "to redouble their efforts in raising finance for the prisoners in the coming year" was also passed.

## Elected to the Officer Board

**Uachtarán:** Ruairí Ó Brádaigh;  
**Leas Uachtarán:** Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Des Dalton;  
**Rúnaí Oinigh:** Peig King, Líta Ní Chathmhaoil;  
**Cisteoir Oinigh:** Joe O'Neill, John O'Connor;  
**Oifigeach Poiblíochta:** Ruairí Óg Ó Brádaigh.



# Beannachtaí na Nollag

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From **CABHAIR** (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund).

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From the Executive, Cumann na mBan.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, BÁC.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From Peig and Paddy King, Dublin.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Republican Prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails, from the Wolfe Tone Cumann, Tallaght, Dublin; Carroll O'Donovan Cumann, Inchicore and Clondalkin Dublin; Roger Casement/Francis Hughes Cumann, Dún Laoghaire/Ballybrack; O Conaill/Sands Cumann, Blanchardstown; Patrick Cannon Cumann, Raheny; Joe McDonnell Cumann, Crumlin, Dublin; Raymond McCreesh Cumann, north Dublin; Comhairle Laighean and Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Republican Prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Comhairle Laighean, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Tierney family, Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Carroll family, Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Kelly family, Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Nixon family, Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Buggy, Willie, Barney, Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Yaza and family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Eamonn, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Sheehan family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Finn family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Republican Sinn Féin, Armagh City.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Republican Sinn Féin, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Republican Movement, Armagh

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Patrick Tierney, Maghaberry POW. Have a happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best from the Republican Movement, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Joe O'Connor, Maghaberry POW. Thinking of you at Christmas, love and best wishes, From Mum, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews and the O'Connor family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Joe O'Connor, Maghaberry POW. Thinking of you at Christmas and New Year, mo chara. From your friend Yaza and family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Joe O'Connor, Maghaberry POW. Thinking of you at Christmas and New Year. From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Joe O'Connor, Maghaberry POW. Thinking of you at Christmas and New Year. From the Sheehan family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Joe O'Connor, Maghaberry POW. Thinking of you at Christmas and New Year, mo chara. From Republican Sinn Féin Armagh/Keady.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Chris Donaldson, Maghaberry POW. Best wishes at Christmas. From Brieger O'Connor, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Chris Donaldson, Maghaberry POW. Best wishes at Christmas. From Yaza and Audra, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Chris Donaldson, Maghaberry POW. Best wishes at Christmas. From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Chris Donaldson, Maghaberry POW. Best wishes at Christmas. From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Gerard Chapman, Maghaberry POW. Love and best wishes at Christmas. From Mum and all the Chapman family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Gerard Chapman, Maghaberry POW. All the best for Christmas big "Chappy". From Yaza and family, Keady, Co Armagh

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Gerard Chapman, Maghaberry POW. All the best for Christmas big "Chappy". From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Gerard Chapman, Maghaberry POW. All the best for Christmas big "Chappy". From the Sheehan family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Gerard Chapman, Maghaberry POW. All the best for Christmas big "Chappy". From Republican Sinn Féin Armagh/Keady.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Lurgan, Co Armagh POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of you all at Christmas. From Yaza and family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Lurgan, Co Armagh POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of you all at Christmas. From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Lurgan, Co Armagh POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of you all at Christmas. From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.



*Please Remember the Prisoners  
and their Families this Xmas*

Maghaberry. Thinking of you all at Christmas. From the Sheehan family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Lurgan, Co Armagh POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of you all at Christmas. From Republican Sinn Féin Armagh/Keady.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of each and every one of you at Christmas and every day. From Yaza and family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all all Continuity POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of each and every one of you at Christmas and every day. From the Hughes and Sheehan families, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Maghaberry. Thinking of each and every one of you at Christmas and every day. From Republican Sinn Féin, Armagh/Keady.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all all Continuity POWs, Portlaoise. Thinking of each one of you at Christmas and every day. From the Hughes family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all all Continuity POWs, Portlaoise. Thinking of each one of you at Christmas and every day. From the Sheehan family, Keady, Co Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all all Continuity POWs, Portlaoise. Thinking of each one of you at Christmas and every day. From Republican Sinn Féin, Armagh/Keady.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to my husband Malachy Maguire, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. From your wife Paula, Omearth, xxxx.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Malachy Maguire, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. From Mam, Dad, brothers and sisters, Newry. An Phoblacht abú.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dessie McCabe, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. From friends and comrades in Newry/Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Eddie Costello, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails who kept the faith. From Des and Annette Long, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Timmy King, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. Looking forward to having you home next Christmas, Timmy. Love you, your wife Samantha and children, Limerick, xxx.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Timmy King, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. From Mam, Dad and family, Limerick, xxx.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Timmy King, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. From Johnny O'Brien and John Keogh, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman (Limerick) and Colm Maguire (Dublin). Have a good Christmas lads, best wishes from Noel, Rachel and kids in Cork.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Republican POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill, Loch Garman.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to PJ and Jock, POWs, Portlaoise jail. From Mick, Anne-Marie, Sasha and Mikey Hunt, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to PJ and Jock, POWs, Portlaoise jail. From Tom Malone and family, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to PJ and Jock, POWs, Portlaoise jail. From Frank McManus and family, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to PJ and Jock, POWs, Portlaoise jail. From Paddy, Paul, Christy, Fitz, Bonner, Terence, Harry, Barry, Rodney and all the boys in Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Brugh/Sabhat Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Sands/Hurson Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail. Have a nice time. From your Mam Angela, brothers Gow, Seán, sister Margaret, Limerick, xx.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail and all the Limerick POWs. From all your cousins and friends, Weston, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Joe, Denise and Rachel Lynch, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Patsy and Louise Ryan, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail and all the Continuity POWs. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Seán O'Neill and partner Sonia, Cape Town, SA.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean and Timmy, Limerick POWs, Portlaoise jail. From Johnny, Ken, Eddie, David, Westham and George, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Maggie, Michael, Noel and Joe Flavin, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs. From Mick Hanley and family, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Portlaoise jail. From Mick Ryan and Ger Brommell, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Continuity POWs in Portlaoise jail. From Christy Dunne, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all the Continuity Volunteers and POWs and especially to their families. From the Republican Prisoners Action Group.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all the Continuity Volunteers and POWs and especially to their families. From the Willie Stewart/Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry/Dundalk.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Malachy and Dessie, their families and all Republican POWs loyal to the All-Ireland Republic incarcerated in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Séamus and Jacqueline.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Malachy and Dessie, their dependants and all Republican POWs incarcerated in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Ollie.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all the Republican POWs of the Continuity Óglaigh na hÉireann and their families, wishing them all the best for 2007. From the Republican Movement, Dundalk, Newry and Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Newry Continuity POWs in Portlaoise jail. From friends and comrades in Newry/Armagh.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to all Dessie McCabe, Continuity POW, Portlaoise jail. From your brothers and sisters.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Jock and PJ, Portlaoise POWs. From Billy Philips and family, and friends from Maudlinton, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Jock and PJ, Wexford POWs. From Mick Morris and family, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to our brave comrades in Maghaberry Jail, in their fight for political status their fight is our fight. Victory to the POWs. From all your comrades in Republican Sinn Féin, 229 Falls Road, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to all Republican POW s in Portlaoise Prison. From your comrades in Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Grant family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Taylor family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Davidson family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the O'Connor family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Lagan family, Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to all the lads in Maghaberry Jail on protest for political status. We salute your courage victory to the POWs. From your friends and comrades in north Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the POWs in Maghaberry jail. We salute you in your fight for political status. Victory in 2007. From your friends and comrades in west Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to our comrades in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From your friends and comrades in south Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to our comrades in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. Victory to the POWs. From your friends and comrades in east Belfast.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to all the lads in Maghaberry. We support you in your fight for political status. From your friends and supporters in Ardoyne.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to all our friends and comrades in Maghaberry jail, From Deeky and Roisin Victory to the POWs.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From: Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta/National Irish Freedom Committee, USA.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From Patrick Williams, New Jersey, USA.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From Listowel Republican Sinn Féin.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From John Sheehy, Listowel, Co Kerry.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From Comhairle Ceantair Chiarraí, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From the James Connolly Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Ennis, Co Clare.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From the Hartigan/Highstead Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, London.

**GREETINGS** to the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From Naoimh and Ruairi White, Jonesborough.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise. From the Republican Prisoners' Action Group.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise. From Buster, Co. Fermanagh.

**CHRISTMAS** and New Year greetings to the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise. From Richard Walsh, Derry.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Colm Maguire, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Tanya, Brendan and Maygen, Dublin xxx.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Colm Maguire, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Cathy, Shane and Craig.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings to Colm Maguire, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Joe and Nora Lynch and Christy Dunne, Limerick.

**CHRISTMAS** greetings and a happy New Year to all the Republican POWs incarcerated in Portlaoise and Maghaberry. From the Republican Prisoners' Action Group, Glasgow

**PATSY** and Ruairi Ó Brádaigh wish all their friends and the readers of SAOIRSE Nollaig Shona agus Aith-Bhlhian Fé Mhaise. This year we are making a donation to CABHAIR instead of sending cards.

**THE** Editor and staff of SAOIRSE extends Christmas greetings to Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. **WARMEST** Christmas greetings to Stephen Daly and his comrades in Maghaberry prison and to all Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail. From Cathleen Knowles McKuirk.

**WE**, the Continuity POWs, Portlaoise jail, send Christmas and New Year's greetings to our comrades in Maghaberry jail and we will continue to support you in your fight for political status. Tíocfaidh Ár Lá.

**WE**, the Continuity POWs, Portlaoise jail, send Christmas greetings to CABHAIR and thank you for your support to us and our families. Without your work and support our families would be lost.

## Support CABHAIR And the Prisoners

A chara

On behalf of CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund) I wish to thank most sincerely everyone who has subscribed to the welfare of Republican prisoners and their dependants during the past year.

This committee works solely on voluntary subscriptions and without these the prisoners and their families would suffer.

I would like to congratulate Republican Sinn Féin work in donating funds.

On behalf of CABHAIR I wish a happy and holy Christmas to each and every one and a special greeting to the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails and also their families.

PEIG KING  
Cathaoirleach  
CABHAIR Central  
Committee  
223 Parnell Street  
Dublin 1

## A 'British Problem'

A chara

It has been said and written that the Edinburgh Agreement will once and for ever bring an end to the so called 'Irish Problem'. But that also was said about the Belfast Agreement. Which confirms that the propagandists and the naive who support this latest attempt to ensure the continual injustice of the denial of Irish self-determination are citizens of a political cloud cuckoo land.

In fact their credibility is undermined by their use of the words 'Irish Problem' for there is no Irish problem — it is and always has been a 'British Problem'. A problem that can only be overcome by British disengagement from Ireland. In other words the cure for the centuries-old problem is an 'Irish Agreement'. An agreement based firmly upon the democratic will of the Irish people. An agreement copperfastened by a true national referendum organised by the Irish themselves without any British influence.

Presumably, as in relation to the Belfast Agreement, the people of Ireland will be conned into participating in two referendums so that the pro-Edinburgh Agreement propagandists can claim that 'the Irish people have spoken'. But that is not a national referendum for an authentic national referendum must take place without outside interference. Whereas in this potential case Britain would be participating as an organiser of a referendum in the northern Six Counties and therefore interfering.

In fact the origins of the referendum idea relating to the Edinburgh Agreement (as it was to the Belfast Agreement)

is one of the most blatant butchering acts of the concept of democracy ever concocted.

As for the justice of Irish national self-determination it is obvious that where the Provos are concerned there is no longer a place for it in Gerry Adam's 'New Ireland'. This 'New Ireland' based upon the



• Seán Harrington from the Shell to Sea campaign, who addressed the Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis on November 11, was stopped and questioned by the Special Branch on his way in and out.

acceptance of British occupation and continual partition with the blessing of the Dublin political establishment supported by the Hierarchy of the Irish Catholic Church is but a model of conflict resolution at the expense of the human and spiritual values supported by Irish Republicans since the era of the United Irishmen.

For where is the united country, where is the free Ireland which countless Irish men and women suffered for, fought for, and died for over the centuries? It does not exist and will be prevented from existing by those hungry, power-seeking and financial-seeking Lundies who have sold out the Republican cause as never before. And what about the 3000 plus of those whose lives were ended before their time? Was it worth it to pay out 3,000 plus lives for the continuation of foreign rule and undemocratic, sectarian based power-sharing?

When the knot is tied between Adams and Paisley that will be the cumulative act of the success of Kitsonian ideas of counter-insurgency. A part of which was infiltrating the guerrilla organisation and through agents ensuring the guerrilla movement's defeat. For after all it has been alleged that the Provos so-called chief negotiator has been outed as a British agent by the British spy Martin Ingram. If it is so that Martin McGuinness was an agent of the Crown then as so-called chief negotiator of the Provos he was ideally placed to ensure the success of Britain's anti-insurgency policies during the recent struggle for national freedom.

What Martin McGuinness should do is answer Ingram's request to publicly debate the allegations. If not, the idea of being an agent will hang

around for ever and at least if a debate did take place then perhaps the person known as Ingram will be revealed for who he is and what he is.

As for the hype surrounding the excitement (false or otherwise) of the Edinburgh meeting I have no doubt that the choreography in preparation to come by the participants will be of an equal variety as the people experiences another onslaught of blatant propaganda. The result if the Edinburgh con was implemented would be another postponement of the inevitable — that is national unity.

For the latter will come by hook or by crook in spite of the Belfast and Edinburgh agreements. An inevitability arising from a resurrected and vital revolutionary Republican movement.

LIAM Ó COMÁIN  
Derry

## Special Branch Harassment

A chara

On Saturday afternoon November 11 during the Ard-Fheis I took time out to run an errand. In the process of leaving the hotel a Special Branch man snidely remarked to me — and I quote — "You know Jimmy that we can shoot you".

I found this new tactic of harassment extremely sinister and akin to warnings meted out to many Republicans and nationalists prior to their British incited/backed murders in the Occupied Six-Counties.

On Sunday at the conclusion of the Ard-Fheis, I intervened to stop a Branch man attempting to arrest a young delegate in my company for not giving his date of birth. He

had complied fully with his legal requirements prior to this harassment. A senior branch member stepped in and allowed the young man to go. He also pointed out that he had not been personally responsible for the earlier warning to myself and apologised to me in public for the threat stating that it was totally wrong and should never have happened and a full investigation would take place (I won't be holding my breath).

As a member of Republican Sinn Féin I and my family are used to the constant branch presence and harassment but it is becoming patently obvious that an ever increasing element within the state's security are, as has been proven, in our occupied Six-Counties now willing to take the law into their own hands (and should I say hand guns?).

We have seen many cases in recent years, the case of John Carthy being the most high profile, and we have heard the state troop out the same rhetoric as has been used to defend their British counterparts in court, eg "I feared for my own safety and that of my companions". How well they have learned from their British masters.

A file is continually being updated in head office in Dublin on all details of harassment.

This file is, in due course, going to be published and forwarded to relevant bodies that monitor civil rights here in Ireland. I would urge every single individual to garner as much information as possible when being harassed — name of person conducting the harassment; station which he/she is attached to; time, date, place and duration of harassment; and under what legislation.

Anything we can do is

infinitely better than doing nothing and we should be continually proactive in this area of the struggle.

SÉAMUS Ó MURCHÚ  
Casement/Hughes Cumann  
Republican Sinn Féin  
Baile Átha Cliath

he cannot condemn on one hand what he supports with the other? Is it because, to our shame, an Embassy was opened in Baghdad to feed Saddam's army when everyone knew what atrocities he was committing? Is it because the government's hands are also bloodied because rightly or wrongly the 26-County State sacrificed its dignity for economy? The Irish clergy called for prayer momentarily and then fell eerily silent.

Bertie said that it would be "a hostile act" to remove facilities to the US military at Shannon airport. It is a sad day for the 26 Counties when a minister calls for the life of Saddam Hussein to be spared while so many innocent people died, and not one member of the 26-County government did anything to stop them being killed, or called for any of their lives to be spared.

PAUL O'TOOLE  
Dublin 5  
Ireland

## Fishing Rights Sold Off

A chara

Sixty four per cent of all the fish eaten in the EU are caught in what used to be the Irish territorial waters. Four per cent of that 64% are caught by Irish fishermen. The Free State assembly are stopping the Irish fishermen and practically encouraging the foreign fleets. But since Articles 2 and 3 of the Free State Constitution were changed we no longer have any call to our territory either on land, at sea or in the air.

Effectively the foreign boats have more rights than the Irish — e Norwegians and Spanish are depleting our fish stocks. The main cause of fish stocks depletion are the foreign boats.

Pollution is also causing a problem to our fish stocks. Ashati polluted Killala Bay some years ago and reports are circulating that the Coka Cola plant in Ballina is dumping citric acid into the sea.

Protect our fishing rights!

PAT CANNON  
Mayo

## 26-County State's Hands Bloodied

A chara

Dermot Ahern, 26-County foreign affairs minister, said recently that he is opposed to the death penalty for Saddam Hussein. He even joined with other UN countries to express his disapproval of hanging as a form of punishment. Why then is he so silent about the 665,000 innocent Iraqi lives taken.

More than a half million killed to remove one man who ironically was taken without a single shot fired. Why can he not also stand up and condemn George W Bush and Tony Blair on behalf of the 26 Counties, for what is looking more like genocide than democracy.

Is it because this botched invasion has the support and blessing of the 26-County Administration and therefore

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*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.*

*Letters may also be faxed to Dublin 872 9757 or sent by e-mail to saoirse@iol.ie*



# WHAT THEY SAID

In fact, TG4 has managed to increase its audience each year, to the point where its share is now five times greater than when it started.

In the digital and broadband era, where the audience for indigenous Irish channels has shrunk to just about half of the audience for all television viewed in the country due to intense competition from abroad, this is a solid achievement.

TG4's share is now slightly less than BBC2 or Channel 4, but larger than Sky One, Sky News, Nickleodeon or MTV, all of which have a significant presence in Ireland.

— Farrell Corcoran, writing in the Irish Times, October 31, 2006.

Its flagship children's programme, Cúla 4, regularly attracts 20 per cent of the child audience.

TG4 clearly has repositioned the Irish language in the cultural life of the country, where there are now well over 100 languages spoken in schools and streets.

— Farrell Corcoran.

Robert White has produced a fascinating biography [Ruairí Ó Brádaigh: The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary] which deserves to be read by anyone with an interest in politics, not just those concerned with fringe Republicanism. White, an American academic, has produced a masterpiece of detailed research, in the course of which he had access to the key players and huge archives. This is the gold standard for political biography and, in an age when academics are often more concerned with meeting government targets than serious research, it greatly deserves to be read.

— Derek Wall, Red Pepper, November 2006.

"There is no evidence whatsoever of any desire on the part of any unionist that I know to have [Provisional] Sinn Féin anywhere near the issue of policing and justice. It will not happen in my view for a political lifetime.

"That is our position today, it was our position at St Andrews and it was our position previously."

— Irish Times, November 1, 2006, reporting on Nigel Dodds, DUP MP for North Belfast's speech.

"We have no intention of letting Gerry Kelly, [Provisional] Sinn Féin or anyone else near the question of policing and justice. They may not like it, but they will have to lump it."

— Irish Times report on Nigel Dodds.

Geneva — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was "appalled at the deaths last Friday of two Palestinian paramedics killed in the Gaza Strip during an Israeli military operation.

Both paramedics and the vehicle they were travelling in were clearly identified with a distinctive emblem showing them to be medical personnel, said the Swiss-based

humanitarian organisation.

— Irish Times, November 7, 2007.

A United Nations report has rated Ireland as the fourth best country in which to live, a rise of four places on last year. However, it also ranks the State as 17th out of 18 rich countries for poverty levels.

The report, published yesterday by the UN Development Programme, assesses countries' performance on wealth, life expectancy and education. It puts Ireland in fourth place, behind Norway, Iceland and Australia.

— Irish Times, November 10, 2006.

The [UN] document points to an ever-widening gap between the world's richest and poorest countries. Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, is stagnating. It calls for urgent global action to resolve a growing water and sanitation shortage.

Overall, some 1.1 billion people lack safe water and 2.6 billion lack access to sanitation.

— Irish Times.

Adams held discussions with [RUC Chief Constable] Orde and the Northern Secretary of State, Peter Hain, at Hillsborough castle last week. A senior source told the Sunday Tribune: "Gerry told Orde he wasn't yet in a position to hold a special Ard-Fheis.

"He said he could get a motion on policing through but with a slim majority." The source continued that Adams said he "could command about 60% support and he didn't want an Ard-Fheis unless he was sure of around 85%".

— Sunday Tribune, November 12, 2006, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

An RUC whistle-blower [named as John Weir, ex-RUC] says he is prepared to give sensational evidence to the Smithwick Tribunal which implicates RUC chief superintendent Harry Breen, the highest ranking member of the RUC to be killed in the Troubles, in loyalist paramilitary activity.

— Sunday Business Post, November 12, 2006, Colm Heatley article.

Breen and his RUC colleague, [superintendent] Bob Buchanan, were shot dead in an IRA ambush in south Armagh on March 20, 1989, after attending a meeting in Dundalk Garda station.

The Smithwick Tribunal is investigating whether the IRA received a tip-off from someone in the Garda Síochána.

— Sunday Business Post.

An independent panel of international jurors last week found "strong and credible" evidence of RUC and British army collusion in 24 out of 25 murder cases investigated, involving the deaths of 76 people.

— Sunday Business Post. Dissident (sic) Republicans are attracting young, disillusioned nationalists as the peace process stumbles along.

— Sunday Business Post, November 12, 2006, article by Colm Heatley.

A picture of Joseph [Connor (24) serving 12 years] on his first day in secondary school sits in the living room. It was taken a few days after the [Provisional] IRA's August 1994 ceasefire.



• Members of the independent panel of international jurors along with members of Justice for the Forgotten at a press conference launching a report on collusion between loyalist death squads and British Crown Forces in Dublin on November 7.

He is one of nearly 40 dissident (sic) Republican prisoners in Maghaberry. Another dozen are held in Portlaoise, as well as a handful in English prisons.

— Colm Heatley.

But, in an attempt to build up support, the Continuity IRA has claimed responsibility for a number of punishment shootings in Belfast. Capitalising on the policing vacuum in nationalist areas and the absence of the [Provisional] IRA, dissident Republicans have tapped into nationalist discontent with rising crime levels.

"Unfortunately, it met with some popularity," said Jim Auld, director of Community Restorative Justice.

— Colm Heatley.

In such areas as south Antrim and Ballymena, where sectarian attacks against nationalists are most common, young Catholics (sic) can feel abandoned by [Provisional] Sinn Féin and cast adrift from the peace process.

As [Provisional] Sinn Féin moves further towards acceptance of the PSNI and constitutional politics, the gulf between dissident republicans and mainstream republicans grows.

— Colm Heatley.

However, perhaps not surprisingly, Des Dalton, vice-president of Republican Sinn Féin, said the party (sic) was going from strength to strength. The party held its Ard-Fheis last weekend, on the 20th anniversary of its split from [Provisional] Sinn Féin.

— Colm Heatley.

Last week a dissident (sic) bomb was discovered in Roslea, Co Fermanagh and there was a gun attack on the PSNI station in Keady, Co Armagh.

More attacks are planned, up to and including bomb attacks, according to senior security sources. (PSNI (sic) personnel are also being targeted.

— Irish Times, November 14, 2006, Gerry Moriarty, Northern Editor.

Ní fada anois go mbeadh God Save the Queen á sheimh ar láthair cluiche rugbaí i bPáirc an Chrocaigh, agus beidh deacrachtaí áirithe ann san am céanna le h-Amhráin na bhFiann.

— Irish Times, November 14, 2006, Beochest le h-Art Ó Maolfabhail.

Ansin is dócha go mbeidh daoine measúla ann a déarfáidh go bhfuil sé in am a

bheith pragmatach seachas prionsabálta agus rudai áirithe sa stair a chur taobh thiar dinn, rudai mar Ardán Mhic an Fhailí agus Ardán Uí Ogáin.

— Art Ó Maolfabhail.

Dar len a lán tá stat poblachtach in Éireann, agus rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath, ar dícheall ag comóradh choagaocht Shasana; 2004 na Connaught Rangers in aghaidh, "ceannaire" mhuintir na hIndia (1857); 2005 Nelson agus cath farraige Trafalgar (1805); 2006 cath an Somme (1916) sa bhFranc in aghaidh na Gearmáine.

Cad é atá beartaithe do 2007?

— Art Ó Maolfabhail. Freagra: cuairt oifigiúil ar Stát na 26 Chontae ag Bainríon Shasana, "agus Thuaisceart Éireann".

Nationalist parties outraged as MI5 gets set to take over role of intelligence-gathering from the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

— Sunday Tribune, November 19, 2006, column by Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

For nationalists, such expansion [the building of a new MI5 headquarters beside Palace barracks, Holywood, a few miles outside Belfast] is hardly a sign the British are leaving the North.

But there are other reasons to worry. All the gains of recent years, in terms of accountability and transparency regarding policing, are in jeopardy.

— Suzanne Breen.

The Sunday Tribune has been told the PSNI will continue to run loyalist paramilitary agents, but that MI5 is anxious to maintain control of Republican operatives.

Annex E of the St Andrews Agreement says MI5 will "continue to run directly a small number of agents who are authorized to obtain information in the interests of [British] national security as distinct from countering criminality."

— Suzanne Breen.

Certainly, the DUP has made some progress. A careful reading of the Northern Ireland [St Andrews Agreement] Bill reveals the removal of a lot of the "joineery" which formed such a crucial part of the Good Friday Agreement.

— Sunday Business Post, November 19, 2006, article by Brian Feeney.

The Bill provides for the

DUP and [Provisional] Sinn Féin to separately nominate their candidates for First and Deputy First Minister.

It does not require any party to vote for them, thereby avoiding the embarrassment of the DUP having to endorse the IRA's former chief of staff as the North's Deputy First Minister co-equal with Paisley.

— Brian Feeney.

The Bill also contains a pledge of office which requires ministers to support the PSNI and "actively encourage" everyone in the community to support the police and criminal justice institutions.

— Brian Feeney.

However, less than half — about 75 — of those proposals [175 changes to the RUC sought by the Patten report] were implemented.

One of the report's authors, Professor Clifford Shearing, complained that Patten had not been "cherry-picked" but "guttled".

— Sunday Business Post, November 19, 2006, article by Colm Heatley.

Throughout the Troubles, the 13,000-strong RUC was 94 per cent Protestant. That figure has dropped to around 80 per cent for the PSNI today.

— Colm Heatley.

Among other things, [Provisional] Sinn Féin wants assurances about the MI5's proposed new role in the North and a timetable for the transfer of policing powers. Until then it is unlikely to call an Ard-Fheis to endorse the PSNI.

— Colm Heatley. We shall see?

Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Wyld, who served in the North during the early to mid-1970s, told the Sunday Business Post the murder [of a Co Armagh man] was carried out after information was passed from the British army to a loyalist gang, who then shot dead an innocent Catholic with no political connections.

— Colm Heatley article, November 19, 2006.

Wyld said he would consider providing information to Patrick McEntee, SC, one of the country's leading criminal barristers, who is carrying out an inquiry into the Garda's handling of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, which killed 33 people.

— Colm Heatley.

It ["Napoleon's Master: A Life of Prince Talleyrand" by David Lawday] is enjoyably

written, well balanced and clearly sympathetic to a man who, as Lawday notes, would be as appalled at the diplomatic behaviour of the current world superpower as he was at the behaviour of the Napoleonic superpower in its final years.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, review of books by Hugh Gough.

However, perceived hardliners in the DUP appeared to take issue with Dr Paisley. Twelve of the DUP's 33 MLAs, including four of its nine MPs — Nigel Dodds, Rev William McCrea, Gregory Campbell and David Simpson — issued a statement rejecting the interpretation that yesterday's business in then [Stormont] Assembly amounted to conditional acceptance that Dr Paisley and Mr McGuinness were now prospective first minister and deputy first minister.

— Irish Times, November 25, 2006, page one.

The elected [Stormont] Assembly became a creature of the Northern Ireland Office. Northern Secretary Peter Hain reinterpreted what Dr Paisley actually said in order to keep the St Andrews Agreement alive.

As the Speaker of the Assembly Eileen Bell remarked, it was a distasteful situation. The Assembly's credibility has been damaged by this kind of Alice in Wonderland politics, and Mr Hain's authority has been undermined.

Last Wednesday, in the [British] House of Commons, he told the DUP there would be no point in proceeding with the St Andrews Agreement unless nominations were made for the positions of first minister and deputy first minister.

The governments have now resiled from that position. It may have been a necessary fudge in order to buy time and to keep the process going, but at what cost.

— Irish Times editorial, November 25, 2006.

We are seeing something unprecedented. His supporters believe they 'can trust the big man and he has a safe pair of hands' but he has had a political wobble and it will be interesting to discover whether that wobble goes out of control or not.

— A UUP source speaking to William Graham, Irish News, November 29, 2006.

The principal tension at this summit [of NATO in Riga] is between the US view that NATO's new role must be part of a global fight against terrorist subversion, and European states, led by France, which reject that vision in favour of a rebalanced transatlantic security relationship less open to the objection that the alliance puts the West against the rest of the world.

— Irish Times, November 29, 2006.

Extending NATO's role globally runs the central risk of associating all of its members with US power projection when that has never been so unpopular or ineffective.

Most European states believe such a role would undermine the United Nations, which has a far superior claim to universal legitimacy.

— Irish Times editorial.

# RESISTANCE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

**50  
Years  
Ago**

was caused by the Éire (sic) government's ban on publication of such statements, it said.

The IRA proclamation was as follows: "Resistance to British rule in occupied Ireland has now entered a decisive stage. Early today, Northern units of the Irish Republican Army attacked key British occupation installations.

"Spearheaded by Ireland's freedom fighters, our people in the Six Counties have carried the fight to the enemy. They are the direct victims of British Imperialism and they are also the backbone of the national revolutionary resurgence.

"This is the age old struggle of the Irish people versus British aggression. This is the same cause for which generations of our people have suffered and died. In this grave hour, all Irishmen and women, at home and abroad, must sink their differences, political or religious, and rally behind the banner of national liberation.

"We call on Irishmen in the British armed forces to stand by the motherland and refuse to bear arms against their own countrymen. We call on members of the RUC and B-Special Constabulary to cease being tools of British Imperialism and either stand one side or join us in the fight against tyranny.

"We warn them that should they reject this plea they will be adjudged renegades by the Irish Resistance Movement.

"This is the fight of the Irish nation struggling to be free and in it all Irish men and women must play their part.

"They must recognise too that we want no aid from any foreign power and have received none and that in the final analysis it is the Irish people themselves – by their sacrifices, their endurance and their will to victory – who must free Ireland.

"The whole of Ireland – its resources, wealth, history and tradition – is the common inheritance of all our people regardless of religious belief. The division of this country by Britain, and its subjection to British political control in the north, and to British economic domination in the south, must now be ended forever.

"It is up to this generation of Irish men and women to resolve for all time our unity, independence and freedom from foreign domination. The alternative, if the present situation continues, is extinction as a nation.

"The foe will use his considerable resources to divide us by fanning the fires of bigotry and sectarianism – twin enemies of Irish Republicanism. Let us be on our guard; a free Ireland cannot tolerate the one or the other.

"Out of this national liberation struggle a new Ireland will emerge, upright and free. In that new Ireland we shall build a country fit for all our people to live in.

"That then is our aim: an independent, united, democratic Irish Republic. For this we shall fight until the invader is driven from our soil and victory is ours."

The above paragraphs beginning "The whole of Ireland..." "It is up to this generation..." and "The foe will use..." were in fact omitted from the text given in the *Northern Whig*. The *Resistance* version is the most complete and even it leaves out the first two sentences of the proclamation.

The *Whig's* omissions show its lack of concern with the comprehensive nature of the full Irish national demand and its reluctance to give space to the anti-sectarian nature of Irish Republicanism.

The small omission by *Resistance* seems to indicate a hesitancy in calling the stage of the campaign begun on December 12, 1956 "decisive". Perhaps when *Resistance* was first published in December 1957 the author was uneasy as to its crucial or decisive status. But these two sentences were dropped from the January 1957 edition of the *United Irishman* anyhow.

The 1956 proclamation was written by Tony Magan, the IRA Chief-of-Staff, on December 12 of that year. Magan had joined the movement in the mid-30s, had been on active service in

England during the 1939-40 Bombing Campaign there, was interned at the Curragh 1940-45, was jailed again in 1946 and was back on active service in the Six Counties and in England in the early 1950s. He served on GHQ Staff in 1940 and from 1947 to 1957.

Magan was a proud man as he read what the *Belfast Newsletter* editorial of December 13 called the "high-flown language" of the Army Council statement to an emergency meeting of that body on the evening of December 12. It was the culminating point of twelve years work since 1945.

The full text was agreed unanimously by the Council and hopes were high for the future. Larry Grogan who had signed the 1939 Ultimatum to the British cabinet was openly enthusiastic. It was his third time around since 1920. Tomás Mac Curtáin was guardedly optimistic.

Of the five points required in the Overall Plan for a successful military campaign, the following can be said:

**Arms and Ammunition:** sufficient arms were there in December 1956, ammunition was scarce, but neither small arms nor ammunition was a problem right up to 1962 when the campaign was halted.

**Explosives,** detonators, commercial and electric, black fuse, etc were scarce but "more than we ever expected" was captured on December 12 (Seán Cronin reported to GHQ) and these munitions were never a problem up to 1962. In fact stores had to be disposed of then, because they could not be conserved.

**Funds:** This was a definite problem area in 1956 but while difficult sometimes, was never critical until the very end in 1962.

**Trained Personnel:** Never a problem at any stage 1956-62.

**Support:** This was a vital area. The ground had been well prepared in Mid-Ulster, it was agreed, due to the three successive elections in 1955-56 but the remainder of the Six Counties needed development. This became more and more obvious after the first two years - Dec '56 - Dec '58. Yet without continual basic public support it would have been impossible to operate at all.

On December 12, 1956 also the Publicity Committee of Sinn Féin met and published a statement which received scant mention in the 26-County newspapers or radio. The *Belfast papers* did carry it and it deserves mention here.

An altered version of the Sinn Féin statement, signed Máire Ní Ghabhann, Mícheál Tréinfhir, (Co-Rúnaíthe) was carried in *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, January 1957.

The *Belfast Newsletter* and the *Northern Whig*, both Unionist papers, published a similar text.

It read: "In the light of today's uprising of militant Republicans in British-Occupied Ireland, Sinn Féin feel it imperative that the following statement be issued to the Irish people.

"Irishmen have again risen in revolt against British aggression in Ireland. The Sinn Féin organisation state to the Irish people that they are proud of the risen nation and appeal to the people of Ireland to assist in every way they can the soldiers of the Irish Republican Army."

One of the Dublin dailies (possibly the *Irish Times*) on December 13, carried two additional paragraphs:

"It was obvious that the young men of this generation would have to rise up as the young men of other generations have risen against such tyranny.

"Only when Ireland is completely free and independent will Ireland be at peace. Sinn Féin appeals to the Irish people to support Sinn Féin policy – the establishment of an All-Ireland parliament, unfettered by any outside power".

The more measured response, signed by the two Ard-Rúnaíthe and carried in the January *United Irishman*, decried the failure of constitutional methods over 35 years to resolve the national question and stated that in such circumstances the events of December 12 were inevitable.

It was said around that the first version of the Sinn Féin statement was more suitable to a military organisation and that an appeal to political action would have been more appropriate to a political body.

In the flurry and excitement of the time, much of this passed unnoticed.

However on December 29, Stormont banned Sinn Féin and declared it an illegal organisation, a ban which remained in force until 1974 a full 18 years.

The *Sunday Independent* of December 30 quoted "senior police officers in Belfast" as saying that "the authorities had no other

## Resistance



alternative [to the ban] in view of the fact that these organisations have approved of the virtual declaration of war against Northern Ireland."

In the circumstances of the time this proscription was probably inevitable, just as *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* was banned by Stormont following on the Omagh Raid in 1954.

The attacks on December 12 had ranged from the air and radar installation at Torr Head in Co Antrim to Derry where the BBC relay transmitter station in the city was blown up and in the county a courthouse at Magherafelt was gutted by fire.

In Armagh city the British military barracks was attacked. An RUC man was wounded when a police patrol opened fire on two Irish freedom fighters in a parked van. In Newry a B-Special training hut was burned.

A new Territorial Army Barracks was blasted at Enniskillen and two bridges across the River Erne – Lady Brook bridge near Derrylin and Carry bridge linking with Inishowen Island – were blown. In Newtownbutler, RUC and B-Specials fired on freedom fighters but their fire was returned and they withdrew.

Explosives were seized from magazines in Fermanagh and Armagh. A "ring of steel" was set up by 3,000 British troops, RUC and B-Specials in mountainous terrain in North Antrim. With tracker dogs and spotter planes they combed out the area for over a week. Apart from three freedom fighters captured on the first night they failed to locate the flying column.

The men had mistaken a private car used by RUC for one of their own. Those taken prisoner were Tony Cooney (21), Willie Gough (20) and Jimmy Linehan (20) all from Cork city. Near Armagh city Séamus Heuston (23) of Keady and James Oliver Smith (19) of Bessbrook were seized in a parked car. Heuston's arm was broken and he received 18 stitches to his head. Leonard Magill (22) of Lurgan (a brother of Brendan then working in England) was taken near Dungannon GAA park.

On December 14, backing up the warning of two days earlier, RUC garrisons in Co Fermanagh were attacked: Lisnaskea where a major assault was put in, Derrylin and Roslea where a diversionary attack took place.

Public opinion was stirred deeply by all this activity, reminiscent of the Black-and-Tan War. Local councils passed resolutions in support of Irish freedom. Sinn Féin members sold *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* – and not just the current issue but all the back numbers available. Prisoners' collections were boosted to undreamed of proportions.

There was a "rush to the colours". Pádraig Mac Lógáin. President of Sinn Féin was a publican in Port Laoise. Two young Volunteers from South Tipperary, Domhnall Ó Lúbhlaí, a teacher of Irish and Donncha Ó Faoláin, a bank official, visited him and demanded to be sent on active service immediately.

Both has training and military experience but Mac Lógáin sent them back to the South Tipperary Unit to help out locally and hold themselves ready. There was a sufficiency of Volunteers in the field.

But the President had other callers. Jack MacQuillan, TD for Roscommon, formerly for Clann na Poblachta and now Independent wanted to link up with Sinn Féin on condition the Republican Movement accepted the 26-County parliament at Leinster House. Sinn Féin was becoming increasingly popular, he said. When he was refused MacQuillan became angry.

However some days later, on December 18,

MacQuillan and Paddy Finucane, an Independent Farmers TD for North Kerry, sent a telegram, which they issued to the media, to John A Costello.

They called on the Head of the 26-County government to "stop using military and Gardaí as instruments of British policy". Costello had sent the police and military to patrol the Border, thereby collaborating with the British forces on the other side.

On December 13 police headquarters in Dublin had announced: "As far as we know the matter has begun and ended in the North. We have no confirmation of any vehicles or persons concerned in the incidents having crossed into the Republic (sic) afterwards." Yet next day the Dublin government announced they would send troops and police to the Border.

The first arrests came on December 16-17 when military surrounded a disused house at Knockatallon, Co Monaghan near the Fermanagh Border. Thirteen men were arrested, brought to Dublin and released because, as a government announcement said, they carried no arms and they had no documents in their possession.

Then on December 20 at Dungoeyle, Co Louth – a mile from the Armagh Border – eight men were arrested by military and police. They were in a disused farmhouse at the time. Next day they were charged at Dublin District Court with having firearms without a certificate and remanded in custody to Mountjoy prison.

They were John Cassidy (20) Keady, Co Armagh; Peter McCarthy (20) also of Keady; Andrias Mac Domhnaill (21) Gallach, Aonach Urhumhan, Co Thiobraid Árann; Séamus Slattery (21) Nenagh, Co Tipperary; Séan Ó Dálaigh (25) Lios an Oiléain, Cloch na Coillte, Co Chorcaí; Gearóid Ó Broin (32) Glenn na Geall, Tuam Uí Mheadhra, Co Thiobraid Árann; Eamonn Murphy (22) Leinster Avenue, Dublin and Michael Buckley (25), Bóthar na Togáile, Corcaigh.

Charged with possession of four .303 Lee Enfield rifles, two Thompson sub-machine guns, one .45 Colt automatic pistol and two hand grenades without firearm certificates each man answered "Nothing to say". Sent to Mountjoy jail they became the first political prisoners of the 26-County State since 1948.

In the dock they carried rucksacks and rolled military blankets. Dressed in an assortment of uniforms they responded to military orders given by Ó Dálaigh who appeared to be their Officer Commanding.

Meanwhile, British Army detachments were rushed to various points, eg the KOSB (Kings Own Scottish Borderers, the regiment responsible for the Batchelors Walk massacre of civilians in Dublin in 1914 following on the Howth gun-running to the Irish Volunteers) was moved to Enniskillen from Ballykinkar Camp, Co Down.

Along the Border troops demolished cross-border bridges and roads. Stormont invoked internment without trial and a round up of Republicans, their supporters and sympathizers began as a large and indiscriminate net was spread over the Six Counties in order to fill D-Wing of Crumlin Road jail, Belfast.

*Resistance* details the sequence of diplomatic events from December 12. On that day the British Ambassador in Dublin called on Liam Cosgrave, Minister for External Affairs, to impress on him the "serious view that HM Government would be bound to take of the events" north of the Border.

On December 18, the same Ambassador handed Mr Cosgrave a Note "couched in fairly stiff language" as a *Belfast Tory* newspaper described it. On December 19 in the British House of Commons prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden made a statement. Mr Costello was not doing enough.

That evening, in reply to Jack MacQuillan, Mr Costello said that his use of troops and Gardaí along the Border was "to safeguard the institutions of this State".

"Who was endangering the institutions of the 26-County State?" asked *Resistance*. "The Resistance in the Six-Counties? Surely not. Surely it had enough on its hands attacking the 'institutions' of the British Occupation authorities? Who then? The Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, no less".

(More next month ... Ref: *Resistance: The Story of the Struggle in British Occupied Ireland*, by J McGarrity, published Irish Freedom Press, December 1957; *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, January 1957; *Belfast Newsletter*, December 13; *Northern Whig*, December 13; Dublin dailies throughout the month of December, *Irish Times*, *Irish Press*, *Evening Press*, *Sunday Press*, *Irish Independent*, *Sunday Independent*, and *Evening Herald*.)



# Edentubber Martyrs honoured

**REPUBLICANS from many parts of Ireland gathered at Edentubber to honour the five Irish Republicans killed there in a premature explosion on November 11, 1957, the five were: Michael Watters, the owner of the cottage, Oliver Craven, Co Down, Paul Smith, Co Armagh, Patrick Parle and George Keegan, Co Wexford.**

Led by a Republican colour party as well as a Na Fianna Éireann colour party the large crowd paraded from the Border Inn to the Edentubber Martyrs' monument.

Ruairi White, Newry, chaired the ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Joe Conway, Willie Stewart cumann, Newry/Dundalk Republican Sinn Féin, the relatives of those killed, the Patrick Parle Cumann, Wexford town as well as Kildare/West Wicklow Republican Sinn Féin. Nuala Moore, Co Monaghan recited a decade of the Rosary. Ard Chomhairle member Richard Walsh, Co Derry spoke on behalf of the Republican Prisoners Action Group. He called for support for the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry in their campaign for political status.

The oration was given by Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President Des Dalton who said that the lesson of Irish history was that British rule in Ireland would always be resisted. "It is important that when we come to monuments to honour our patriot dead that we

remember and point out why we are here. We as Irish Republicans know in our bones why we are here but its important at each time to restate that.

"We are here today to proudly honour the memory of Michael Watters and his comrades and the many before them and indeed the many since who sacrificed their lives for a free and independent Ireland.

"December 12 marks the commencement of that campaign which though not completely successful marked another milestone in the Irish people's resistance to British rule. Another generation had made its contribution and that is why in this year of 2006 as we approach 2007 it is important that we as Irish Republicans, indeed it is our duty as Irish Republicans, not merely to come here today to remember our past but to look forward.

"Today men in Maghaberry jail currently engaged in a heroic struggle for political status. Unfortunately as we approach the end of this 25th anniversary year of the 1981 hunger strike, it saddens me, as it saddens all

Irish Republicans, that 25 years after the death of Bobby Sands and his nine comrades, another group of Irish Republican prisoners have been forced down this road of struggle to establish a right won on the backs of 22 Irish Republican soldiers who have died on the hunger strikes.

"None of us take pleasure in the fact that former comrades have decided to go down the road of compromise, have descended to finally become fully enmeshed in the system of partition in upholding British rule just as many have done before them. However in two important aspects this departure is different than those which preceded it:

"They are unique in Irish Republican history in that they have actively signed away the right to political status for political prisoners. This departure has not only sought to criminalize the prisoners but by extension they seek to criminalise the heroic and noble struggle for Irish freedom for which these men here at Edentubber gave their lives.

Shame on them for doing so. "Not content with criminalising the struggle for Irish freedom they also now look set to uphold British rule actively on the ground by policing it by encouraging young Irish men and women to join the British police force in Ireland; to take up arms against their fellow countrymen, to uphold the writ of the Queen



• (left to right) Des Dalton, Damian McAteer, Ruairi White and Paddy White at the Edentubber Monument on November 19.

of England in Ireland. To me they are criminals and traitors to the Irish nation and should be treated as such.

"Leaving here we know we stand on firm ground. Our programme is the programme of Tone, the programme of Emmet, of Davis and Fintan Lalor, of Clarke, Connolly and Pearse, of Mellows. Our programme and our route is the All-Ireland Republic and it is from that point that we move forward to bring about the realisation of the dream of the men of Edentubber, of the

dream of all those Irish men and women who died for Irish freedom. The dream of the All-Ireland Republic. Long live the All-Ireland Republic."

On Sunday, November 19, to coincide with the annual Edentubber Commemoration, members of the Pádraig Ó Pearaill Cumann, Loch Garman and the Wexford Republican Graves Association held wreath laying ceremonies at the graves of George Keegan and Pádraig Ó Pearaill who lost their lives in the premature explosion at

Edentubber.

George Keegan loved Ireland – a love that led to his leaving Enniscorthy in September 1957, as a member of the Vinegar Hill Column of the IRA, to fight the British in the Occupied Six Counties. He was interred in his family's plot in St Mary's Cemetery, Enniscorthy.

Paddy Parle of Wexford town too went north in September 1957. He was buried in his family plot in Crosstown Cemetery, Wexford.

## Manchester Martyrs remembered in Cork

**ON Sunday, November 19 members of Republican Sinn Féin from North Cork, East Cork and Cork City and the public gathered at the National Monument, Grand Parade, Cork City to honour and commemorate William Philip Allen and Michael O'Brien both from Cork and Michael Larkin from Offaly, the Manchester Martyrs. Members of Cumann na mBan provided a colour party.**

The Cathaoirleach Donal Varian welcomed those who had gathered

on what was a cold, wet morning. Life-long Republican Liam Heaphy to lay a wreath at the monument on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. The oration was delivered by Terence Varian who gave a brief but very enlightening history of who the Manchester Martyrs were and their tragic story.

He called for the repatriation of the remains of the Manchester Martyrs. "There has been a long-running campaign to have the men's remains brought home to Ireland. Their burial place has remained a mystery for generations. However, it was

discovered that the remains were removed from their prison burial plot in 1991. The men's bodies were cremated in Blackley Crematorium and re-interred. This was a mass burial in which dozens of prisoners' remains were buried together.

"The caskets of the Manchester Martyrs remains need to be separated from others and brought back to Ireland.

"Through enquiries it has been established that the three men have been cremated and interned with twelve other 'Fenians' and there is no way to distinguish the



individual identities of the fifteen. Now all fifteen should be returned home to Ireland."

He said: "So today as we stand here to honour the memory of these great Irish Patriots, they lie alone in Salford Jail, Manchester. Even in death England fears and keeps them imprisoned within cold walls, their jailers hoping we will forget.

"We will never forget, that I can promise." The full text of his

address may be found at <http://www.rsfcork.com/currentnews.htm>.

Terence then highlighted that there are currently Republican prisoners in Portlaoise in the 26 counties and Maghaberry in the occupied six counties for continuing to oppose the illegal occupation of our country by Britain.

The Cathaoirleach Donal Varian asked a lone piper to play a lament. He thanked those gathered and spoke on the prison protest in Maghaberry and the importance of financial support being provided to CABHAIR to assist the prisoner's families. The piper played Amhrán na bhFiann to end the commemoration.

## Bart Dougherty

**THE legendary Bart Dougherty of New Jersey recently passed away after a long illness. Bart was the first recipient of the Ellen Farley ÉIRE NUA Award in New Jersey.**

At that event the late Peter Farley spoke of Bart's publicity activities for the year of 1976. That was the year that British royalty were doing their normalisation tour of the US.

Bart, along with Bernie Mackle and Peter Farley hired a boat and a plane to greet the yacht Britannia really up close in New York harbour. Both the overhead plane and the boat on the water carried large banners demanding that the Brits "get out of Ireland".

The news media had no choice but to cover the event for most of the day.

Bart had already sued Henry Kissinger for denying an entry visa to Máire Drumm, the Vice-President of Sinn Féin.

Bart ruffled a lot of feathers in his many years of activism and would never miss an opportunity to stick it to anyone who did not speak up about British atrocities in Ireland. (Full obituary in January SAOIRSE.)

## Tom Murphy

THE death occurred on October 22, 2006 of Tom Murphy, Ballyleigh, Ballybunion, Co Kerry at the age of 91 years.

A very well respected of the community, Tom was a true and life-long Republican, who never accepted the sell-out of Republican principles. He was chairman of the Scanlon Shortis Sinn Féin Cumann for many years.

Members of Republican Sinn Féin from Kerry attended the funeral which took place from his home to St John's Church, Ballybunion and burial in Killahenny Cemetery. His coffin was draped in the National Flag. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.

## Beannachtaí

GET well wishes to Ken Tierney, USA with the hope that he will recover soon from his illness. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

## Comhbhrón

**CLEARY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to David Cleary, Limerick on the death of his mother Geraldine. From Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.

**CLEARY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to David Cleary, Limerick on the death of his mother Geraldine. From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

**CLEARY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to David Cleary, Limerick on the death of his mother Geraldine. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

**CLEARY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to David Cleary, Limerick on the death of his mother Geraldine. From Mick Hanley, Limerick.

**CLEARY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the Cleary family, Limerick on the death of their mother Geraldine. From Ken, Eddie, Brendan and Christy.

**CLEARY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to David Cleary, Limerick on the death of his mother Geraldine. From Mick Ryan and Ger Brommell.

**DURKAN.** The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the family of Frank Durkan, New York and Mayo, who died on November 16. Go raibh suaimhneas siarú dá anam dílis.

**DURKAN.** It is with sadness I extend deepest sympathy to Monica

Durkan on the death of her husband Frank, USA and Mayo, who died on November 16. My sincere sympathy also to his daughters Aisling and Mary Louise and grandsons. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

**FITZPATRICK.** Deepest sympathy is extended to Mick and Maura Benna, Limerick on the death of Maura's father Bunny Fitzpatrick. From Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.

**FITZPATRICK.** Deepest sympathy is extended to Mick and Maura Benna, Limerick on the death of Maura's father Bunny Fitzpatrick. From Joe Lynch and Mick Hanley, Limerick.

**FITZPATRICK.** Deepest sympathy is extended to Mick and Maura Benna, Limerick on the death of Maura's father Bunny Fitzpatrick. From Ken O'Reilly and Eddie Connery, Limerick.

**GRIFFIN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of PJ Griffin, Listowel, Co Kerry who died recently. From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

**KELLY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Paddy Kelly, Ardret, Co Kerry who died recently. From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

**MURPHY.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Tom Murphy, Ballybunion, Co Kerry who died in the last week in October.

## I gCuimhne

From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

**DALY** — 1st Anniversary. In proud memory of our comrade Pat Daly who died on December 24, 2005. Always remembered by the Daithí Ó Connall Cumann, Monaghan.

**DALY** — 1st Anniversary. In proud memory of our comrade Pat Daly who died on December 24, 2005. Always remembered by the Moore family, Monaghan.

**DALY** — 1st Anniversary. In proud memory of our comrade Pat Daly who died on December 24, 2005. Always remembered by the Larry McMahon, Monaghan.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of our comrade Frank Gartland who died on December 20, 2004. From Naoimh and Ruairi White, Jonesboro.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of our friend and comrade Frank whose second anniversary falls on December 20. Gone but never forgotten. From all your friends in the Willie Stewart/Joe Conway Cumann, Dundalk, Newry.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of a dear friend, a true Republican and a man who never compromised on his

ideals. Remembered always by Ollie.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In fond memory of our friend Frank, whose anniversary falls on December 20. One of life's true gentlemen. Proudly remembered by Paddy and Patricia White, Newry.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Frank whose anniversary occurs at this time. From your friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, Newry, Armagh and Dundalk.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Frank whose anniversary occurs on December 20. Always remembered by Josephine and Róisín Hayden, Dublin.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Frank whose anniversary occurs on December 20. Always remembered by his comrades in Na Fianna Éireann.

**GARTLAND** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Frank whose anniversary occurs on December 20. Always remembered by the Murphy family, Dublin.

**LEONARD** - 2nd Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Séamus Leonard, Dublin and Fermanagh, who died in October 2004. Always remembered by his comrades in the Wolfe Tone Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Tallaght, Dublin.

## US provokes Lebanon crisis to widen Middle East war

IT was reported on November 30 that the same forces behind the Iraq war are at it again. Bush, Cheney and company are coordinating an international hate campaign against Syria, Iran and the Lebanese political party Hezbollah.

The Bush regime seeks to blame the three for the November 21 assassination of Lebanon's ultra-right-wing industry minister, Pierre Gemayel. His was the latest in a string of political assassinations in Lebanon. The US, Britain, France and Lebanon's governing March 14 coalition are setting up a Western-controlled 'international court' to 'investigate' the killings.

Gemayel was the leader of the openly fascist Falange party, which takes its name from Francisco Franco's party in Spain. With Israeli army help, it murdered thousands of Palestinian children, women and men in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in September 1982.

Many Lebanese, especially the poor and working class, don't believe the 'official story' on Gemayel's killing. They suspect the US or Israel was involved. They see a US plan to block democratic change in Lebanon and set the stage for a wider war in the region.

The US and Israel have a long and bloody history of intervention in Lebanon, and they certainly want to block a national unity government in which Hezbollah and the nationalist March 8 alliance would play a leading role. Hezbollah is based among Shia Muslims, Lebanon's largest and poorest community.

Washington proclaims outrage over the death of a fascist. But it provided Israel with the bombs and missiles it used to kill nearly 1,300 Lebanese civilians this summer. Children in South Lebanon are still being killed and maimed by US-made cluster bombs that litter the region. The US demands an investigation of the Gemayel assassination, but it vetoed U.N. condemnation of Israel's murderous assault.

When Israel attacked Lebanon in July, the government did nothing. The people's resistance, led by Hezbollah, repelled the US-funded assault. Hundreds of Hezbollah fighters held off 40,000 Israeli troops. That victory gained the party support in all Lebanese communities.

It is Hezbollah — not the government — that is now rebuilding the war-torn villages of South Lebanon. A Hezbollah measure for emergency payments to workers made jobless by the war was blocked by Prime Minister Fuad Siniora.

### ASSASSINATION SAVED PRO-US REGIME

Had Gemayel not been assassinated, Lebanon's US-backed neoliberal Siniora regime may have fallen. It has been illegal since Shiite ministers resigned from the cabinet after national unity talks broke down. Lebanon's National Pact requires that all the country's major communities be represented in government.

March 8 leaders charge that negotiations failed after the US Embassy urged the governing March 14 coalition to take an intransigent position. Shortly after the talks broke down, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned of more assassinations in Lebanon.

Gemayel's death mobilised the right wing and created an atmosphere of fear and crisis. Pro-US mobs roamed the streets, attacking Syrian workers and the offices of opposition parties. The March 8 alliance postponed plans for mass protests aimed at forcing the government to resign.

But a general strike called by the U.S.-backed March 14 alliance fizzled. It is likely, however, that mass protests by the March 8 alliance will go ahead. On November 26 Hezbollah deputy leader Sheikh Naim Qassem promised to 'surprise' the regime with 'street protests, civil disobedience, sit-ins and union actions'.

### HEZBOLLAH AND ALLIES FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

The United States and its allies paint a picture of a 'democratic' Lebanon under siege by Syria and Iran. U.S.-backed Lebanese politicians Samir Geagea, Saad Hariri and Walid Jumblatt accuse Hezbollah of trying to forcibly create a Shiite state.

In fact, the March 8 alliance includes not only Hezbollah but the Free Patriotic Movement, which is largely Christian, the Shiite party Amal and the Lebanese Communist Party. It is fighting for a government that is more representative of Lebanon's people and oriented to the Arab world, not the US or France. It unites the oppressed Shia with progressives and democrats in Sunni, Christian, Druze and Armenian communities.

In a speech Nov. 19, Hezbollah leader Syed Hassan Nasrallah said, "I am asking that all various political factions in Lebanon — including secular, patriotic, communist, socialist, leftist and Nasserite parties — be part of the proposed government of national unity ... We are also asking for other Sunni Muslim groups that have previously played major roles

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• A scene of devastation in Lebanon during the Israeli onslaught last July.

in the Lebanese arena to participate in the proposed government of national unity. This includes some former presidents and prime ministers who still enjoy a lot of public and national support. ... We are demanding our right to a national unity government. This is a just Lebanese, constitutional, political, moral and democratic demand. This is a way to save the country."

### UNITED STATES SUPPORTS SECTARIAN RULE

The US-backed March 14 coalition came to power in the so-called 'Cedar Revolution' of 2005. It unites Hariri's Future Movement and Jumblatt's so-called Progressive Socialist Party with the openly fascist, Christian supremacist Lebanese Forces and Falange parties. Lebanese Forces boss Samir Geagea served 11 years for the assassination of nationalist Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karamah.

Under Lebanon's 'confessional' system, the president must be from the wealthy Maronite Christian minority; the prime minister must be a Sunni Muslim. Seats in parliament are allotted based on religion.

Shia Muslims are underrepresented in this system, which is based on census figures from 1932. Palestinians, who have lived here since they were expelled from their homeland by the illegitimate state of Israel in 1948, are completely excluded and disenfranchised. So are more than 200,000 Syrian workers in Lebanon.

### DECADES OF US-ISRAELI INTERVENTION

This system, created under French colonialism, has been kept in place by US and Israeli guns. US Marines landed in Lebanon to crush a popular insurrection in 1958. Israel has bombed and invaded Lebanon, especially the largely Shiite South, repeatedly over the last 40 years.

Throughout the 1970s Israel armed Christian-supremacist militias to wage war on Muslims, Palestinians and the left. In 1982 Israel's US-armed war machine flattened West Beirut's Muslim neighborhoods and installed Gemayel's uncle, Bashir Gemayel, as president.

After Bashir Gemayel was assassinated, the Israeli army helped his Falangists and Lebanese Forces massacre Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila.

Ronald Reagan then sent U.S. Marines to occupy Beirut while Israeli troops withdrew to the South. The U.S. Sixth Fleet randomly blasted Lebanese villages in order to crush popular resistance. It failed. The resistance movement drove out the Marines in 1984 and Israel in 2000.

The corporate regime in Washington certainly wants to control Lebanon. It is the banking center of the Arab world and was once an export route for Iraqi oil.

But there is a more sinister agenda: a wider war in West Asia. The US has deliberately orchestrated Shiite-Sunni civil strife in Iraq. It now appears to be extending that strategy to the entire region, with the ultimate aim of war against Syria and Iran. Such an adventure would boost the profits of big oil firms and arms manufacturers.

An international conference in solidarity with the resistance brought hundreds of delegates from around the world to Beirut Nov. 16 through 19. Participants heard Hezbollah deputy general secretary Naim Qassem, Lebanese Communist Party leader Khaled Hadadeh and former prime minister Selim Hoss call for the unity of Islamic and secular nationalist and left forces in the struggle against the US and Israel. The conference's final declaration called for an international front

in solidarity with the Lebanese, Palestinian and Iraqi resistance.

One thing you soon learn in South Lebanon is that the people don't just support Hezbollah. "We are Hezbollah," says Nur, a 22-year-old artist in the town of Nabatiyeh. Her studio was destroyed by Israeli bombs. She lost 60 of her paintings but was able to repair a dozen others. "It is not two societies. Hezbollah is the people, and the people are Hezbollah."

Almost the same words were used by Ahmad, a shoe seller in Bint Jbail. It is a village of 6,000 where shoemaking is the main industry. "Here the people are 100 percent Hezbollah. Hezbollah is the people, and the people are Hezbollah," he tells us.

It is the people of South Lebanon that Israel sought to annihilate. That is clear in village after village reduced to rubble by US-made Israeli bombs, missiles and artillery shells, fired from US-made planes, helicopters and cannons. If you want to judge the hypocrisy of US 'outrage' over assassinations in Lebanon, look at the ruined villages of the South.

"They destroyed the town center. They wanted to destroy the life, our economic resources," says Lubna, a young English teacher whose home was destroyed. Much of Bint Jbail lies in rubble. But resistance fighters stopped Israeli troops from entering the town.

Ahmed's son's house was completely demolished, as was a store his family operated. He and his family spent nearly three weeks sleeping in the mountains to avoid the bombing.

"The minute the bombing stopped we immediately returned," he tells us. "Fifteen townspeople were killed, and many more injured by bombs and missiles, helicopters and artillery. But Israeli soldiers never got past the town's outskirts."

"Hezbollah was heroic," he continues. "Eighteen fighters stopped them. For 33 days they held off the powerful Israeli army. The government did not defend us, we defended ourselves."

Lubna and her husband guide us through street after street of ruins where people once lived. Amid the shattered cinderblocks and twisted reinforcing rods, we see broken furniture, a scorched children's book, a teddy bear. "Our houses are destroyed, but that's not the most important thing. We are surviving with our principles, and we believe the resistance was right to do what it did. We will support them all our lives because of what they did for us."

Hezbollah, the Islamic resistance, led the fight against Israel's US-paid army. But others came as well. The Lebanese Communist Party sent over 100 fighters, 15 of whom were martyred.

The area of Aital Shaab was a particular target of Israeli fury. That was where the resistance intercepted an Israeli raiding party, killing three soldiers and capturing two. Israel claimed the action happened on the soil of occupied Palestine, allegedly justifying the war. But locals tell us Israeli troops often raid South Lebanon, sometimes kidnapping young men for interrogation. The Israelis lost over 30 soldiers and 12 armored vehicles trying to capture Aital Shaab. Then they airlifted in bulldozers to destroy as much as they could.

The current crisis in Lebanon has raised the specter of renewed Israeli attack. A resistance fighter tells us, "If they come again, we are ready. This summer's war made us stronger, and if they attack again we will get stronger still. We will win like the people of Vietnam."

— Bill Cecil, Lebanon

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## EMGANN denounces banning of Basque AGM

IN A statement on November 29 the Breton independence movement EMGANN denounced the banning of the holding of the AGM of the Basque national institution, Udaltzaitza.

The statement continued: "This ban is another brick in the wall which the Madrid [government] wishes to build in order to prevent the search for a political solution to the Basque question:

- Inaki de Juana Chaos has been condemned to 12-and-a-half years in prison for two articles in which he expresses opinion in GARA;

- Jose Ibarretxe, president/chairman of the Autonomous Community of Euskadi is charged with having met the leaders of Batasuna;

- Batasuna is still illegal;
- Filipe Bidart has had his demand for conditional release rejected ...

"The French State continues to refuse to get involved in finding a political solution, it nevertheless has been participating for a long time in the politics of repression.

"While the European Parliament supports the search for a political solution, Madrid and Paris continue to reduce the democratic issue to crushing the ETA organisation, thus flouting all international calls.

"Yes to a political solution!"

— EMGANN International Relations



# Lonely Hearts Club — crackers and how to pull 'em!

**Y**OU'VE heard of affairs where the participants describe themselves as 'not being able to live with someone and yet not being able to live apart'.

In political terms the Democratic Unionist Party (DUPES) and Limited Intelligence Group (LIGS) and the SDLP (Stoop Down Low Party) all seem to suffer from the same complaint.

To survive as political entities within the British

Institutions they must recognise that they are British yet all have a problem with such an exclusive clan credo. Paisley wants to be king in a monarchy which already has a queen (no, I don't mean Boy George!).

Durkan wants to be Party Leader in a party which already has a leader (the late and often absent) John Hume and Adams wants to be God - and is (have you ever noticed how GOD spelt backwards is

DOG and Adams reversed sounds like 's mad a'!).

Fidel Castro is ill. (I'm not blaming any of the above three ... but we all know they are capable of anything.) Saddam is sentenced to death. Bush is mentally disturbed according to laymen while many experts privately describe him as 'a f...ing liability and a f...ing lunatic rolled into one'.

Blair has an intermittent heart condition. And his antics

have been the inspiration for a famous witch project. The world is full of misery and madness yet people are interested in what is happening at Stormont. Or so the media would have us believe.

**T**HE truth of course is that the race has been run and everyone lost but the British. The British of course required our help. As a wise Bundoran man states "nobody ever beat the Irish but the Irish themselves!"

Now here we are facing into a new year. What remains of Irish Republicanism faces its usual uphill struggle. What has emerged as an Irish rabble plead to maintain British rule in Ireland but are rejected regardless of religion or creed. It seems an Irish-born is a Mick or a Paddy and the distinction is slight between both descriptions in the minds of the English.

Can I wish everyone a Happy New Year and a

Prosperous Christmas (I know but the LIGS get everything wrong or back to front and this is primarily addressed to them!) and continuing in the season's spirit of generosity remind the LIGS that Christmas comes but once a year. After that U can all ... pull your political crackers for the rest of the year. No one is going to bed with you.

— Mac Cool

## Frank Durkan

**FRANK Durkan, a native of Bohola, Co Mayo, a renowned civil rights lawyer, and a life long critic of British presence in Ireland died on November 16 after a short illness.**

### REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN, CO. DONEGAL

#### Special Appeal for Funds - To Pay off Our Loan of €5,000

**THE Committee & Trustees of the Republican Garden** are very pleased to announce that the Republican Garden is now open.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who gave donations, big or small.

Without you it would not of been possible, together we can do great things.

1973 - Volunteer Paddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon  
1973 - Dermot Crowley, Cork City  
1973 - Sean Loughran, Dungannon  
1984 - Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Magherafelt  
1984 - Ciaran Fleming, Derry City  
The Hunger Strikers who died 1974 - 1981  
Those who are being remembered all had some connections with Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo areas.

We are asking you to give a donation please to any of the names listed below:  
Chairperson: Joe O'Neill  
Vice-Chairperson: Jimmy McElhinney  
Treasurers: Mick Cullen & Joe Dillon  
Joint Secretaries: Mary O'Neill & Phyllis Cullen  
Trustees: Pat Barry, Ann Sheerin, Martin McGrath, Declan Curneen, Seamus McGowan, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.

NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.



Recently the law firm O'Dwyer and Bernstein hosted an event to honor Frank Durkan for his 50th anniversary of being called to the bar. Father Colm Campbell of the Irish Center in Long Island City gave the blessing and described Co. Mayo native Durkan as a "wonderful gift" to the Irish American community, and that "only God could know how much Frank has done in the service of others."

Attorney Brian O'Dwyer revealed that the law firm had looked long and hard for a fitting way in which to honor Durkan, even considering endowing a new training facility for the Mayo football team.

However, he said, they finally settled on endowing a fellowship in human rights at the City University of New York's Law School, "as it would probably do a lot more good than any training facility for Mayo! That would be throwing good money after bad!" O'Dwyer laughed.

O'Dwyer also read out congratulatory messages from New York Senator Hillary Clinton, which came in the form of a Senate resolution, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "That's the great maturity of Frank Durkan,"

said O'Dwyer. "Even the Republicans like him!"

O'Dwyer described some of Durkan's greatest successes, including the Fort Worth Five case, who were jailed for contempt in Texas for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury investigating an alleged gun-running operation between Mexico and Ireland. The five were released by order of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, who determined that the U.S. government was illegally eavesdropping on telephone conversations between Durkan and his clients.

Durkan also led the defense of Desmond Mackin, who defeated Britain's extradition request in 1981, and he gained international headlines in his successful defense of George Harrison, one of the Brooklyn Five, in 1982. Michael Flannery, Tom Falvey, Donal Gormley and Pat Mullin were the other members of the



• Frank Durkan.

Brooklyn Five. All were acquitted.

In his then-Newsday column last October headlined "Singular Irishman Bids Farewell to the World," Jimmy Breslin related the following tale involving Durkan's defense of the activist George Harrison, who died last year.

Harrison had been accused of running guns and, as the case proceeded in federal court in Brooklyn, the prosecutor told the jury that Harrison had been running guns out of this city for the last six months.

Harrison was outraged. His lawyer, Durkan, rose and told the judge, "Your honor, the prosecutor has just charged my client with running guns for six

months. My client is deeply insulted. Mr. Harrison has been running guns for the last 25 years at least." Harrison was acquitted.

Durkan attended Columbia University in New York and completed his law degree at New York Law School. His work has included an array of negligence and malpractice cases in addition to his extensive civil rights work.

Durkan and his wife Monica are active members of New York's Mayo Society and the Mayo Football Club.

At a concelebrated Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Manhattan, New York on November 27 Brian O'Dwyer said: "Frank's concept of friendship was fixed and steady, no matter where the winds, personal and political, were blowing."

The large attendance included former New York mayor David Dinkins and many members of the Irish American community, including members of the National Irish Freedom Committee from New York and New Jersey.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Frank's wife Monica, daughters Aisling and Mary Louise and two grandsons.



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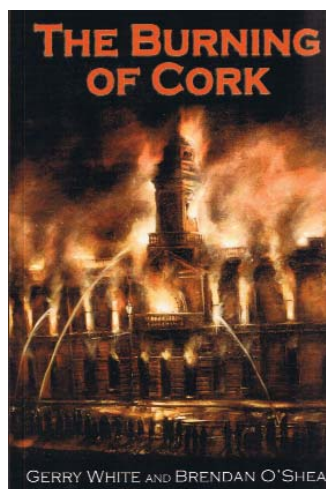
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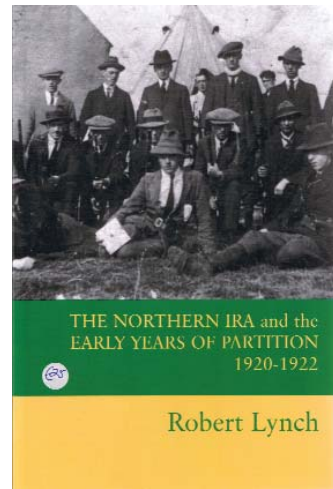
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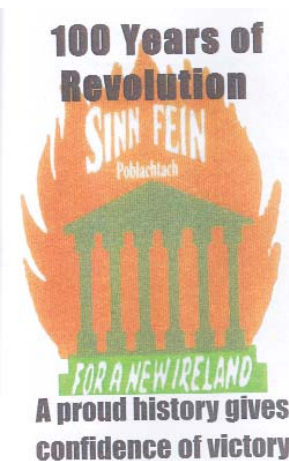
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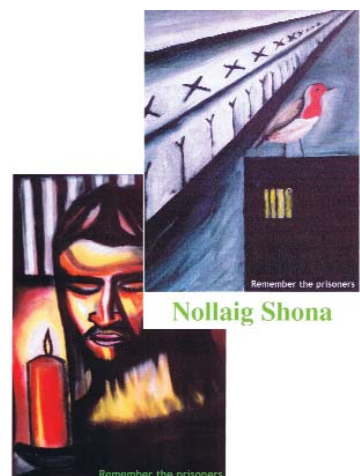
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Published by SAOIRSE - Irish Freedom, Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin. Fón: 872 9747; FAX: 872 9757; 229 Falls Road, Belfast. Fón: 90319004; FAX: 90319863. e-mail saoirse@iol.ie. Printed by Lithographic Printers Ltd.