

# SAOIRSE



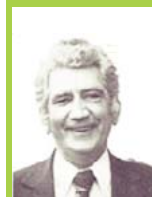
## Irish Freedom

*The Voice of the Republican Movement*

UIMH 298 FEABHRA — FEBRUARY 2012 <http://saoirse.info> €2 (£1.50 stg, USA \$35 p.a.)

Seán Keenan  
commemoration

3pm, Sunday, March 4



Assemble:  
Seán Keenan  
Monument,  
Bogside  
Derry

# Beware the risen people

ON Sunday, January 29 people from Derry and throughout Ireland defied the political establishments of Stormont, Westminster and Leinster House when they came out on to the streets of Derry to mark the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Their presence told the pulse of Irish nationality still beats strong despite the censorship and repression of Britain and its surrogates. Three thousand people (*The Irish Times* Jan 30) made their presence felt in a dignified display of solidarity with the survivors and families of the victims of the British army's massacre of civil rights marchers in Derry on January 30, 1972.

The march was to further the cause of truth and justice. As Republican Sinn Féin pointed out at the time of its launch the Saville Inquiry failed the crucial test of holding the British Government to account for the events of Bloody Sunday.

Instead as Eamonn McCann pointed out on BBC's recent *Spotlight* programme the inquiry was limited to dealing with the British soldiers who

were present on the ground but not allowed to investigate the military and political chain of command which placed the British army's notorious Parachute Regiment in direct confrontation with unarmed civil rights protesters. In August of the previous year the same regiment was responsible for the murder of 11 people in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast.

The failure of the British state to bring any convictions against the British soldiers identified in the report as being responsible for the murders is in stark contrast to the ongoing arrests and charges being brought against people by the HET (Historical Enquiries Team) in relation to events over the past 43 years.

Kate Nash, whose father William was murdered on Bloody Sunday, spoke eloquently and movingly of the



• *Labhrann na gunnaí as Béarla, fú má labhrann baill an RUC/PSNI Gaeilge – the guns speak English even if the RUC/PSNI speak Irish.*

pain endured by the families over the past 40 years. She also used the occasion to remind people that those murdered on Bloody Sunday were marching against internment while 40 years later internment was still a reality in the Six Counties citing the examples of Martin Corey and Marian Price.

All of this must be seen in context. The Saville Inquiry was hailed by the so-called constitutional nationalist parties – including the Provisionals – as drawing a line under Bloody Sunday – despite its obvious shortcomings.

Keeping up their side of the bargain as it were they moved almost immediately to say the annual march would be wound up. Thus another uncomfortable truth about the nature of British rule would be conveniently

brushed under the carpet. They went so far as to threaten the families who wished to continue the march that they would “delegitimise” any future march.

Soon after this it was announced that Derry had been designated as “UK City of Culture” for 2013. It is evident that the British State is now attempting to co-opt the three strands of a distinct Irish culture, our games, music and language in order to prop up British rule in Ireland.

Over the past ten years beginning with the ending of the ban on members of the British Crown forces joining the GAA, this was followed by the England Rugby team playing in Croke Park culminating in the Queen of England's visit there in May of last year. In December the RUC/PSNI

played the 26-County police there. Now following concerted pressure on its Ulster Council Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann have agreed to hold its annual Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Derry in 2013 to coincide with the ‘UK City of Culture’ year.

As Patrick Murphy points out in his column in the *Irish News* of January 21: “The Fleadh is a particularly Irish event, reflecting a proud tradition of music and song which survived centuries of ridicule, scorn and suppression.”

Now however it is to be used to sell the notion of Derry (and the Six Counties) as being an integral part of the British state. Of course Irish Republicans would welcome the Fleadh in Derry but not for this purpose.

It has also been mooted that

the Oireachtas festival –celebrating the Irish language – will also be held in Derry next year. Patrick Murphy tellingly points out that while constitutional nationalism has now fully embraced British rule and thus is drifting from cultural nationalism which still extols a sense of Irish separateness from Britain.

However Britain recognises this: “If you were in Whitehall today trying to bed down the latest British victory in Ireland, you would bring cultural nationalism into line with political nationalism. That explains the political pressure to bring the Fleadh to a British government event in Ireland.”

In Newry recently the RUC/PSNI held an Irish language public meeting, using the language as a recruiting tool.

However former British Northern Secretary Peter Hain let ‘the cat out of the bag’ regarding the British government's real attitude to the language.

The newspaper *Gaelscéal* reports Hain as admitting that the promises of an Irish Language Act for the Six Counties was off-set by moving its ratification from Westminster to Stormont where, Hain proclaimed there would be an “inbuilt majority” against it.

So what part of our culture the British can't extinguish they will try to absorb. But as we saw in Derry there remains “The risen people who shall take what ye would not give.”

**Boycott**  
**Septic Tank & Water**  
**Charges**  
**& the**  
**Unjust**  
**Household TAX**  
Republican SINN FÉIN Poblachtach

Support the Maghaberry POWs  
PUBLIC MEETING  
3pm, Sunday, February 12  
Andersonstown, Belfast  
Assemble: Iceland (Old Busy Bee)

ANNUAL CLONMILT  
COMMEMORATION  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2.30pm  
Assembly at the Courthouse,  
Midleton, Co Cork  
Oration: Mary Ward

## Anti-home, septic tank, water charges campaigns grow

**THE campaign against the imposition of the new taxes on homeowners is gaining momentum across the 26 Counties.**

The Campaign Against Household and Water Taxes (CAHWT), which is co-ordinating nationwide opposition to the new 'Household Charge', is holding public meetings across the State.

The Campaign is calling on all rural and urban people to unite in a determined non-registration campaign for the Household and Septic Tank tax. It believes there is potential to persuade hundreds of thousands of householders not to register by St Patrick's Day and to instead join and promote the campaign in their communities.

Up to 400 people have attended the CAHWT Alliance

meetings in communities around the country and it says that its aim is to create major political pressure for repeal of these unjust charges.

On January 25, the Connemara Against Septic Tank Charges held a demonstration outside Leinster House in Dublin. Up to 500 people traveled from Co Galway to attend the protest, which began in Nassau Street and led by Páirc An Tailliúra Ó Conghaola sitting on a toilet, noisily moved up to Kildare Street to the gates of Leinster House where at the time the Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011 was being discussed inside.



• **Tomás Ó Curraoin, speaking at the protest at Leinster House on January 25.**

One of the speakers at the march was Tomás Ó Curraoin, Republican Sinn Féin County Councillor who said that people are fed up paying extra taxes imposed from Europe and elsewhere "we won't pay no more" Tomás concluded to

rousing applause.

The protesters have long been staunch opponents to the introduction of the Bill which will see a new registration and inspection regime for septic tanks being enforced. The Bill could see residents in Connemara, who have septic tanks, paying a registration fee of €50 and possibly facing even more costs following inspections by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which would commence in 2013.

Following many local protests, including a protest at the Galway County Council buildings last month, the protesters vowed to continue their fight against what has been described as an attempt to impose unfair and unequal extra charges on rural dwellers.

## Copyright law will go ahead

**ON January 26, the 26-County Minister of State Seán Sherlock said he planned to introduce an amendment to copyright legislation despite concerns expressed about its potential impact on internet access.**

The online petition opposing the proposed amendment continues to grow, with over 30,000 people signing the petition at

<http://stopsopaireland.com>.

Opponents fear that the change could potentially see court orders blocking popular sites like YouTube and Facebook. There are also concerns that the law could make Ireland less attractive to technology start-ups and multinational companies like Google.

See briefing document at: <http://stopsopaireland.com/f>

<http://www.laquadrature.net/acta>

Internet groups including global hacker collective Anonymous oppose The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement as limiting online freedoms.

Online protest pages on Facebook have attracted more than 300,000 supporters, while an anti-ACTA online petition had drawn about 130,000 signatures.

A Freedom of Information rally took place in Dublin on Saturday February 4.

The legislation in Ireland stems from this:

<http://www.laquadrature.net/acta>

ACTA is one more offensive against the sharing of culture on the Internet. ACTA (Anti-



Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) is an agreement secretly negotiated by a small "club" of like-minded countries (39 countries, including the 27 of the European Union, the

United States, Japan, etc). Negotiated instead of being democratically debated, ACTA bypasses parliaments and international organizations to dictate a repressive logic dictated by the entertainment industries.

ACTA, a blueprint for laws such as SOPA and PIPA, would impose new criminal sanctions forcing Internet actors to monitor and censor online communications. It is thus a major threat to freedom of expression online and creates legal uncertainty for Internet companies. In the name of trademarks and patents, it would also hamper access to generic medicines in poor countries.

The European Parliament now has an ultimate opportunity to reject ACTA

## Gearrscéalta

### Nationalist teenager attacked by loyalists in Belfast

**A NATIONALIST teenager was seriously injured in an assault in Belfast on January 6 when he was attacked by a gang of loyalists.**

Members of the loyalist death squad the UVF brutally assaulted 18-year-old film extra Jason Turley in the Village area as he made his way home to the Short Strand from the set of the film *The Good Man*.

Jason was dumped in a wheelie-bin and left for dead. The crew had been using the Windsor Women's Centre as a base of operations while continuing to film around the Village.

Later local UVF men visited the local community centre which hosted the film crew and warned the centre not to bring anyone else into the area "without their permission".

Village sources, who were too frightened to be named, said the UVF were "obviously upset Catholics were in the area".

Susan Picken of Manifesto Films, the company making the film, said she would think twice about returning to the Village for future shoots.

"Filming there was a very positive experience for most of the time and the local community were brilliant to us.

"It's a shame something like this has happened and I wouldn't want anything to reflect badly on the people we worked with.

"All I can say is the people we dealt with were absolutely brilliant but working there again would be something we would need to look at very carefully."

### Publican threatened by Crown Forces to turn informer

**DECLAN McNally, from Ballyronan, Co Derry claimed on January 30 that he has been constantly harassed by the RUC/PSNI since he was arrested last June in connection with the killing of RUC man Ronan Kerr. He was among five people arrested who were released within 24 hours without charge.**

He said that since speaking out about his arrest he has been "relentlessly harassed" by the British colonial police. Declan McNally (33) runs McNally's Bar in Toomebridge, Co Derry.

He said he was stopped at a checkpoint on January 29 as he left his bar.

"The first man came to the window while the second man went to the passenger side of the car," he said. "He mentioned the police harassment and said he could make it stop, told me he'd make life better for my family.

"I told him I wasn't interested but he leaned into the car, grabbed me and put a gun to my head, saying: 'You've no option or we'll have you executed.'

"I have no criminal record whatsoever but I'm genuinely in fear of myself and my family," Declan McNally said.

Declan McNally's solicitor Kevin Winters is to go to the Belfast High Court in an attempt to secure an injunction to stop further approaches.

### Rioting erupts in Derry following RUC raids

**A CROWD of around 30 attacked the RUC/PSNI on January 23 with stones, bottles, petrol and paint bombs at Cromore Gardens and Lislane Drive in the Creggan area of Derry city.**

Rioting lasted until the RUC/PSNI moved out of the area having finished their searches in Kildrum Gardens.

It is believed that some members of the Creggan community were angry over RUC/PSNI searches of a home which they say started at 3pm and lasted until 10pm – seven hours in total. Raids were said to have been made on the homes of a pensioner; the wife of a POW who is recovering from cancer, and the parents of a newborn child.

In another raid a six-week-old child was removed from his home; and when refused use of the toilet RUC/PSNI members threatened to "piss all over the house", although not before spitting all over the kitchen.

Such conduct sums up the inherent hatred the RUC have for the nationalist population.

### Results of Dublin raffle

**JANUARY** Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 046; 2nd prize ticket no 345; 3rd prize 319; 4th prize 532; 5th prize 322; 6th prize 321; 7th prize 491; 8th prize 267.

**SAOIRSE March edition  
published 7/3/2012**

## No 'fracking' in Leitrim Fermanagh

**GERALDINE McNamara, PRO, Republican Sinn Féin, said that the announcement by an Australian mining company Tamboran Resources that it intends to use fracking for mining in Co Leitrim and Co Fermanagh should be firmly opposed by local people in the area.**

**Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta  
(National Irish Freedom Committee)**



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

**We need your support. Our website address is:**

**<http://irishfreedom.net>**



"Fracking is a process in which millions of gallons of chemical fluid is forced into the ground [up to a mile beneath the surface] to crack the rocks and release the natural gasses in them," she said.

"Much of the waste then returns to the surface and causes pollution in the environment.

"There is much speculation that it also causes earth quakes and a recent New York Times investigation claimed the wasted water contained dangerously high levels of radioactivity.

"Many councils have now

voted to ban this practice in their areas," Geraldine said, and she called on Leitrim and Fermanagh Councils to now do the same and safeguard their environment and local people's health and wellbeing.

"The promise of jobs in our present economic climate should not be put before health and safety and profit should not be put before people.

"Republican Sinn Féin voted at its recent Ard-Fheis to oppose fracking and support locals in their campaign against this practice."



## Gearrscéalta

### Derry hosting Fleadh in 2013 blow to Irish culture

THE decision by the executive of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann to stage Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Derry in 2013 is a major blow to Irish culture and the arts as it coincides with the city's hosting of the 'UK City of Culture', Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President Fergal Moore said on January 27.

"The Fleadh will be overshadowed by the 'UK City of Culture' events and runs the risk of becoming a sideshow in the celebration of Derry being a 'British' city. Irish music will now be portrayed as a genre of British culture instead of being a unique part of the distinct Irish culture.

"Derry is an Irish city and it should not be celebrating British culture neither should Irish culture be subverted in this manner to enhance British culture. It is no surprise that this decision comes after considerable pressure has been brought to bear by those who openly support Ireland being part of the 'United Kingdom'."

### Finucane family granted judicial review

THE family of murdered Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane was, on January 13, granted a judicial review of the decision by the British government not to hold a public inquiry into his death.

The case will be heard at the Belfast High Court on May 9.

Pat Finucane was murdered at his north Belfast home by loyalist gunmen in 1989. British prime minister David Cameron earlier this year accepted there had been collusion in the killing but ruled out a full independent public inquiry opting instead for Desmond de Silva to "consider evidence in the case". The Finucane family refused to co-operate with de Silva.

Geraldine Finucane said she was "very pleased" that the judge granted them leave "to go forward to a full judicial review hearing and I think the significant aspect of it was that it was completely in opposition [by the Government]".

Secretary of State Owen Paterson apologised at Westminster for the State's collusion in the killing in which Pat Finucane was shot 14 times by gunmen from the loyalist Ulster Defence Association (UDA) in front of his wife and three children.

### Water-board torture claims heard

THE case of Liam Holden, the last man sentenced to death in the Six Occupied Counties, has been referred back to the Court of Appeal on the basis that it may have been unsafe.

The move followed an examination of new evidence and the admissibility and reliability of confessions. He alleges 'water-boarding' was used to extract a confession for the murder of a British soldier 40 years ago.

Liam, from Ballymurphy, west Belfast, was due to hang after being found guilty of shooting Private Frank Bell in September 1972. His death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and he served 17 years in jail before applying to an independent body set up to examine alleged miscarriages of justice.

Holden's appeal was set to be heard next month, but his barrister revealed on January that fresh material has been received in relation to alleged ill-treatment. Barry Macdonald QC told the court: "That concerns the allegation of a technique used that is now known as water-boarding. Just this week, we have received three lever-arch files full of material concerning that particular issue of water-boarding." He requested more time to study the information before deciding whether to seek to admit fresh evidence.

### British soldiers guilty of attack

TWO British soldiers have been found guilty of viciously assaulting an Irishman in England, it emerged on January 10, 2012.

Simon Pierce said he was too drunk to remember the incident. But at Bolton Crown Court he pleaded guilty to attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent to 24-year-old Stephen Mahon. The victim told the court he was targeted by the soldiers in the totally unprovoked attack last February because he was Irish.

Pierce (19) and fellow British Army soldier Philip Arrowsmith (20) attacked Mahon after a night's drinking in Bolton town centre. They repeatedly kicked him as he lay defenceless on the ground.

Mahon managed to get up and run away but the soldiers followed him. They attacked him a second time outside the McDonald's takeaway in Knowsley Street. Pierce said he couldn't remember much about the assault due to his drunken state but he accepted the allegations. Arrowsmith, who is currently serving with the British army in Germany, pleaded guilty on the basis that it wasn't a racist incident.

Simon Pierce already has a conviction for breaking Christopher Turner's jaw in a racist attack.

## Craigavon trial 'an attack on civil rights'

THE trial of 15 people — including the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton and Vice-President Fergal Moore — for participation in an anti-internment march in Lurgan, Co Armagh in January of last year opened in Craigavon Courthouse, Co Armagh on January 10 and 12.

Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin held a picket outside the court as the trial began of the 15 people charged with taking part in what the RUC/PSNI claim was an 'illegal parade'.

The parade, which took place on January 23, 2011, demanded the release of political hostage Martin Corey held without charge or trial for over 18 months. Martin is currently awaiting a judicial review of his illegal detention.

In a statement on January 7 Republican Sinn Féin described the prosecutions as 'an attack on the right to publicly express a political opinion'.

"In the Middle East people are being applauded for coming out on to the streets to demand political change but in the Occupied Six Counties Irish people are being prosecuted by the British state for doing the same thing. The prosecution of people for participating in a protest march - held on January 23 last to call for the release of veteran Lurgan Republican Martin Corey who has been held without trial in Maghaberry prison since April 2010 - is clearly an attempt to force Irish Republicans off the streets and to silence anyone who refuses to accept British occupation.

"Not for the first time Irish Republicans find themselves before a British Court for upholding the principle of 'the

it's like a throwback to the old days of Crumlin Road Courthouse in Belfast.

"Inches away from each other, the police and defendants. The guardians of the state and the Republicans who would see

Republican revolutionaries stand charged with nothing more than holding a peaceful protest march a year ago. Their crime is not seeking prior permission from the authorities of a state they do not recognise,



• Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin picketed nCraigavon Courthouse on January 10.

right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland" and in defiance of laws designed to silence the voice of protest. This political trial puts the political reality of the Six-County state under the spotlight and shows it to be still fundamentally undemocratic."

During the two days of the trial the state called 25 witnesses, showed CCTV and RUC/PSNI footage of a march through Lurgan.

The trial will recommence on March 8.

Alex Thomson, Chief Correspondent Channel Four News attended the trial on January 12 and later wrote in a blog:

"Outside the main door of Court Number 1 in Craigavon

it done away with for their United Ireland.

"The old green police uniforms and flak jackets of the RUC long gone, in favour of the modern whites and blacks of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

"Equally, the Republicans' Celtic shirts have also changed with the years.

"The issue before District Judge Bates is hardly the stuff of the Troubles; bombing, gun attacks and so forth.

"Bizarrely it is utterly mundane. However, the British state - busily cutting so many other aspects of public life - seems to be throwing everything at this weird case.

"These would-be

to walk the streets and hold their placards.

"Because they don't recognise the jurisdiction of the British state, they were not about to seek permission. So, charged under Parades Legislation designed to govern marches of a more Orange hue than green, this bizarre case unfolds.

"The cost must run to hundreds of thousands of pounds already and the state has yet to finish its case.

"Why bother? Upholding the law is all well and good but, if guilty, many of these defendants will likely refuse to pay any fines.

"Curiouser and curiouser."

## British Crown Forces not welcome in Galway

ON Thursday, January 26 members of Republican Sinn Féin, Galway held a protest at the grounds of Salthill Devon football club to protest at the presence of members of the [British] Royal Air Force (RAF).

They had been invited by the 26-County army for what was clearly an attempt to not only portray the presence of British Crown Forces in this country as acceptable but to portray them as a career option for young people who are being told by the political Establishment they have no future in this country and that they should emigrate.

Despite the bad weather and the heavy Free State security presence, members of Republican Sinn Féin showed that Crown Forces will never be acceptable in any part of Ireland.

This event although advertised as open to the public was in fact held behind a tight security cordon with those entering the grounds having their details taken and their vehicles searched. The attempts to portray the presence of British Crown Forces in this country as

Brigade IRA after the Tourmakeady ambush. They were not welcome then, they are not welcome now and they will not be welcome in the future as

College Football Association of Ireland".

The statement pointed out that in Terryland Park on January 24, a soccer match was played between the 26-County army and the British Royal Air Force, while two days later Colleges FAI were to play the same British Royal Air Force at Drom, Co Galway, in what was termed a "friendly" - organised by the Free State Army. However, Republican Sinn Féin said it wished to state "that there is nothing 'friendly' about the British Royal Air Force or any of the British Crown Forces.

"The British Royal Air Force murdered thousands of innocent men, women and children in the illegal wars that are currently taking place in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The British Royal Air Force is a branch of the British Crown Forces which is currently occupying a number of countries including part of our own. These PR stunts are taking place while our countrymen are on dirty protest in Maghaberry Jail in Co Antrim."



• Councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin with Brian and Chris Kilcommins protesting at the presence of British armed forces in Galway on January 26.

normal and acceptable will be opposed by Republican Sinn Féin in whatever form they take.

One of the last times the RAF were in Connacht they were attempting to hunt down Comdt-General Tom Maguire and the men of the South Mayo

long as there is continued British occupation of any part of Ireland.

Republican Sinn Féin, Gaillimh, issued a statement on January 25 to alert the public "to a shameful PR stunt by British Crown Forces, facilitated by the

# For The Record

**MON. JANUARY 9:** The British firm JD Sports confirmed it has acquired the assets of outdoor clothing retailer Blacks Leisure for £20m. Also lingerie chain La Senza was bought by an Arabian retail group Alshaya, saving 1,100 jobs. La Senza previously employed 2,600 people. Sixty of the lingerie shops — out of 146 stores and 18 concessions — were bought by Alshaya. However the remaining 84 stores and 18 concessions will close, resulting in 1,300 job losses. Both deals involved what is known as a 'pre-pack arrangement', under which both firms briefly went into administration, before being sold. Blacks Leisure has about 100 Blacks outlets, about 200 Millets branches and owns the Peter Storm and Eurohike brands. It has 3,500 employees. Both firms have branches in Ireland.

**TUES. JANUARY 10:** Journalist, broadcaster and playwright Mary Raftery, died in Dublin. Mary worked tirelessly to highlight abuses in Ireland, particularly child abuse in State and religious-run institutions.

**THURS. JANUARY 12:** The RUC/PSNI is using new powers to deal with more than 4,000 minor criminal offences by getting offenders to apologise to their victims, or repairing the damage they caused. The system was used instead of going through the courts during the past nine months.

**FRI. JANUARY 13:** Dublin City Council will end its bin collections in the city from next Monday after 150 years. The collection service has been privatised and Greyhound Recycling takes over.

Burma freed 651 political prisoners including some high-profile democrats and leaders of ethnic minorities. The prisoner releases comes one day after the government agreed a landmark ceasefire with rebels from the Karen ethnic group, which has fought for greater autonomy for more than 60 years. Among those released were Min Ko Naing and Ko Mya Aye, members of the "88 Generation Students Group", which led the pro-democracy uprising in 1988 that was brutally suppressed by the military junta. Thousands died in the ensuing crackdown. Ms Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, was freed in 2010 after 15 years of house arrest. She will run in a by-election for parliament in April.

Shell ER&P Ireland received a written warning from the 26-County Administration over breaches of conditions regarding the construction of its pipeline at Aughoo, Co Mayo.

**MON. JANUARY 16:** Up to 700 people attended a public meeting of the Save our Small Schools Campaign in the Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway, Co Cork over proposed cuts and taxes. The meeting was told that rural Ireland has been stripped of its post offices and Garda stations and now the Government was squeezing out small national schools in a bid to make financial savings.

**WED. JANUARY 18:** A protest was held at Leinster House in Dublin in protest at the official Israeli parliamentary delegation to Ireland. Israeli MK Reuven Rivlin (speaker of the Israeli parliament and rightwing Likud member) and MK Yitzhak Herzog (Labour) and their entourage held a private meeting with the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the 26-County Administration Eamon Gilmore.

Included in the 26-County Administration plans to conduct a major reform of the social welfare system is the proposal to introduce a single social assistance payment to replace existing means-tested payments. The plan will be presented to the EU-IMF troika in March (who now own Ireland).

**THURS. JANUARY 19:** Children's clothes store Pukin Patch appointed administrators for its British business. It closed five branches, making 60 staff redundant.

Two bombs exploded in Derry city, one at the main tourist office and one close to the City Council's HQ. No one was injured.

Dublin city households can expect an increase in the cost of bin collections from July next.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 parents, children's and teachers of disadvantaged schools held a noisy demonstration outside Leinster House against proposed cuts to teacher numbers.

**FRI. JANUARY 20:** Colin Duffy was cleared in Antrim Crown Court of the killing of two British soldiers at Massereene Barracks in Co Antrim in 2009. Brian Shivers, Co Derry was found guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Marian Price, a political hostage currently held in solitary in Maghaberry jail, is to be charged with 'providing property for the purpose of terrorism'. Eight months ago she was charged with 'encouraging support for an illegal organisation' and was refused



• On January 19 up to 4,000 parents, children's and teachers of disadvantaged schools held a demonstration outside Leinster House against proposed cuts to teacher numbers.

bail. She received a Royal pardon several years ago, but the British Secretary of State in the Occupied Six Counties Owen Patterson revoked her licence.

Judge Gillen, judge in the supergrass trial of 14 UVF men at Belfast Crown Court, threw out a number of charges against some of the men but refused to stop the trial. The men face a total of 37 charges ranging from murder and UVF membership to grievous bodily harm in punishment beatings. RUC informer Mark Haddock is among those accused of the murder of UDA leader Tommy English.

**SAT. JANUARY 21:** The death took place in London of Gerry Lawless from Dublin who made legal history by taking the first case heard at the European Court of Human Rights. The case was against his internment during the 1950s.

**SUN. JANUARY 22:** A suspicious device at Ballykelly, Co Derry was a hoax.

In Toomebridge, Co Antrim residents were moved from their home as an abandoned car was examined.

**MON. JANUARY 23:** Peacocks, Past Times and Bonmarche have appointed receivers to their various businesses. Between them they employed 9,600 people. At Peacocks, administrators KPMG cut 249 HQ jobs on 19 January, leaving 266 staff at the head office. On 23 January, the firm's Bonmarche chain was sold to Sun European Partners and up to 160 stores will close with 1,400 staff redundancies.

Staff at Primark (Penneys) voted for industrial action in the Occupied Six Counties. According to Usdaw, 93% of its 640 staff backed the action over what they claim is a continuing pay freeze.

Martin McGuinness advised politicians in the Occupied Six Counties to 'steer clear' of getting involved in the debate over Scottish independence. Scotland is discussing the possibility of a referendum on Scottish independence.

The Provisionals backed a motion in Stormont which called for a pardon for all those who deserted the 26-County army and joined the British army during WWII — approximately 5,000. The DUP motion calling for an apology from the 26-County Administration [for ostracising those who 'deserted'] received unanimous support in Stormont.

The lobby group Older and Bolder called on Joan Burton, Minister for Social Protection in the 26-County Administration, to clarify the position regarding changes in the State contributory pension.

European Union governments agreed to an immediate ban on all new contracts to import, buy or transport Iranian crude oil, a move to put pressure on Tehran's disputed nuclear programme by shutting off its main source of foreign income. At a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels, EU governments also agreed to freeze the assets of Iran's central bank and to ban all trade in diamonds, gold and other precious metals with the bank and other public bodies.

**TUES. JANUARY 24:** Secretary-General of the Department of Health Michael Scanlan is to receive lump sum and severance payments of more than €430,000 when he steps down in April. He will also be eligible for a pension of €107,795 at the end of his seven-year term in office. Michael Scanlan will be 56 in the early summer.

A legal challenge by shooting enthusiasts to Garda refusals to grant them firearms licences was adjourned to facilitate talks between lawyers. The talks began after the judge expressed serious concerns over a Garda altering of licence application forms.

Private waste firms in Dublin are inundated with requests from former Dublin City Council customers to provide an alternative collection service to Greyhound.

**WED. JANUARY 25:** Demonstrators protesting at the handing over of €1.25m by the 26-County State assembled outside the Department of Finance and at the old Anglo Bank building in Dublin. Some of them 'cemented' their hands into barrels so they could not be easily removed. They intend to stay for three days.

The 26-County Administration insists that the bondholders must be paid €1.2bn.

Over 100 children from primary schools in Longford and Westmeath took part in a protest outside Leinster House at the planned changes to staffing in schools.

**THURS. JANUARY 26:** The trial of two Co Louth men on a charge of possession of firearms and membership of an illegal organisation collapsed at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin. Des Ryan and Niall Smith from Drogheda were released on continuing bail and will appear in court again on February 8.

Treasury Holdings challenge to NAMA's decision to appoint receivers to a portfolio of property assets will be heard on February 21.

Over 200 people attended the Conamara Against Septic Tanks protest outside Leinster House.

**SAT. JANUARY 28:** Shots were fired into the home of a family of five in the Glen Road, Coalisland, Co Tyrone.

Minister for Transport in the 26 Counties Leo Varadkar wanted to pay his advisor a package worth more than €135,000.

The 25-County State will ratify Europe's fiscal treaty this year even if a referendum is required to endorse the pact.

The High Court in Dublin refused to extradite Seán Garland to the USA but referred the case to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to consider if there is a case to prosecute Garland in Ireland for his alleged involvement in the distribution of counterfeit dollars.

Susan McKay, Chief Executive of the National Women's Council of Ireland, resigned in protest at a 35% cut in funding and accused the 26-County Administration of showing scant regard for women's rights.

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the 26 Counties Eamon Gilmore, repeated his call for Israel to end its blockade on the Gaza Strip; that the Israeli restrictions were having a huge impact and he would raise the issue in his talks with Israeli leaders.

**SUN. JANUARY 29:** Over 3,000 people marched in Derry on the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Thirteen people were murdered by the British Paras in Derry on the day and one died later of his wounds. The Paras opened fire on a peaceful civil rights march.

Fr Seán Healy of Social Justice Ireland said that the number of people living in poverty [in the 26 Counties] has increased by 60,000.

Derry is to host the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2013 when it will have the title 'UK' City of Culture.

**MON. JANUARY 30:** Two masked men fired shots into a house in the Dungiven area of Co Derry and broke the windows of a parked car. The owner says she has no idea why her home was attacked.

Eamonn McCann stepped down as Chair of the Bloody Sunday Trust, the group responsible for organising the annual commemorations. He said that the march should have been included in the official programme of commemoration events.

The DUP accused the Boundary Commission tasked with redrawing the 'political map' in the Occupied Six Counties of a 'gerrymander against the Unionists'.

Declan McGlinchey, who has described his mother's murder as "exceptionally cruel", called for a full Garda enquiry into the murder. Mary McGlinchey was bathing young Declan when she was shot at point-blank range while her husband Dominic was serving a sentence in Portlaoise prison. Dominic McGlinchey was shot dead seven years later while with his other son Dominic jnr. No one has ever been charged with their murders.

**TUES. JANUARY 31:** Declan McNally from Ballyronan, Co Derry was warned by the RUC that if he did not become an informer he would be "executed". His solicitor intends to apply to the High Court to secure an injunction preventing further approaches.

A prisoner who fell from a moving police van in Co Derry last Friday died in hospital.

Up to 8,000 civil servants in the 26 Counties are

set to retire from their jobs under the early retirement scheme. They have until the close of business today to apply for the package.

The Provisionals could benefit by two extra committee places from the resignation of UUP member David McNally. Committee places are based on political party numbers in Stormont.

The family of Joseph Morrissey, one of the victims of the Shankill Butchers in 1977, is to sue the RUC for failing to prevent his murder. Charlotte Murphy said the family is taking legal action because they believe the gang could have been stopped if the RUC had carried out a proper investigation. It is widely believed that the RUC knew of the activities of the Butchers and that there was collusion between them and members of the British Crown Forces.

**THURS. FEB. 2:** Almost 50,000 people approached the Immigrant Council of Ireland [26 Counties] for help and information last year — the majority of queries related to Irish law.

A haulage company is closing down with the loss of 50 jobs in Armagh. Noel Zwecker International Transport said the economic downturn and rising running costs had put pressure on the family-run business. It had been in operation since 1970.

**FRI. FEBRUARY 3:** Relatives of those killed in the Omagh bombing in 1998 say they have uncovered new evidence which strengthens their case for a cross-border public inquiry into whether the authorities could have done more to prevent the bombing.

Neil Hyde, a former member of the LVF, previously charged in connection with the murder of Sunday World reporter Martin O'Hagan, was jailed for three years for 'paramilitary offences'. Hyde agreed to turn informer (he signed a contract) and assist the RUC in return for a reduced sentence for 48 LVF-linked charges, including naming the alleged murderers in the O'Hagan case.

The trial continues in Belfast Crown Court of John Paul Wootton and Brendan McConville in connection with the killing of RUC member Stephen Carroll in Craigavon, Co Armagh in 2009. Videotaped interviews with two informants not identified is being heard by the court. Sharon Wootton is charged with perverting the courts of justice.

The home of a member of Republican Sinn Féin in Laurencetown, Co Down was raided by the RUC for five hours. There was no one home at the time so the RUC smashed in the door. Several items were removed without the owner's permission, one local resident said the RUC 'took at least five bags of stuff' from the premises. When the resident returned on Saturday he found his home wrecked, floors pulled up, plaster board walls knocked down and his garden dug up.

Brigid Green, the widow of Barney Green, one of the men murdered in the Loughlinishland, Co Down bombing in 1994, launched a high court challenge to the British Ombudsman's report which found "insufficient evidence of security force collusion" in the loyalist killings.

**SAT. FEBRUARY 4:** Alex Salmond who was invited to be a guest panelist alongside former Scotland scrum-half Andy Nicol and ex-England star Jeremy Guscott on a programme hosted by John Inverdale on BBC1 and Radio 5 Live, was suddenly barred from appearing.

About 100 people gathered in Enniskillen to demonstrate against the use of fracking to extract gas from shale rock in County Fermanagh. The process has proved controversial elsewhere. In Lancashire, it caused small earthquakes and in America, water was polluted.

Russia and China vetoed a UN resolution condemning Syria's crackdown against anti-government protesters. Human rights groups and activists say more than 7,000 people have been killed by Syrian security forces since the uprising began in March. The UN stopped estimating the death toll in Syria after it passed 5,400 in January, saying it was too difficult to confirm. Up to 200 people were killed in Homs today according to several reports. Casualty figures are hard to verify as most foreign media are barred from Syria.

More than 100 people have died as a result of freezing weather in Ukraine during the last week.

**SUN. FEBRUARY 5:** A 58-year-old man was charged with possession of ammunition in suspicious circumstances after guns were found at a house in Ballymena, Co Antrim. The discovery was made as a result of a planned search operation at the Laurel Park area on February 4.

At least nine people were killed in a car bomb attack on police headquarters in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar. Some 19 others were wounded in the blast in a car park outside the police building, the local government said.

Three Tibetans set fire to themselves in southwest China in the latest apparent protest against rule from Beijing. The latest protest brings to 19 the number of Tibetans that have self-immolated in the past year, 13 have died.

In Australia thousands of people living in the state of Queensland have been ordered to abandon their homes because of rising floodwaters.



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

## UVF ATTA CKS NA TIONA LIST TEENA GER

### A Belfast Chronology

**Saturday, January 6, 2012.** A nationalist teenager was seriously injured in an assault in Belfast on January 6 when he was attacked by a gang of loyalists.

Members of the loyalist Jeath squad the UVF brutally assaulted 18-year-old film extra Jason Turley in the Village area as he made his way home to the Short Strand from the set of the film *The Good Man*.

Jason was dumped in a

wheelie-bin and left for dead. The crew had been using the Windsor Women's Centre as a base of operations while continuing to film around the Village.

**Monday, January 8, 2012.** Veteran Belfast Republican Brigid Hannon died.

**Saturday, January 14, 2012:** The *Andersonstown News* covered the situation in Maghaberry Jail in detail.

West Belfast is the most deprived area in the Occupied



• Jason Turley

Six Counties when it comes to child poverty, according to a report from the Campaign to End Child Poverty.

**Sunday, January 15, 2012.** Petrol was poured through the letterbox of a house in Colinvale, Poleglass and set alight. No one was injured.

**Friday, January 20, 2012.** A man was arrested for questioning about Republican activity in west Belfast.

**Tuesday, January 24, 2012.** Laurena Kane, a social worker with the former South

and East Belfast Trust, [now the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust] was awarded £60,000 after a campaign of 'vile anti-Catholic abuse by fellow staff', following a four-year legal battle.

**Monday, January 30, 2012.** Former IRA POW Harry Thompson died in Belfast during the week aged 68.

**Saturday February 4, 2012.** A man was dragged from a car and assaulted by a group of youths in a carjacking incident in west Belfast.

## RUC increase aggression in Lurgan

**January 10, January 10.** Members of Republican Sinn Féin held a picket outside Craigavon Court as the trial began of 15 people, including President Des Dalton and Vice-President Fergal Moore, charged with taking part in an 'illegal' parade on January 23, 2011, which demanded the release of ailed Lurgan Republican Martin Corey.

Unmarked RUC/PSNI patrol cars were observed monitoring the Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area for most of the day.

**January 11.** Three members were stopped and searched under the Justice and Security Act. The vehicle was also searched. Later on that evening a family member and friends of

one of the above was stopped and searched under the Justice and Security Act. This happened on the Tullygally Road, Craigavon.

**January 12.** Making their way home from the local training centre, three young Republicans from the Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area were stopped and verbally abused before being searched under the Justice and Security Act.

**January 19.** The RUC/PSNI arrested a young nationalist, accusing him of rioting in Craigavon on August 2010. He was charged with criminal damage with intent before being released on bail with outrageous conditions attached.



• Graffiti in support of the POWs can be seen on walls in Craigavon and Lurgan, Co Armagh..

**January 22.** The RUC/PSNI were in and out of the Drumbeg, Meadowbrook and Ardowen estates for the duration of the day.

**January 23.** A member of Republican Sinn Féin was subjected to an intense body search under the Justice and Security Act. This came about

after she decided to go shopping to Tesco's supermarket in Lurgan. The car was also searched.

**January 24.** There was a large RUC/PSNI presence in Burnside/Lower Enniskillen area of Craigavon.

**January 28.** A white-line picket for the Republican POWs

was held in Lurgan. Republican Sinn Féin would like to thank all who showed up and the members of the public who acknowledged the protest.

**January 30.** In the early hours, a Republican Sinn Féin member was assaulted by the RUC/PSNI as he stood outside a house talking to his friends. They tried to make an arrest, but during the commotion the local residents came out and the Republican Sinn Féin member struggled free and the RUC/PSNI soon fled. The Republican Sinn Féin member would like to thank all who came to his aid as there was no reason for this assault.

**February 3.** Members of the RUC were seen photographing the homes

and cars of members of Republican Sinn Féin in the Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area.

When approached and asked what they were doing the locals were told to f\*\*\* off. One woman was told she would be 'tasered' if she did not f\*\*\* off home. This is a sinister development, the fact that the RUC are aggressively targeting the homes of members of Republicans and have no care that they are seen.

Since Tuesday last they have been speeding around the Craigavon area in greater numbers, jumping out of cars with weapons pointed, chasing theyouth (who can run faster than the RUC!) all over the area. was no reason for this assault.

## 'No basis' to stop release of IRA interviews

**A FEDERAL judge ruled on January 24 that the two men who conducted research and interviews for Boston College's oral history project on the Troubles had no legal standing to challenge the release of some of the taped recordings of former IRA members.**

Ed Moloney, the journalist and author who directed the *Belfast Project*, and Anthony McIntyre, the writer and former IRA prisoner who interviewed 26 former IRA members for it, had argued that release of the interviews would endanger the lives of McIntyre and his family, who live in Drogheda, and those interviewed.

They also argued that US attorney general Eric Holder had improperly allowed the US justice department to seek the tapes on behalf of British authorities without regard to the political damage the disclosures could have on the "peace process".

During a special sitting of the US District Court, held coincidentally at Boston College Law School, Judge William Young said the mutual legal assistance treaty between the US and UK did not allow for such intervention.

"On the merits, I find the attorney general has acted appropriately . . . under this treaty," the judge said.

James Cotter, one of the attorneys representing Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre, told the judge they had hoped he would allow the case to go forward so they could put witnesses on the stand to show the threat posed



• Boston College.

to "the free flow of information". Among those hoping to testify were academics worried about the future of oral history projects.

Anthony McIntyre's wife, Carrie Twomey, who is American, attended the hearing and spent some time lobbying congressional leaders to pressure the US government to

drop the case, which it took at the request of the RUC/PSNI.

While the Moloney and McIntyre legal challenge suffered a setback, it made political progress. Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote to US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, asking her to revoke

the British request for the Boston College tapes.

Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre said they would appeal Judge Young's finding that they had no legal standing, along with the rest of the case, before the US First Circuit Court of Appeals.

The researchers say they welcome Judge Young's remarks about the *Belfast Project*, quoting him as saying: "I've read thousands of pages of the transcripts. This was a bona fide academic exercise of considerable intellectual merit."

On January 28 it was reported that Senator John Kerry had made a dramatic intervention in the Boston College IRA tapes controversy.

In a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator Kerry (D-Mass.) urged the State Department to "work with the British authorities" in

the hope that they will "reconsider the path they have chosen" with regard to Boston College's Belfast Project.

He said the subpoenas had "implications for the confidentiality of other research projects of this nature".

In his letter Senator also Kerry pointed out that he had spoken with Attorney General Eric Holder on the matter late last year.

In a recent conference call with a number of Irish-American organisations, it is understood Senator Kerry indicated he would speak personally with British Foreign Secretary William Hague on the issue. On the same call, he is said to have not ruled out the possibility of a hearing on the matter in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which he chairs.

## Family vow to clear Bloody Sunday victim's name

**ON January 27 the family of Gerald Donaghey who was one of 13 shot dead on Bloody Sunday said they are angry he is still being labeled a nail bomber.**

The Saville Report found that Gerald Donaghey was 'probably armed with nail

bombs but was not a threat at the time that he was shot".

The 17-year-old was a

member of the Na Fianna Éireann, but witnesses said he did not have any bombs on him.

Gerald Donaghey's niece Geraldine Doherty said her family is unable to move on.

"For us, it's still not

finished. We have to keep fighting on and do whatever we have to do to get Gerald's name cleared," she said. "I'll highlight Gerald's case at every opportunity. If it takes another 38 years, I'll do it. We're not

going away."

Raymond Brogan who treated the teenager in his living room after he was shot said he was angry.

"Lord Saville has done a lot in easing the concerns and fears

of people about the reputations of their loved ones, but he never finished the job" he said.

"I know for definite that that young man Gerald Donaghey was not carrying any bombs."

# From Bloody Sunday to Afghanistan, war is hell

SO now it's snapshots of US Marines pissing on the Afghan dead. Better, I suppose, than the US soldiers pictured beside the innocent Afghan teenager they fragged back in March of last year. Or the female guard posing with the dead Iraqi prisoner at Abu Ghraib.

Not to mention Haditha or the murder videos taken by US troops in the field - the grenading of an old shepherd by an Iraqi highway comes to mind - or My Lai or the massacre of refugees by US forces in Korea or the murder of Malayan villagers by British troops. Or the Bloody Sunday massacre of 14 Catholics by British troops in Derry in 1972. And please note, I have not even mentioned the name of Baha Mousa.

The US Marines' response to the pissing pictures was oh so typical. These men were not abiding by the "core values" of the Marines, we were informed. Same old story. A "rogue" unit, a few "bad apples", rotten eggs. Maybe. But if there is one game of pissing on the dead, how many others happened without pictures? How many other shepherds got fragged

in Iraq? How many other Hadithas have there been? There were plenty of other My Lais.

As laptop filmography gets better, so it all comes slopping out, the rapes and slaughter - and yes, by the Taliban the stoning of young women for supposed sexual misconduct in Afghanistan; by al-Qa'ida, executions and throat-cuttings in Iraq.

And no - the Americans are not the Nazis, the Brits are not the French Paras of 1960 Algeria (but surely we're not comparing the French paras to the Nazis). The Canadians handed prisoners over to Afghan thugs for brutal questioning but the Canadians are not like Saddam's secret police - and, I suppose, the Taliban are not Stalin's NKVD or Putin's KGB (before he became a statesman). And you can't compare - surely - the Soviet invaders of Afghanistan



• The scene as the British Embassy in Dublin was burned following the massacre of 14 civil rights marchers in Derry on January 30, 1972.

in 1979 with Genghis Khan.

So let's take a little guessing game. A British Sunday paper reveals shocking revelations of torture and cigarette burning, of physical brutality where prisoners must be hospitalised for a week, of possible electric torture. The French in Algeria? Saddam's mukhabarat? Nope. It's the

Sunday Times Insight Team's report of May 7, 1972; the victims, of course, IRA suspects in Belfast. A "rogue" unit? A "few bad apples"? I doubt it.

When the Gloucestershire Regiment went on a rampage near Divis flats, smashing every window in the street the day before they were due to leave

Belfast, the line was changed.

They had been under "enormous strain" - but weren't these the "Glorious Gloucesters" of

Imjin River fame? And the killer Paras of Derry - weren't these the same Paras of Arnhem Bridge?

And so we go on. Yes, British troops murdered SS prisoners after Normandy - just as the

Red Army did in the Second World War and the Americans. And all this gets a bit dull, doesn't it? Dresden was worse than the Blitz - but who started it? Hiroshima was worse than Pearl Harbour (ditto). The Canadians bayoneted German prisoners in the First World War - but the Germans really did commit atrocities in Belgium in 1914. And what about Waterloo?

What did the British do with the heaps of French dead? Why, they honoured them by shipping their corpses off to Lincolnshire and using them as manure on the fields of East

Anglia. If war were not about the total failure of the human spirit, there would be something

grotesquely funny about the American reaction to the pissing pictures.

For note, it was not the killing of these men that worried the Marine Corps in the US - it was the pissing. Nothing wrong in killing amid the "core values" of the Marine Corps; you just shouldn't urinate on the corpses.

And even more to the point: YOU MUSTN'T DO IT ON CAMERA! Too late. It comes to this.

Armies are horrible creatures and soldiers do wicked things but when we accept all these lies about "bad apples" and the exceptionalism of crime in war - "there may have been some excesses" is the usual dictator-speak - we are accepting war and going along with the dishonesty of it and we are making it more possible and easier and the killings and rapes more excusable and more frequent.

And how should armies react? With one word: guilty.

— Robert Fisk, Independent News Service, January 13, 2012.

## The numbers that sum up modern small-town Ireland

HERE are the lotto numbers — 42, 3, 9, 39, 11, 37.

In a town I know quite well, these are the numbers that are resonating this week. Not because some local octogenarian who spends €10 a week on her lucky tip has won some obscene amount of money. No, the number resonates the opposite of joy. These are the numbers that represent the new reality in small towns like the one I am referring to.

42 — That is the number of young men, men alone, who have left the parish for Australia...since

Christmas. The New Year is but a fortnight old and already the heart and soul of that town has been ripped out. The local sports teams are devastated. They do not know if they will be able to field this year, well, field a competitive team anyway. There will always be young lads coming through, but to take 42 out of the available pick, then you are left with no hope. Indeed, the only hope is that every parish across the county is losing the same number of young people.

3 — That is the number of major businesses that closed...since this day last week. Businesses that had been in the town for generations, two, three generations. Businesses that gave to the town as well as benefited from it. Businesses which knew good times over the past decade when young people, flush with cash, opted to eat out every day rather than cook at home in their plush apartments which have sprung up over the place. Gone, doors shut, staff let go.

9 — That is the number of people who have taken their own lives in the general area over the last four or five years. Five of that number were since last summer. Families are left numbed by it all. Not knowing what to say. Friends are left shocked, wondering whether they fulfilled their duties. People look at each other, struggling to find the words.

37 — The number of families locally who each month wave good-bye to a father or mother as he/she flies out of Knock Airport to commute to work on the building sites of London. Young children find themselves growing up in a country that has changed,

in a household that has changed. Young children who knew comfort and security but who are beginning to realise that not all is like it used to be.

11 — The number of months it has been since a property sold in that town.

39 — That is roughly the number of houses in the town in which electricity does not shine a light at night. My source tells me that this is the number of families who got their heat this winter from gas lamps bought in the local discount supermarket, which by last week had sold out as the

families continue to buy them to see if they can get through the month of January without succumbing to the cold, which thankfully did not come this year. They have all had to stop paying their ESB bills, gas bills, so that mouths can be fed.

Did I mistakenly omit the bonus number. No, I didn't. That's just it. There isn't any bonus number for small town Ireland. January 19, 2012:

<http://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/48538/the-numbers->

## Update from Rossport Solidarity Camp

OIL GIANT Shell sent out letters to local residents in Co Mayo on January 25. The letter very cautiously admitted that they breached their planning conditions twice before Christmas by discharging peaty effluent from their construction site into Srúth Fada Conn estuary, and admits that they have had an issue with noise pollution.

Shell claim that 'additional management controls have been fully implemented' but according to Shell's own monitoring, excessive noise pollution continued in January.

The letter also says that they plan to start work on the Landfill Valve Installation (LVI) in Glengad in early February.

This involves building another compound like they had in 2008 and 2009 for the offshore pipe pull-in. The haulage for constructing this will have to pass through Aghoos, Pullathomas, Barr na Coilleadh and Glengad on narrow roads not built for heavy haulage. During construction it is set to cause the most disruption to the local community, and will be opposed.

On Sunday February 12 a Traditional Crafts Day will be

had at the Rossport Solidarity Camp and is open to all. Also if anyone is offering workshops — from winter birds, local wildlife, local traditional music & dance, archaeology, political discussion, brewing to direct action training etc they would be more than welcome.

There is another week-long Shell to Sea special sitting of the Belmullet district court in February 20-25.

It's been set to hear the cases of 20 defendants with 89 charges between them, from actions protesting against the Corrib Gas Project during 2011. For information this and other upcoming events in Rossport and elsewhere see:

[www.rossportsolidaritycamp.org/](http://www.rossportsolidaritycamp.org/)

[www.shelltosea.com](http://www.shelltosea.com)

## IMEACHTAÍ

**POW PICKET**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
LIBERTY TREE MONUMENT, CARLOW, 1-2pm  
Organised by the Myles Shevlin/Tony Ruane Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin

**ANNUAL CLONMILT COMMEMORATION** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
Assembly at the Courthouse, Midleton, 2.30pm

**IRISH NIGHT**  
CAMLOUGH INF HALL, £5  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 8pm  
Music by Pól Mac Adaim  
Organised by the Charles Agnew Cumann, Armagh and the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters, Newry, Republican Sinn Féin

**PROTEST IN SOLIDARITY WITH POWS**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 3pm  
DAUNT SQUARE, CORK CITY

**SEÁN KEENAN COMMEMORATION**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 3pm Assembly: Seán Keenan Monument, Bogside, Derry

**PARLE, CREANE AND HOGAN COMMEMORATION**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 11  
GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE  
HILL STREET, WEXFORD TOWN, 3pm  
Oration: Shane Barnes

**BRIGADES TO CUBA**  
MAY DAY BRIGADE, APRIL 22 - MAY 6, 2012  
José Martí Brigade, July 2 - 20, 2012  
Brigada Por Los Caminos Del Che, September 30 to October 14, 2012  
Further information contact 00353-85-1457286

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

## TEAGMHALACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

**Cork:** Mac Curtáin/Mac Swiney Cumann: 086-3352006 or [rsfcork@gmail.com](mailto:rsfcork@gmail.com)

**Kerry:** 087-097 0835

**Dublin:** 01-8729747 or e-mail [saoirse@iol.ie](mailto:saoirse@iol.ie)

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

**Wexford:** contact Mick at 0876150484

**Kildare:** [desdalton@eircom.net](mailto:desdalton@eircom.net), 086-329 1809, [www.rsfkildare.ie](http://www.rsfkildare.ie)

**Westmeath:** 086 124 3265;

e-mail: [rsfwmeath@gmail.com](mailto:rsfwmeath@gmail.com)

**Enniscorthy:** 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

**Wexford:** [rsf-wexford.com](mailto:rsf-wexford.com); [mick@rsf-wexford.com](mailto:mick@rsf-wexford.com)

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**Newry:** Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann: [rsfnewry@aol.com](mailto:rsfnewry@aol.com)

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

**Mayo:** McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 0926420

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[irish-solidarity@gmx.net](mailto:irish-solidarity@gmx.net), 0664 170 02 92

**RSF Italy:** [rsf-roma@email.it](mailto:rsf-roma@email.it)



# Republican POW refused parole for father's funeral

REPUBLICAN POWs in Maghaberry Jail commenced a 24-hour-fast on January 23, 2012, in protest of the decision by British justice minister in Stormont David Ford and the Prison Administration in the Occupied Six Counties to refuse compassionate parole to POW Damien McKenna to attend his father's funeral on January 19.

"Damien applied for compassionate parole to attend his father's funeral in Lurgan on January 19 and was refused on the grounds that he is a protesting prisoner", said Geraldine McNamara, PRO, Republican Sinn Féin on January 22.

She continued: "Damien, along with his comrades in Maghaberry prison, is engaged

in a protest against strip-searching and in defence of the historic right of Republican prisoners to political status.

"All these issues could have easily been resolved and would have been resolved but for the fact that the prisoners are political prisoners and, like their comrades of 30 years ago who died on hunger strike, the British establishment in Ireland will do



• The interior of Maghaberry Jail where Republican POWs have been on protest calling for the implementation of the Agreement of August, 2010.

everything in its power to break the prisoners both mentally and physically.

"Being allowed parole to go

to a family member's funeral is a basic human right and should not be denied to anyone".

As a result of the refusal the

Republican POWs embarked on a 24-hour fast in support of Damien and in protest at the callous treatment meted out to him.

The POW Department, Sinn Féin Poblachtach also condemned the action by the British Government – who are ultimately responsible for the running of Maghaberry jail – and said that the protest in Maghaberry could be ended immediately with the implementation of the August 2010 Agreement.

In a statement on January 18 a spokesperson for the POW Department said the refusal "exposed the inhumanity of the British Prison service when

dealing with Republican prisoners".

Spokesperson Josephine Hayden continued: "Once more the real face of British rule in Ireland shows itself. Britain and their hirelings have learned nothing over the course of centuries of occupation. Thirty-one years after the brutality of the H-Blocks and the hunger strikes of 1981, yet another group of Irish Republican prisoners are being brutalised by a prison system designed to break the spirit of resistance. Irish history teaches us it will have the opposite effect and will instead galvanise the spirits of the POWs in their struggle for a free Ireland".

## PFC call for release of Martin Corey, Marian Price

THE Pat Finucane Centre (PFC) called on January 11, 2012 for the release of Belfast woman Marian Price and Lurgan man Martin Corey from Maghaberry jail on the basis that both are effectively interned without trial – contrary to all domestic and international human rights standards.

Marian Price was jailed in May 2011 by an order of the Northern Secretary, Owen Paterson, after holding a script for a masked representative of the 'Real IRA' to read at a 32-County Sovereignty Movement Easter commemoration.

"Paterson has revoked the licence releasing her almost 30 years earlier from a life sentence for the 1973 IRA bombing of the Old Bailey. Her lawyers say she

was freed from that sentence on the basis of a royal pardon which supersedes Paterson's powers and which, anyhow, appears to have been shredded.

Marian Price has now been in Maghaberry for the last eight months not having been convicted of any crime.

"We are currently awaiting news from the Independent Parole Commissioners about her possible release.



• Martin Corey

"Similarly, the PFC is concerned at the continued detention of Lurgan man, Martin Corey, aged 61, who also remains behind bars – also without being tried or convicted



• Marion Price

of any crime.

"Convicted of a double murder in December 1973, he was sentenced to life imprisonment at the age of 19, spending the next 19 years in jail

before his release, on licence, in June 1992.

"On April 16, 2010 he was taken back into custody, the only reason so far given that he is a 'security risk' citing allegations that he is a dissident (*sic*) Republican. His legal team have described this 'evidence' as closed material.

"Martin Corey has begun a judicial review against the Independent Parole Commissioners on the basis of the alleged secrecy surrounding the reasons, citing a lack of detail on the evidence used which makes it impossible for him to appeal.

"His solicitor says the European Court of Human Rights and the House of Lords have both made it clear that details must be given in such circumstances. A full hearing is due in March.

"The PFC's view is that the politics of both prisoners are irrelevant, that their rights are being ignored and both should be released forthwith. Anyone who shares this view is encouraged to write to Owen Paterson at Stormont."

In January 2012 Marian Price was charged with 'providing property for the purposes of terrorism' after a judge ruled there was a prima facie case against her. She remains in Maghaberry jail having been denied bail.

## Stormont justice minister to visit Portlaoise jail

STORMONT'S Justice Minister David Ford is to visit Portlaoise Prison, Co Laois as efforts continue to resolve the long-running protest in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

Republican political prisoners in Maghaberry jail are involved in a no wash/dirty protest against conditions in the jail which denies them political status.

The men object to forced full-body searches when leaving or entering the prison on visits to court and hospitals – when they are accompanied by prison warders at all times and never out of their sight.

An agreement was reached in August two years ago (2010) brokered by independent facilitators between the POWs and the British government but

the prison regime refuse to implement it. It partly addressed full-body strip-searching and free association/controlled movement.

The POWs made every effort in the negotiations to draft the Agreement without compromising their own position, and in this they succeeded. The Agreement negated the necessity for forced full-body searching – in which several prisoners have suffered injuries – with the use of a BOSS chair, a chair on which the prisoner sits and it scans the body for hidden items. The



• David Ford

POWs are willing to use this chair; the fact that the prison regimes refuses to use it reinforces the fact that the prison regime is still as it was when thousands of men and women suffered in the H-Blocks and Armagh in the 1970/80. The regime is inherently sectarian and brutal and refuses to move into the 21st century.

A spokesperson for the POW Department of Republican Sinn Féin said on February 5: "Why David Ford believes his visit to Portlaoise will help resolve the issue, or what he hopes to get from it, is unclear. The conditions in Portlaoise were hard-won over many years of protest, it must be said.

"Republican POWs work their own structures and have a strict code of practice. The controlled movement implemented in Maghaberry is excessively restrictive and totally unnecessary given the commitment of the Republican POWs to their core principles.

"David Ford is on record as saying that as far as he is concerned 'the prison service [in the Occupied Six Counties] is adhering to the agreement that

was made with the separated prisoners in August of 2010'.

"This being his attitude why is he going to Portlaoise and why are the POWs in Maghaberry still on protest living in such dreadful conditions?

"With an attitude like his, his visit to Portlaoise is just a publicity stunt to give the impression he actually cares and is doing something constructive.

"David Ford is paid by the British government and he will do as his masters tell him – just the same as all the MLAs when push comes to shove"

On the issue of controlled movement within the jail Josephine Hayden said that the movement of just three POWs at a time from one area to another was time-consuming and time-

wasting and entirely unnecessary. The other POWs are locked up for longer than necessary while six prison warders move three prisoners from A to B.

"David Ford stated that 'At the moment I have no evidence that there is any technology as yet licensed for use within Northern Ireland (*sic*) that would meet all our needs'. This is just another stalling tactic; and to David Ford we say 'remember the hundreds of POWs who served their time in the H-Blocks where they eventually won POW status'.

That worked fine and so will the 2010 Agreement when the British government agrees to implement it and order the prison regime to do so.

## Hunger-striker's daughter denounces Provisionals

In an interview with Suzanne Breen for the *Sunday World* newspaper on January 15, the daughter of H-Block hunger-striker Mickey Devine from Derry attacked the Provisional leadership, saying her father "died for nothing".

Louise Devine says she's 'sickened' that the party top brass allegedly rejected a secret British offer which could have saved the last six hunger-strikers' lives – including her father's.

The claim that a substantial British proposal was on the table

– first made by ex-Blanketman Richard O'Rawe – was confirmed by recently released British state papers.

Louise Devine is now demanding an urgent meeting with Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and other key Republicans who ran the

hunger-strike from the outside.

"I want answers. I'm asking them to meet me face-to-face. They owe me that at the very least," she told the *Sunday World* newspaper.

"I was just five-years-old when I watched my daddy die in agony in a H-Block slum.

"I sat on his bed and he couldn't even see me and my brother because he was blind. I remember the tears running down his face as we left him for the last time."

"There's now a mountain of

evidence backing Richard O'Rawe's claim that the British made an offer effectively granting four of the prisoners' five demands and that this offer was accepted by the IRA's prison leadership but rejected by the outside leadership," Louise says.

Mickey Devine, a 27-year-old father of two – known as 'Red Mickey' because of his bright red hair and left-wing politics – was the last of the 10 hunger-strikers to die.

## Cork protest in support of Republican POWs

ON Saturday, January 21 a public protest took place at Daunt Square, Cork City. The protest was organised by the Prisoner Solidarity Group, Cork City.

The Prisoner Solidarity Group is an independent group which opposes internment by Section 30 in the 26 Counties, or internment by remand in the Occupied Six Counties, and calls for the repatriation of Republican prisoners held overseas.

They intend to organise regular protests in solidarity with all Republican prisoners to highlight the ongoing struggle in Maghaberry prison.

Among the various groups attending was Republican Sinn Féin. The protest called for the implementation of the August 2010 Agreement which has yet to be implemented by the Prison Service.

# Thousands at Bloody Sunday march

**ON January 29, 2012 around 3,000 people marched in heavy rain from Creggan shops in Derry city to the Bloody Sunday Memorial in the Bogside, where a wreath was laid in remembrance of the 14 men who were murdered by the British Army 40 years ago.**

The march was led by the relatives of those killed and injured on January 30, 1972 when the peaceful Civil Rights march was attacked by members of 1 Para of the British army, killing 14 people and injuring another 14.

Those who died were: Jack Duddy (17), Hugh Gilmore (17), Bernard McGuigan (41), Gerald McKinney (35), William McKinney (26), Kevin McElhinney (17), John Young (17), Michael O'Dauid (20), William Nash (19), Michael Kelly (17), Gerald Donaghey (17), Patrick Doherty (31) and James Wray (22). John Johnston died six months later from the gunshot wounds that were inflicted on him that day.

The march was not supported by some of the Bloody Sunday families, who along with the Provisionals, said that the publication of the Saville Report and the subsequent apology by British Prime Minister David Cameron had established the innocence of those who were killed and injured.

Michael Bridge, one of the Bloody Sunday wounded, took his place at the front of the march for the first time to highlight what he called "the unfinished business of the Saville inquiry".

"I was one of the lucky ones. I was one of the 27 people shot on that day and, unlike 13 others, I survived. I have missed only two of these commemorative marches since then and today I'm marching at the front of the parade for the first time. I'm doing so to make the point that justice for the victims is still outstanding. The unfinished business can only be ended when the soldiers involved in that nightmare day are charged and prosecuted for their actions. Until that happens, this campaign for justice for me goes on," he said.

Kate Nash, whose brother William (19) was shot dead on the day and whose father Alexander was wounded, said she has no dispute with the family members of the victims who opted not to march.

"I haven't fallen out with any of the families who are not with us today. I respect their decision not to attend and I'm sure they in turn respect my decision to march. My hope is

justice is truly seen to be done for all the victims.

"We have had the publication of the Saville report in June 2010 but its conclusions will be illogical

months, police and the authorities have been studying the legal and political issues involved.

"Families have different views," said Liam Wray, whose brother Jim, then 17, was killed. "What Cameron did was admirable but he said the shootings 'were unjustified and unjustifiable'. That means those who were shot dead were murdered. I will campaign for prosecution as long as I have air in my lungs."

The march was attended by some of the organisers of the original civil rights march on January 30, 1972, including Ivan Cooper and Éamonn McCann.

At Free Derry Corner, Kate Nash, one of the main organisers, said: "We have been both humbled and encouraged by the support we have received. We believe the march should continue until the perpetrators of the massacre are brought to justice for their actions on Bloody Sunday".

She said the march should be used to support other victims of State injustice and highlighted the case of Gerry Donaghey, whose family will continue to fight to clear his name unconditionally. She also said the Saville Report had failed to investigate adequately the responsibility for the massacre.

"The report in its conclusion simply confirmed what we had already known – that our loved ones were innocent. To me, prosecution of the guilty should be the next step and will be the only conclusion I will accept."

She went on to state that internment was still in force with the detention of Martin Corey and Marion Price and reminded those present of the conditions endured by Republican prisoners in Maghaberry Jail at this time.

Liam Wray, brother of James Wray stated that the march must continue as justice has not been done and no soldier has been charged with murder for bloody Sunday.

Members of Republican Sinn Féin from all over Ulster attended as did contingents from Dublin, Kildare, Wexford and Meath, along with their banners, in support of the Bloody Sunday families continuing fight for justice.

It was reported on January 30 that the veteran journalist, Éamonn McCann, has stepped down as chairman of the Bloody Sunday Trust and cited a number of reasons for his decision.

"It was a suitable moment

for a parting of the ways," he said. "It has been more time and energy consuming than might appear."

He said that "on balance", he felt that a march to commemorate the 40th anniversary should have been included in the official programme of events.

The majority of the families said they did not want to take part after what they considered to be the final march last year, following the publication of the findings of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry.

"I think it would have been reasonable to include it," he said.

On January 25 a statement was sent to the organisers of the Bloody Sunday march from the Ard Chomhairle of Republican Sinn Féin:

"A chairde  
"On the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday Republican Sinn Féin extends its greetings and solidarity to the survivors and families of the victims. We applaud your commitment to keeping alive the memory of the 14 Irish people murdered on the streets of Derry by the British army on January 30 1972. Your decision to continue the annual Bloody Sunday March ensures that this important and defining event in our recent history is not forgotten.

"The long-awaited Saville Inquiry report on June 15 2010 acknowledged for the first time that the 14 people murdered on 'Bloody Sunday' in Derry on January 30 1972 were innocent Civil Rights marchers however it failed on the crucial question of the responsibility of the British state for the murders.

"The belated acknowledgement of the innocence of those murdered and injured on Bloody Sunday was welcome, but the Inquiry failed the critical test of identifying and admitting the responsibility of the British State for the murder of unarmed Irish people on the streets of their own city.

"The Saville Inquiry laid sole responsibility for the murders on the British soldiers who fired the shots on Bloody Sunday and their commanding officer. This is a cop-out and ignores the chain of command both political and military, which pitted assault troops such as the British Army's Parachute Regiment against a peaceful anti-internment march. In August of the previous year over three days the same notorious British Army regiment murdered 11 people in Belfast.

"Bloody Sunday is the true



• The Bloody Sunday relatives led the march behind their banner.



• At Free Derry Corner relatives of the victims gathered.



• The banner of Republican Sinn Féin at the march.



• The banner of the Thomas Harte Féin, Lurgan, Co Armagh at the march.



• Life Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin Joe O'Neill with Pat Barry, Mick Cullen and Thomas Kelly at the march.



• President, Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton carrying the Kildare banner in Derry.



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin from Meath at the Bloody Sunday march.

that this march will continue to highlight many other injustices perpetrated against innocent people wherever they might be and wherever they might be. They too are entitled to justice for their loved ones," she said.

Michael McKinney, whose brother William was one of the 13 victims, said: "I am speaking personally, not for anyone else. I believe this march should continue until

without the prosecution of the soldiers who killed and wounded so many unarmed and innocent people on these streets 40 years ago," he said.

The parents of the victims are, with the passing of four decades, all dead. But brothers, sisters and other relatives are still campaigning. For many, the key issue is whether the soldiers involved will be prosecuted. For 18



# Attend Bloody March in Derry



march from Creggan shops



ose killed address the crowd.



n, Armagh at the march.



Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin.

and the true face of imperialism

as experienced today by the people of Afghanistan.

"Three times in the 20th century the forces of British occupation have visited a Bloody Sunday on the Irish people. While British rule remains in Ireland the possibility of yet another will always exist.

"The British Government's apology for the murders of Bloody Sunday is meaningless while it continues to occupy Ireland. A just and lasting peace can only come following a British withdrawal and the creation of a New Ireland built by all of the Irish people Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter.

"On January 29 the people of Derry and Ireland will assert once more that the spirit of those murdered on Bloody Sunday 1972 continues to cry out for justice. The march today ensures that their voice can still be heard."

Approximately thirty members of Republican Sinn Féin Leinster, held a rally on O'Connell Street on January 28, 2012 for about two hours to mark the 40th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Derry.

In a wide-ranging speech delivered to the crowds that had assembled under the pillars of the GPO and on the island, John Horan, Republican Sinn Féin Dublin PRO, outlined the events of that day forty years ago. Many people stopped to speak to those on the demonstration and asked questions. The youth in particular asked to be educated as to what happened in Derry 40 years ago.

The name and age of each of the other 13 victims was read out at the Dublin Rally, along with brief details of their location on the day, and of the wound(s) inflicted on them.

Up to 600 leaflets were distributed in various areas around Leinster during the previous week and over 1,000 were handed out under the watchful eye of the Special Branch on the day.

Prior to the march in Derry the following statement was released by some of the men who were tortured by the British State following their arrest on August 9, 1971. These men became known as 'The Hooded Men', and their torture is described by John McGuffin in his book *The Guineapigs* (1974, 1981). It can be read at:

<http://www.irishresistancebooks.com/guineapigs/guineapigs.htm>

"Forty years ago the Stormont government banned the Civil Rights march scheduled to take place in Derry on January 30, 1972. The ban was unsuccessful, but the

British Tory government followed through its counter-insurgency strategy, which began with the introduction of internment in 1971, by shooting down peaceful marchers who came out on the streets in defiance of state terror. Today, another Tory government and its middle-management in Stormont denies human and civil rights by upholding internment while also trying, by some rather desperate means, to prevent people from marching again in defence of these rights.

"On January 29, we, as former Long Kesh internees, will join the march that will mark the fortieth anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Derry. We will march under a banner calling for an end to internment in 2012, and our numbers will include survivors of the 'hooded treatment', who were tortured in August 1971. We now call on every ex-internee and ex-prisoner who reads this letter to join us and help carry our banner.

"People are now being held without trial in the Six Counties at the whim of an English Secretary of State. This present-day internment is the same in all but name as that introduced in August 1971, and is the same type of repression that people marched against so bravely in January 1972. We oppose internment no matter how the British decide to implement it – whether via the 'suspension of license', the denial of pardons, the use of non-jury courts and the gamut of other repressive legislation at their disposal.

"We will march in defence of human rights, in protest against present-day internment and in opposition to the torture that continues to be practiced by the British state in Ireland and abroad. In doing so, we will salute the memory of the brave men, women and children who once marched for our freedom and who were murdered, wounded and brutalised by the British army on the streets of Derry forty years ago.

"We will also remember our friends who died prematurely as a result of the torture - Pat Shivers from Toomebridge, Mickey Montgomery from Derry and Seán McKenna from Newry.

"The march that took place on January 30, 1972, was a protest against internment and torture – crimes that were employed by the British state to terrorise the population of the six counties. All of the demands raised by the popular Civil Rights Movement, which the Bloody Sunday massacre was designed to destroy, remain unfulfilled.

"Today, the right to decent



• Part of the march led by the banner from the Ann Devlin/Robert Emmet Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Dublin.



• The McKelvey Steele Cumann banner, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast at the march.



• Veteran Walter O'Dunphy, Kilkenny at the Republican Sinn Féin rally in Dublin on January 28 in memory of Bloody Sunday.



• The banner carried by 'The Hooded Men' in Derry on January 29.

housing and jobs is denied to young people across Ireland, while the uninhibited use of stop

and search powers targets not just adults but even children on their way to and from school.

Along with widespread [RUC]/PSNI brutality during arrests, raids and other, more 'routine' incidences of harassment, these abuses underline the six counties' enduring status and notoriety as a police state.

"The order to commit mass murder was issued in Derry just as it was to deal with every other popular anti-colonial insurgency against British rule. These repressive policies remain central to British state strategy today: internment is still taking place in Ireland, while prisoners in Maghaberry jail are, on a daily basis, subjected to strip-search torture. These human rights abuses do not end here: through their army and intelligence agencies, the British continue to torture prisoners abroad, both in British-occupied territory and on behalf of dictator-clients like Muammar Gaddafi via practices such as 'rendition', abduction and outright murder.

"Let no individual or political party imagine that they are the exclusive owners of the Bloody Sunday march. The people of Derry mobilised in January 1972 in a courageous, brilliant and popular protest against internment, and in defence of universal human rights.

"Their bravery continues to inspire people across the world, and their example will always have a truly global resonance; therefore, we believe that the fortieth anniversary Bloody Sunday march should take place, because human rights and civil rights are still being denied by the British state and its agents in Stormont.

"We call on everybody who believes in these basic and universal rights to join the march and show their opposition to the continuation of repression, internment and torture, wherever it may occur.

"In doing so, we will all mark the fortieth anniversary of Bloody Sunday and inspire the world again by declaring that no apology from any British government will ever be acceptable while they and their allies continue to terrorise those who stand up against oppression and believe in freedom.

"By coming on this march, we will help build a great and enduring monument to the memory of all of those who died protesting against internment and defending all of our civil rights.

Signed: Michael Donnelly, Derry; Gerry McKerr, Lurgan; Patrick McNally, Armagh; Brian Turley, Armagh; Francie McGuigan, Belfast; Kevin Hannaway, Belfast; Joe Clark, Belfast; Jim Auld, Belfast."

## International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier

LEONARD Peltier is a Native American activist wrongfully accused in 1975 in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Government documents show that, without any evidence at all, the FBI decided from the beginning of its investigation to 'lock Peltier into the case'.

US prosecutors knowingly presented false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the US. The statements were signed by a woman who was forced by FBI agents to say she was an eyewitness. The government has long since admitted that the woman was not present during the shootings.

Meanwhile, in a separate trial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mr Peltier's co-defendants were acquitted by reason of self defence. Had Leonard been tried with his co-defendants, he also would have been acquitted.

Unhappy with the outcome of the Cedar Rapids trial, prosecutors set the stage for Mr Peltier's conviction. His trial was moved to an area known for its anti-Indian sentiment — Fargo, North Dakota. The trial judge had a reputation for ruling against Indians, and a juror is known to have made racist comments during Mr Peltier's trial.

FBI documents prove that the US government went so far as to manufacture the so-called murder weapon, the most critical evidence in the prosecution's case. A ballistics test proved, however, that the gun and shell casings entered into evidence didn't match. The FBI hid this fact from the jury. Mr Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms. According to court records, the United States Attorney who prosecuted the case has twice admitted that no one even knows who fired the fatal shots.

Leonard Peltier is 67 years old and in poor health. An accomplished author and artist, Mr Peltier is renowned for his humanitarian achievements. In 2009, Leonard was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the sixth consecutive year.

Although the courts have acknowledged evidence of government misconduct — including forcing witnesses to lie and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting his innocence — Leonard Peltier has been denied a new trial on a legal technicality.

Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 Members of Congress and others — including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Leonard Peltier's appeals — have all called for his immediate release.

The Courts may not be able to act but Barack Obama, as President of the US, can. Please join with us to free an innocent man. During February tell Obama to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

On February 4 a demonstration was held at the US Embassy in Ballsbridge, Dublin and was addressed by Native American activist Jean Ann Day. Please sign the petition:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/ireland-for-peltier/>

## Khader Adnan near death

IN A statement on February 5, Geraldine McNamara, PRO, Republican Sinn Féin, called on the international community to protest by every means possible to the Israeli administration to highlight the plight of political prisoner Khader Adnan and his fellow detainees.

Khader Adnan has reached the 50th day of his hunger strike against prison conditions in Ofer Jail Israel. This includes five days of refusing liquids as well: Israeli prison officers have started force-feeding him liquids to keep him alive.

In solidarity, dozens of youth activists in Gaza have announced that they are joining Adnan in his hunger strike. Adnan is one of nearly three hundred Palestinian people being interned without trial in Israeli jails in what the Israeli's call 'administrative detention'. This type of detention is in violation of the Geneva Convention which bans detention without charge.

The Palestinian people have long been campaigning to have their state recognised by the United Nations but at present they are being annihilated in their native land. The United Nations has been working on and involved in the question of a Palestinian state since 1947, over 60 years later that statehood has not been granted to the people of Palestine and they are still oppressed and treated like refugees in their own homeland in 2011.

Khader Adnan will die unless there is an immediate inquiry into the illegality of his detention without charge, and the cruel treatment he received at the hands of the Israeli prison guards.

One of the leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Saleh Nasser, called for an investigation of Israeli detention practices by the International Court of Justice, and voiced support for what he called Adnan's "heroic battle against the Israeli occupation's inhumane and racist policies."

Geraldine said that the international community has been very vocal in favour of the so-called Arab Spring but has laryngitis when it comes to the plight of the Palestinians who are treated like stateless people in their own homeland.

## Israel passes law tantamount to internment

GERALDINE McNamara, PRO of Republican Sinn Féin, said on January 12 that it is an affront to humanity that the Israeli parliament has passed the 'Prevention of Infiltration Law' which mandates the automatic detention of anyone, including asylum-seekers, who enters Israel without permission.

"This law allows for detention without trial, or internment without trial as we know it in Ireland, for people from many countries who could be considered by Israel to be hostile. This law criminalises refugees and asylum seekers and they can be detained indefinitely.

"Families can be detained including children," she said.

"People from Islamic countries are especially targeted by this law which flies in the face of human rights and is against international law on the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

"The 1951 Refugee Convention was drawn up following World War II in the wake of mass forced displacement of Jewish and other war refugees fleeing persecution.

# WORLD NEWS



• **Matias Valle (standing), former vice-president of the United Peasants Movement of Aguán (MUCA) in Honduras, who was murdered on January 20 (see below, right).**

"Considering most Israelis come from a background where they sought refuge in other countries, including the present Israeli state, this law can be deemed nothing more than sectarian and racist.

"Many Irish people have experienced the effects of internment without trial and what it is like to live in a sectarian state in the Occupied Six Counties. This internment and occupation continues today and at present Martin Corey and Marian Price are detained indefinitely without trial without even a valid reason for their internment.

"This action by Israel must be highlighted and its injustice told to the world. Remember when we stand idly by against injustice we cannot expect anyone to stand by us when injustice comes our way," Geraldine concluded.

## Harsh conditions for young lifers in US jails

APPROXIMATELY 2,570 youth offenders, serving life without parole sentences in 38 states and in federal adult US prisons, face sexual violence, solitary confinement and depression, according to a report from Human Rights Watch on January 9.

The 47-page report, "Against All Odds: Prison Conditions for Youth Offenders Serving Life without Parole Sentences in the United States," draws on six years of research, interviews and correspondence with correctional officials and hundreds of youth offenders serving life without parole.

The United States is the only country in the world with youth offenders (below the age of 18 at the time of offence) serving life without parole sentences. The US Supreme Court will consider arguments about the constitutionality of the practice in March 2012.

Human Rights Watch found that nearly every youth offender serving life without parole reported physical violence or sexual abuse by other prisoners or corrections officers.

Nationwide statistics indicate that young prisoners serving any type of sentence in adult prison, as well as those with a slight build and low body weight, are most vulnerable to attack.

They often enter adult prison while still children, although some have reached young adulthood by the time their trials end and they begin serving their sentences.

## BBC wins right to broadcast interview

THE High Court in London ruled on January 11 that Justice Secretary Ken Clarke was wrong to stop the BBC filming a "terrorism" suspect held for seven years without trial.

The court said there was public interest in interviewing Babar Ahmad, due to the case's exceptional nature.

Babar Ahmad, a British Muslim, denies "terror-related charges" and is fighting extradition to the US. The 38-year-old south London man has been held in prison pending extradition since 2004, believed to be a record for an unconvicted British citizen. He is awaiting a final decision on his case by the European Court of Human Rights.

He is accused of fundraising for extremists and other offences, all of which are said to have been committed in Britain. He has never been charged or faced trial in Britain and denies any wrongdoing.

In their judgment, Justice Singh and Justice Hooper said: "The [interview ban] constitutes a disproportionate interference with the right to freedom of expression in Article 10. In the circumstances of this particular case, the justification for that interference has not been convincingly established.

## Supergrass convictions in Britain face legal challenges

A SERIES of supergrass convictions in Britain are being

investigated for possible legal challenges amid growing concern over the safety of using such criminal witnesses and the millions of pounds spent to cultivate them, according to an article in The Guardian on January 22, 2012.

In one of a string of cases being examined by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), a career criminal who was accused of murder turned supergrass on the eve of his jury trial. Damon Alvin went on to provide uncorroborated evidence which convicted another man for the killing.

The use of Alvin was unique, prosecutors said, the first case where a murder charge had been dropped against a defendant who went on to give testimony that jailed another man for life.

Essex police spent tens of thousands of pounds on Alvin, and allegedly facilitated the sale of his home while he was in prison from which he benefited by more than £190,000. But intelligence showed the property had been bought from the proceeds of his criminal career and the money was liable for seizure under the Proceeds of Crime Act. The commission is also examining three convictions of former police officers found guilty of corruption on the basis of supergrass evidence.

Documents obtained by the Guardian in the Alvin case show Essex police spent at least £35,000 in five and a half months on the convicted drug dealer, who had a record for violence and burglary and a known involvement with firearms. Alvin was given a new identity as part of the witness protection programme and he and his family were relocated.

The man convicted on his evidence, Ricky Percival, 32, has been protesting his innocence for six years. He passed a lie detector test in prison last year and has passed the results to the CCRC.

Kevin Winter, [Belfast] a lawyer with close knowledge of the use of such witnesses, said there remained serious concerns about the supergrass process. "These people are ultimately self-serving and self-motivated," he said.

"Many are alleged criminals themselves whose credibility, integrity and reliability are very much suspect and subject to all sorts of concerns. The whole notion of relying solely on that person's testimony to send someone to prison for a very long time raises matters of great concern.

"There has to be the greatest scrutiny given to testing that individual and their credibility, the integrity of the whole process comes down to that."

## Medecins Sans Frontieres quits Libya over prisoner torture

AID agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) announced at the end of January 2012 that it had halted its work in detention centers in a Libyan city because its medical staff were being asked to patch up detainees mid-way through torture sessions so they could go back for more abuse.

Figures from the UN state there are 8,000 detainees in 60 makeshift prisons across Libya. Rights groups have repeatedly raised concerns about torture being used against people, many of them sub-Saharan Africans, suspected of having fought for Muammar Gaddafi's forces during Libya's nine-month civil war.

MSF General Director Christopher Stokes issued a statement saying "Patients were brought to us in the middle of interrogation for medical care, in order to make them fit for more interrogation. This is unacceptable. Our role is to provide medical care to war casualties and sick detainees, not to repeatedly treat the same patients between torture sessions."

The agency said it has raised the issue with the authorities in Misrata and with the national army. "No action was taken," said Stokes. "We have therefore come to the decision to suspend our medical activities in the detention centers."

Reports of the mistreatment and disappearances of suspected Gaddafi loyalists are embarrassing for Libya's ruling National Transitional Council, which has vowed to make a break with practices under Gaddafi and respect human rights.

UN human rights chief Navi Pillay, speaking to the Security Council in New York on Wednesday, said that detainees from Libya's civil war held by revolutionary brigades continue to be subjected to torture despite efforts by the Provisional Government to address the issue.

Human rights group Amnesty International said on Thursday it had evidence of several detainees dying after being subjected to torture, including some in Misrata. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday that it has visited 8,500 detainees across Libya but declined to comment on the MSF decision to suspend its work.

## Honduran landowners' war claims 45th victim

THE two-year war against thousands of peasant families and their organisations fighting to defend their lands and cooperatives and to reclaim land stolen by large oil palm growers in the northeast Honduran region of Bajo Aguán, has taken a new innocent life.

On January 20 two gunmen on motorcycles murdered Matias Valle, former vice-president of the United Peasants Movement of Aguán (MUCA).

According to MUCA General Secretary Yoni Rivas, "There's no doubt this new murder is connected with the current land conflict in Bajo Aguán and the large landowners. They want to pressure us into accepting the proposal from the government and the private banks to buy these lands. We have rejected this agreement already, because what they're really trying to do is strangle us financially. They want to put us into debt so they can then come and take away the land that has cost us so much sacrifice."

Valle was vice-president of MUCA until mid-2011, and a member of the negotiating committee which in 2010 signed the first agreement with the government.

In August 2010 Valle and another peasant leader, María Gutiérrez, were invited to Tegucigalpa as representatives of MUCA to participate in the third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Latin American Federation of Coca-Cola Workers (FELATRAC), organised by the IUF, to give their testimony of the peasant struggle in Bajo Aguán.



# WHAT THEY SAID

What became so dramatically clear last week was that this compatibility has ended. The leading form of capitalism – the prime capitalism that has expanded so monstrously over the last 30 years – is no longer compatible with democracy in Europe.

— Irish Times, November 8, 2011, "Online" article by Fintan O'Toole.

This is not to say that there have not been huge tensions in the relationship between capitalism and democracy, or that there have not been periods when the holders of capital preferred authoritarian or fascist regimes.

Nor is it to deny that the large-scale inequalities inherent in most forms of capitalism have tended to limit the practice of democracy, through private control of media, the funding of political parties and the ability of the very rich to threaten and intimidate elected governments. The point is simply that the two forces were generally compatible.

— Irish Times, November 8, Fintan O'Toole.

Europe, and the rest of the world, is thus at a parting of the ways. We can have the form of rapacious finance capitalism that has become the dominant force in our economics and societies.

Or we can have democracy. But we can't have both.

— Irish Times Fintan O'Toole.

The troika will be running our affairs forever, no matter how we fare in reducing the deficit.

— Sunday Business Post, January 15, 2012, Vincent Browne "Between the Lines" column.

It [November 28 "Dependence Day"] is the anniversary of the surrender of the substance of Irish sovereignty in 2010, a surrender that will not be undone perhaps for a century or more.

The living representation of that surrender is at present in one of Dublin's most expensive hotels, the Merrión, in the person of the people from the troika – the International Monetary Fund, the EU Commission and the ECB [European Central Bank] – across the road from Government Buildings.

— Sunday Business Post, January 15, Vincent Browne.

This is because of the market-Sarkozy fiscal union plan. Whether this is within or without the structures of the EU, the idea is that we will be forced to accept outside determination of our economic, budgetary and social policies.

Our social policies are the programmes on social protection and, crucially, on labour markets.

— Vincent Browne.

This fiscal union thing presumably will be made coherent before it comes up for ratification in March, and I assume that efforts will be made to get Britain to drop its objection so that it can all be done within the ambit of the EU. If not, it is difficult to see

how this can be legal.

— Vincent Browne.  
But, one way or another, we are headed towards the surrender of our substantive sovereignty in a way never envisaged when we joined the European project in 1973.

— Vincent Browne.  
I assume this will have to be put to a referendum here, and I also assume that the Irish people (*sic*) will be frightened into ratifying it.

The insidiousness of all this is best exemplified at present by what is happening in Vita Cortex in Cork and in La Senza around the country.

— Vincent Browne.

We may have a chance in a few months to slow down that momentum a little by refusing to ratify this new fiscal union, though I suspect we will pass on that one, as we have done before.

— Vincent Browne.

The YouTube clip of US marines urinating on dead Afghans led to panic and hand-wringing at the White House. Yet the facts of the men's deaths seemed to be of no account at all.

— Sunday Business Post, January 15, 2012, Tom McGurk column.

However gross it may seem, there is nevertheless a compelling veracity in the image of those marines urinating on the dead Afghans.

— Tom McGurk.

Is this not the reality of the Afghan campaign in vivid colour? Given the sheer madness of the last decade of US foreign policy, the symbolic stance of the grunts (with flies undone astride their victims) is truly unforgettable.

— Tom McGurk.

The English Tories have taken the first step into a Scottish dance macabre [dance of death]. Similar to that which maimed our island for half a century. The Tories always knew little and cared less about the realities of the so-called Celtic fringe.

— Sunday Business Post, January 15, 2012, letter to Editor from Maurice O'Connell, Tralee, Co Kerry. Not 50 years but 943 years: 2012 minus 1169 = 943.

Relationships, economic and otherwise, between the communities in these islands are too complex and interlocked to be dealt with by a sledgehammer.

A key factor, never fully grasped since 1945, is that England is not what she was in 1815, 1957 or even 1919, and never will be again.

— Sunday Business Post, Maurice O'Connell letter.

What the Scots may have grasped is that a carefully analysed and constructed subsidiarity, in a genuine and efficient federal state, can work.

— Maurice O'Connell letter.

Let us hope that the Scots have grasped the reality of Scottish independence. "A carefully analysed and constructed subsidiarity" is the answer to Ireland's situation in a four-province "genuine and efficient state" which includes a nine-county Ulster.

Má imionn Albain ón Aontas [an "UK"], b'ionann sin agus deire leis an Aontas. Cá bhfágfaidh sin na hAondachtaithe ó thuaidh? I sáinn. I gcuachas. Ina ndilleachtaithe arís éile. Níl suim ag a mbunús siúd i Ríocht Aontaithe a bhéadh, nach mór, ina Ríocht Shasanaigh.

Gan na hAlbanach thosódh go leor Aondachtach ag



• One of the banners carried at the Bloody Sunday march in Derry on January 29 (see quotes below).

athmheas a n-áit san Aontas sin. An tseachtain seo dúirt ceannaire an UUP Tom Elliott gur contúití Alex Salmond (ceannaire an Scottish National Party) don Aontas ná an tIRA nuair a bhí siad i mbarr a réime.

Dúirt John Taylor nár cheart críochdheighilt na hAlban a chuir as an áireamh má bhíonn na hAlbanaigh scoilte ó bhun go bar am an reiffrinn.

Dar le Peter Robinson go mba thubaiste é dá sócródh na hAlbanaigh dul a mbealach féin seachas fanacht sa Ríocht Aontaithe.

Tá sé róluath chun na h-impleachtaí a mheas. Ach is cinnte má imíonn Albain as an Ríocht Aontaithe d'athróidh sé cás na hAontachtach sa tuaisceart ar fad.

Ar an chúis sin amháin scairtim ós ard. "Mo cheól thú, a Alasdair [Alex Salmond], gabh Alba, gabh!" [More power to you, Alex, go Scotland, leave the "united Kingdom" – go!]

— Gaelscaid, Eanáir 18, 2012, alt le Eoghan Ó Néill.

The Fleadh is a particularly Irish event, reflecting a proud tradition of music and song which survived centuries of ridicule, scorn and suppression. Following political pressure, this all-Ireland music festival is now a likely event in the "UK" City of Culture programme for 2013.

— Irish News, Saturday January 21, 2012, Patrick Murphy column titled Britain seeking copyright of cultural nationalism. [The Fleadh referred to is the annual Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann].

Should such an event be included in a celebration of UK culture, particularly since the Scots, Welsh and English will confirm that there is no such thing as UK culture? The answer is a plain, and politely blunt "No".

— Patrick Murphy.

...how did we arrive at the point where Irish culture might be included as part of a British celebration in Ireland?

The answer lies in recent history, Britain's understanding of how to shape that history and the contemporary gymnastics of Irish political nationalism.

— Patrick Murphy.

Derry's application, which was highly professional, was three parts culture and two parts politics.

— Patrick Murphy.

Derry's UK CoC [British City of Culture] status rests easily with current constitutional nationalism. Sinn Féin (*sic*) and the SDLP work within partition and, if you vote, you have given them a democratic mandate to do so. But political nationalism's pro-British stance risks drifting apart from cultural nationalism.

— Patrick Murphy.

Language, dance, music and song have perpetuated the

idea of Irish separatism from Britain from one generation to the next, Irish rebellion was often rooted to poetry as much as politics.

The 1916 Rising had significant roots in the Gaelic revival of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. If you were in Whitehall today trying to bed down the latest British victory in Ireland, you would bring cultural nationalism into line with political nationalism. That explains the political pressure to bring the Fleadh to a British-government event in Ireland.

The British have always used local culture to reinforce colonial power.

— Patrick Murphy.

But the Fleadh is not the only significant Irish cultural event proposed for the UK City of Culture, Oireachtas na Gaeilge is also in the draft programme.

First organised in 1897 by Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League), this annual festival of arts and culture is run entirely in Irish. It represents what might be termed the gold standard of Irish culture.

Having gained control of political nationalism, Britain is not seeking the copyright of cultural nationalism as well.

— Patrick Murphy.

Exercising political control over a nation's culture cuts off a significant source of potential political opposition. If some of that opposition expresses itself through violence, the task is so much easier. Having gained control of political nationalism, Britain is now seeking the copyright of cultural nationalism as well. Irish history shows that some will be willing to sell it and others will rush to resist the sale in the wrong way.

— Patrick Murphy. And then the RUC/PSNI held a public meeting in Newry in the Irish language. Where will it stop?

Many young men at the time [WWII] joined neither the Irish Defence Forces (*sic*) nor the British army, believing the IRA (then engaged in attacks against Britain and even had some contact with German military intelligence) were the best army to soldier with.

Under the law then [and now], both membership of the IRA and desertion from the Defence Forces is illegal.

— Irish Times, January 26, 2012, letter to Editor from Brian O'Leary, Bachelor's Quay, Cork.

Between 1939 and 1945 six IRA men were executed by the State: Charlie Kerins, Maurice O'Neill, Thomas Harte, George Plant, Paddy McGrath and Richard Goss. Additionally Tony D'Arcy and Seán MacNeela died on hunger strike during their imprisonment, and John Joe Kavanagh was shot while trying to escape from prison.

— Irish Times letter to Editor. Seán Mac Caughey also died on hunger and thirst strike.

John Joe Kavanagh was shot dead, Roger Ryan wounded and Connie Bird arrested – three unarmed men – while tunneling into Cork Jail to rescue internees held there.

I suggest that if justice is to be applied equitably, then Mr Shatter [26-County Minister for Justice and Defence] has no choice but to also pardon these nine men and the hundreds of others who were interned without trial by the State during the war [1939-45].

— Irish Times letter to Editor from Brian O'Leary, Bachelor's Quay, Cork.

Justice delayed was the theme of yesterday's march in Derry to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killings in the Bogside area of the city on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1972.

Internal divisions among the relatives of the dead dominated the run-up to the march, which was attended by almost 3,000 people.

A majority of the families decided not to participate as a result of the conclusions of the Saville report into the Bloody Sunday killings which was published in June 2012.

— Irish Times, January 30, 2012, report by George Jackson.

Michael Bridge, one of the Bloody Sunday wounded, took his place at the front of the march for the first time to highlight what he called the unfinished business of the Saville Inquiry.

"I'm doing so to make the point that justice for the victims is still outstanding. The unfinished business can only be ended when the [British] soldiers involved on that nightmare day are charged and prosecuted for their actions. Until that happens, this campaign for justice for me goes on," he said.

— Irish Times, January 30. Kate Nash, whose brother William (19) was shot dead on the day and whose father Alexander was wounded, said she had no dispute with the family members of the victims who opted not to march.

"I haven't fallen out with any of the families who are not with us today. I respect their decision not to attend and I'm sure they in turn respect my decision to march."

— Irish Times.

Michael McKinney, whose brother William was one of the 13 victims, said there had been differences of opinion among the Bloody Sunday families for some time.

"I am speaking personally, not for anyone else. I believe this march should continue until justice is truly seen to be done for all the victims."

"We have had the publication of the Saville report in June 2010 but its conclusions will be illogical without the prosecution of the [British] soldiers who killed and wounded so many unarmed and innocent people on these streets 490 years ago," he said.

— Irish Times, January 30, George Jackson reporting from Derry.

Dick Walsh described the crowd in Merrión Square [Dublin] as "the biggest demonstration the Republic (*sic*) had seen in a generation".

— Irish Times, January 30, 2012, article by Eamonn McCann on Bloody Sunday protest at British Embassy in Dublin.

The North had seemed as never before to have become a visceral reality in the South. But literally within days, alarmed at the appalling vista suddenly

revealed in the mood and scale and class composition of the demonstrations, in the burning of the embassy and the strut in the step of Republican paramilitaries, the main parties of nationalism emotionally and intellectually disengaged from the North and resolved to come down hard on any elements that in the name of the North dared challenge the integrity of the Southern State.

The main effect of Bloody Sunday on nationalism in the South was to RECONCILE IT TO PARTITION.

— Irish Times, January 30, 2012, article "On Line" by Eamonn McCann. He listed the Irish Times account of demos at the British Embassy by factory workers, giving numbers participating. Letters of protest and placards at parades made "the most common demand was for British withdrawal from the North."

"After 25 years the Gardaí would still seem to be of the opinion that my mother's life didn't mean anything," he said.

The unfortunate thing for them is that my mother's life meant a lot – it meant a lot to me and my brother."

— Declan McGlinchey speaking to Conla Young, Irish News, Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

"My mother was under heavy surveillance on a daily basis, on an hourly basis and yet two gunmen were able to walk into our house, shoot her dead, get away and burn their car and never get questioned, let alone convicted."

— Declan McGlinchey.

"I wasn't in it [the bath] very long when I heard a loud bang and my mother looked out through the bathroom door and said 'not in front of my children'."

"At that they pushed her back into the bathroom, into the bath beside me, and murdered her."

— Declan McGlinchey, said the gunmen stared at him as he sat terrified in the bath before they went downstairs and out the door.

"The first man came to the driver's window while the second one went to the passenger side of the car," he said. He mentioned the police harassment and said he could make it stop, told me he'd make life better for my family.

"I told him I wasn't interested but he leant into the car, grabbed me and put a gun to my head saying: 'You've no option or we'll have you executed'."

— Declan McNally speaking with Alison Morris, Irish News, Wednesday, February 1, 2012. He has been constantly harassed by the RUC since last July when he was arrested, questioned and released in relation to the death of RUC member Ronan Kerr.

Dar le Míchéal S Mac Donnacha, urlabhraí, Chumann Múinteoirí Éireann, tá na tuismitheoirí, múinteoirí agus clubanna CLG [GAA] a bhéidh i mbun agóide inniu (taobh amuigh le Theach Laighean) ag súil go dtarraingeofar "na ciorraithe damanta atá déanta ar scoileanna beaga siar."

"Tá siad ag díriú ar ghrúpa áirithe scoileanna agus in ár dtuairim níl rud ar bith cithrom faoi," a dúirt sé.

— Foinse, Feabhra 1, 2012. Mar thoradh ar athruithe cáininséise, teastaíonn 83 dalta in áit 76 dalta ó scoileanna Gaeltachta chun an ceathrú múinteoir a fháil a choinneáil.

## British Police Cannot be Reformed

A chara

With regard to a letter in the national press lately, from a senior member of the Provisionals, I wish to clear up a few points for him, as it is obvious that he is not acquainted with the real facts of the present day situation in the six occupied counties of Ireland.

On January 28, 2007 Provisional Sinn Féin, at a specially convened Ard-Fheis announced its full acceptance of the PSNI, correct title, Police Service of Northern Ireland, (incorporating the Royal Ulster Constabulary, RUC.). This to be "shortened" to PSNI for operational purposes. Now, as nearly everyone knows, the RUC was a successor to the infamous RIC, and thereby hangs a tale, for when the St Andrew's Agreement was signed, everything was changed for the Nationalist people. They were deceived again, for the armed RUC/PSNI is an integral part of the British Forces of Occupation, just as the RIC was part of the British forces in their day. Add MI5 and the present occupation force is complete.

To say that the [RUC/PSNI or MI5 can be "reformed"] is nonsense. The British army in our country is an occupying force. An occupying force, of necessity, must have control of the police and the intelligence service (MI5). Moreover, an occupying force in any country seeks to reinforce their control by bribing and encouraging the natives of that country to join with them. The Six Occupied Counties of our country is a perfect example of this divide and conquer. Thus is the occupied country kept in place, for, without this support from paid functionaries and others, and even with the following list of armed force, based at Thiepval barracks, Lisburn, Palace Barracks, Holywood, Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinlar, the new HQ of MI5 at Holywood, and the PSNI armed

to the teeth, the occupying British army could not succeed in occupation of our country.

It naturally follows therefore, that this creates enormous tension amongst those of us, Irish Republicans, who are not supporting the occupying force but are indeed seeking to overthrow them, and get the peace and freedom to which we are entitled in our own country.

However, from the tone of the letter from the PSF member it is becoming clear that all is not well for them on the popular front, as those who voted for them are at last beginning to see the light, and realise that the elected MLAs purporting to be Republicans or democrats, are but tools of the British occupation forces, who are their minders and paymasters. So the call for "reform" of the RUC/PSNI and their opposition to MI5 is a badly thought-out smokescreen, about as plausible as a man standing on the shore calling on the tide to go out.

Finally, little does the letter writer realise that the ramification of his letter will be far-reaching, as it is now clear that the Republican voice is being heard loud and clear in Republican/nationalist heartlands.

So my New Year message to all your readers is rejoice! "The dawn is breaking on a new awakening."

SARAH MURPHY  
PRO, Republican Sinn Féin  
South Armagh

## Internment Still in Six Counties

A chara

Question: Has internment without trial vanished? Are Republicans no longer targeted for harassment by the RUC/PSNI? Is visa denial still part of the Irish equation? Is the situation in Maghaberry any different than that in the H-Blocks thirty years ago? Has it brought closure for the victims of the Dublin/Monaghan bombings or Bloody Sunday? Has British interference in Irish affairs ceased? Are we any closer to a united Ireland?



• *The more things change, the more they stay the same... Armed members of the RUC/PSNI in Belfast at a Twelfth of July protest (see letter on left).*

Essentially what I'm asking is what has been gained by the Good Friday (or Belfast, or Stormont) Agreement? The only real change in the pursuit of a united Ireland is that paramilitary Republicans as a body have been neutered and the Provos have been given a free pass for past deeds. Adams, McGuinness, Gerry Kelly et al -- but not Gerry McGeough or Marian Price or Martin Corey, who most certainly have not turned their backs on Ireland. But nothing has changed except that the Provos have prostrated themselves at the feet of the British lion offering Ireland as tribute (although as their usefulness wanes they may be served up to the beast as dinner soon enough). It is obvious that nothing has changed, at least not for the better.

It's time that Republicans everywhere completely and totally dismiss the [co-called] GFA. Reject an agreement that has served no good purpose, is adhered to only when it suits its benefactors, and has stolen decades of advances made by Republicanism. In 1969-70, Republicanism was a spent

force, powerless, weaponless, unable to defend the people from a foreign invader. But like the Phoenix rising from the ashes it was accomplished then, and although an even greater challenge today, it is a task that can be done. The selling out of Irish Republican aspirations by traitors is not a *fait accompli* by any means. Despite the feeling of disillusionment, of abandonment, of betrayal we can't walk away now. Not for Tone, not for Pearse, but for ourselves.

Níl sé níos mó fós,  
comrades, déanfaidh an  
streachailt dul ar aghaidh.  
GAIRE Ó DUBHSHLAINE  
Clan na Gael  
USA

## Poorer in Society Further Deprived

A chara

The decision of the Free State government to increase the minimum contribution towards rent for those in receipt of rent

supplement while placing no obligation on landlords to decrease their rents is a disgraceful act which could possibly result in people being forced onto the street.

It is not for the first time that those in receipt of rent supplement have been targeted to pay for the gambling habits of bankers and politicians. The minimum contribution for a single person in receipt of rent supplement rose from €13 per week in 2009 to €30 per week in 2012. This has happened while social welfare payments have been cut, VAT has been increased and heating cost have risen resulting in those in receipt of rent allowance having to survive on less income to make up the shortfall.

The worst part of the current changes are that the negotiations with the landlords over decreases in rent are being left totally to the person in receipt of rent supplement. The supplementary rent allowance is the State's means of getting around the fact that the State has not even come close to providing adequate numbers of social houses for the people of the State who are in turn forced to rely on renting from private landlords.

While the long-term solution to the housing situation in this country will not be solved by simply passing money from the people to private landlords, the current changes made to the rent supplement scheme will do nothing other than place those at the bottom of the economic ladder in a situation where they have to try negotiate a lower rent from a private landlord while having nothing to bargain

with. If the landlord refuses to lower their rent then it is the renter who suffers as they will no longer be able to afford to stay in the premises they are currently in.

The real solution to the housing situation in this country will only come about when we have a complete change of society. Article 6 of the draft charter of rights included in the ÉIRE NUA document states that "Every citizen has the right to education according to personal ability, the right to work, and the right to a standard of living worthy of a free human being. This right extends to food, housing and medical care, and to security against unemployment, illness, and disability." which would be a revolutionary change in how housing is dealt with in this country and for the first time will put housing as a right and not simply as a privilege for those who can afford it.

While it comes as no real surprise that the current Fine Gael/Labour coalition has chosen to target the poorer in society in this manner it should not be assumed for a minute that the opposition parties in Leinster House would do any different. Revolutionaries should not concern themselves with futile attempts to manipulate a system that was not designed with the people in mind, but rather should place their energies into bringing about an entire new system which has at its heart the people of this country. That system is ÉIRE NUA.

BRIAN KILCOMINS  
Galway

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.

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# Erwin Lensink and republican resistance in the Netherlands

**THE origins of the Orange tradition in Ireland go back to the Orange Royals of the Netherlands. The country is one of many European monarchies.**

It is one of the most racist, xenophobic and repressive countries in Europe. Little is known outside the Netherlands about the Dutch Republican Resistance against the oppressive monarchy. Supporters of Republican Sinn Féin in the Netherlands explain here the case of Dutch republican prisoner Erwin Lensink.

The Netherlands are known for their cheese, wind-mills, Orange soccer supporters, coffee-shops, Dykes, freedom and equality. That is not so anymore. Our country is now something out of Orwell's 1984. Fear, rage and hate are the main themes now.

With an extreme right-wing neo-liberal government and politicians such as Geert Wilders

of the xenophobic, right-wing Dutch Freedom Party, the political climate in the Netherlands could not be worse.

On September 21, 2010, the so-called Prince's Day, the Royal carriage was attacked. It was broadcast live on Dutch television. The man in question was and still is Erwin Lensink, the current Public Enemy Number One. He threw a small luminous element into the direction of the armoured carriage of the Royals. Nobody was hurt. Erwin was arrested. He said it was a planned act of resistance and not an act of madness.

His martyrdom started when his mother died under suspicious circumstances in Germany on May 28, 2008. Her car was burnt

out. Erwin was the main suspect. This is now used by the Dutch courts to make him a fool with mental problems and no human rights. After his mother's death Erwin became politically active on the internet, mainly against the Royals and in support of Dutch republicanism. He spent a lot of time researching the dark history of the Orange Royals in the Netherlands.

The first trial against Erwin was on March 15, 2011 in The Hague. He was accused of insult and GBH (general bodily harm). The treatment in prison compared to other prisoners is unreasonable and excessive. The trial can never be fair since in the Netherlands every judge and solicitor has to swear an oath to stay true and loyal to Beatrix van Amsberg (Orange) naming herself Queen of The Netherlands by the Grace of God.

As shown it's very hard to fight the Royals whom we call the Oranges. The Royals are above the law. But that does not say you cannot fight the monarchy. More than 200 years of Irish Republican Resistance is the proof of continued struggle and the example for Republicans in the Netherlands.

Erwin accused the Royals of those crimes: theft (Wetboek van Strafrecht article 310), high treason (Wetboek van Strafrecht article 92-107a) and fraud (Wetboek van Strafrecht article 326). Committed by those people: Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard Von Amsberg-Zur Lippe Biesterfeld (31-01-1938, Baarn). Willem Alexander Clause George Ferdinand Von Amsberg (27-04-1967, Utrecht). Maxima Von Amsberg-Zorregueta (27-05-1971, Buenos Aires).

The latter is the daughter of

the former Minister of Agriculture, Jorge Zorregueta, under the Videla Junta. Erwin explained, the claim of the crown by the Royal family is unlawful, illegal and unjust. They got all this by rude violation on citizens and human rights.

In World War II there was collusion between the Oranges and Hitler-Fascism. That's what concerns Erwin most. His family fought in the Dutch Resistance and in May 1940 his grandfather fought at the Grebbeberg Front, while the Royals ran away to England.

The German family of Prince Bernard Zum Lippe-Biesterfeld served in the German SS. The Royals were safe and sound in London, while more than 2,300 Dutch men and women lost their lives in the days of May, 1940.

The main media outlets have

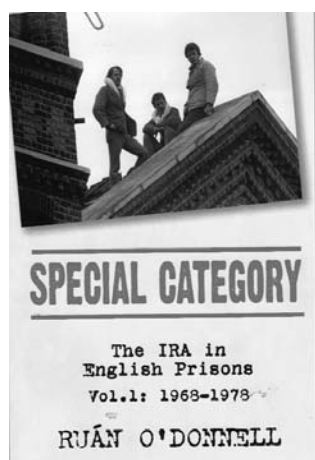
an unofficial ban on the case. Erwin refuses to take medicine because he says 'the pills are used to keep me away from my fight against the Queen'.

During all the time he is imprisoned, he is treated like a common criminal. He was kept in the High Security Prison, the EBI in Vught. The media call him a communist and even a National-Socialist, but his inspiration came from Dutch socialist resistance hero during WWII Gradus Kobus.

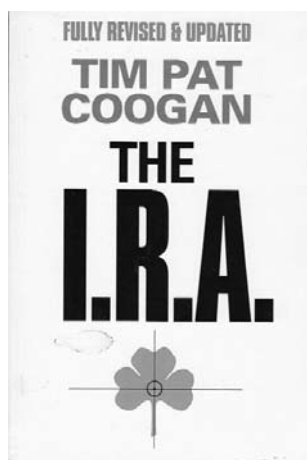
Erwin is still imprisoned. He was arrested in 2010 and for 482 days he is in solitary confinement. Erwin is supported by Dutch Republicans of the organisation *Pro Republica* (For the Republic). His address is: Erwin Lensink, Reg.nr. 2022645, PI Grave, locatie Oosterhoek, Postadres Postbus 79, 5360 AB – Grave, Netherlands.



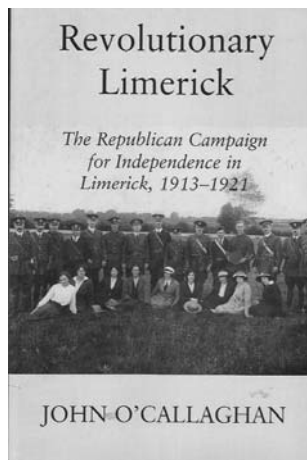
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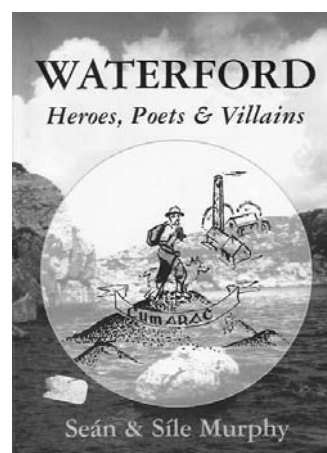
• **SPECIAL CATEGORY.** *The IRA in English Prisons. Vol. 1: 1968-1978* by Ruán O'Donnell. (506 pages) Signed copies at special price P/B €28.



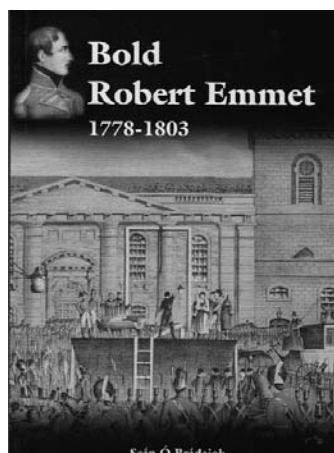
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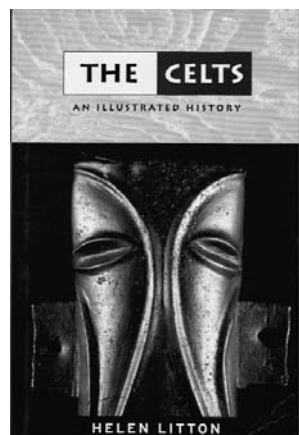
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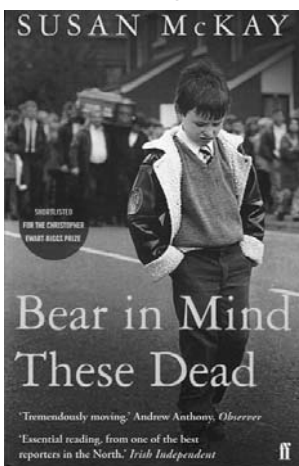
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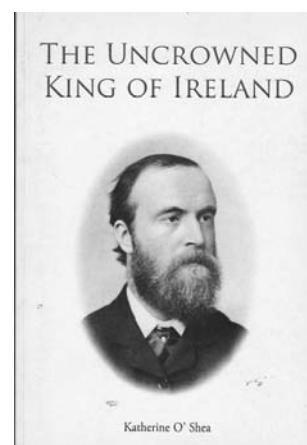
• *Bold Robert Emmet 1778-1803* (2003). Seán Ó Brádaigh €7.50.



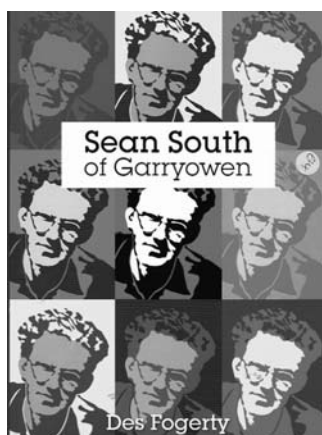
• *The Celts. An Illustrated History* (1997). Helen Litton. €8.90.



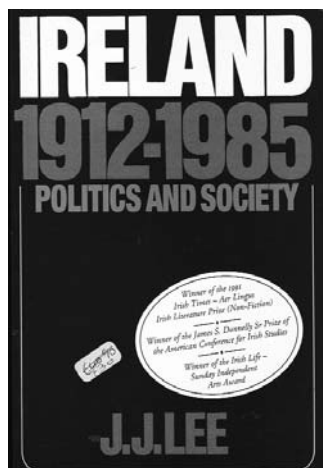
• *Bear in Mind these Dead* (republished 2009) Susan McKay €8.



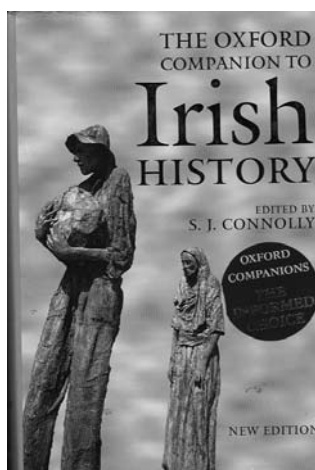
*The Uncrowned King of Ireland, Charles Stewart Parnell. His love story and political life. (republished 2005) Katherine O'Shea (Mrs Charles Stewart Parnell) €7.99.*



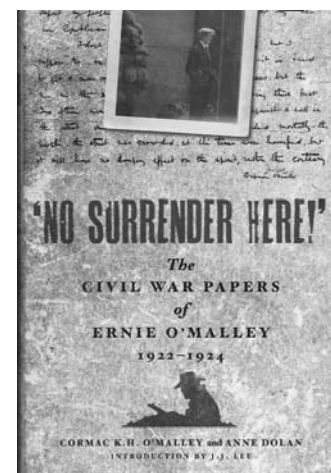
• *Sean South of Garryowen* (2006). Des Fogerty €24.



• *Ireland 1912-1985 Politics and Society* (1989). JJ Lee. Was €40, Now €30.



• *The Oxford Companion to Irish History* (republished 2002). Edited by SJ Connolly. Was €39.50, Now €29.



• *No Surrender Here! The Civil War papers of Ernie O'Malley 1922-1924* (2007). Cormac K H O'Malley and Anne Dolan, introduced by JJ Lee. €50.

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# HAUGHEY'S ARMS 'AMNESTY' FLOPS

## 50 Years Ago

IN the first week of February 1962, the 26-County Minister for Justice, Charles Haughey, announced a two-month period of amnesty for possession of arms, ammunition and explosives.

**The Irish Independent** of February 3 said: "No proceedings will be taken and no questions asked about any arms, ammunition or explosives voluntarily surrendered between now and March 31.

"The Minister hoped the amnesty would be widely availed of and appealed to all those who were in a position to advise or influence those concerned to use their best endeavours in this regard."

The response of IRA GHQ was to issue to all units reminding Volunteers of General Army Order No 11. This forbade any seizure of arms and indicated the penalty for doing so.

In view of the destruction of large quantities of arms, ammo and explosives by the Provisionals at the behest of the British and Dublin governments in recent years it is appropriate to quote once more the terms of that General Order.

"General Order No 11 (Deals with the seizure of arms and dumps which are under Army Control.)

"Any Volunteer who seizes or is a party to the seizure of arms, ammunition or explosives which are being held under Army Control, shall be deemed guilty of treachery. A duly-constituted court-martial shall try all cases.

"Penalty for breach of this order: DEATH.  
"Note. As in all other cases of the death penalty, sentence must be ratified by the Army Council."

Those responsible for the voluntary destruction of materials in recent times are clearly in breach of GO No 11. They themselves implemented this Order during their time of hostilities with the British forces of occupation. Where then do subsequent actions leave them in all justice?

To return to 1962 and Haughey's offer of a two-months period of arms amnesty. The *Sunday Review* of February 4 reported:

"Meanwhile, there has been little or no response to the arms amnesty announced by the Minister for Justice, Mr Charles Haughey, in Dublin on Friday night [February 2].

"Of over 40 garda stations in Dublin and the country contacted by the *Sunday Review* yesterday, only ONE reported any response to the Minister's appeal.

"This was College Station, Dublin, where it was stated that a 'few rounds' of ammunition had been handed in early yesterday morning.

"However, it was pointed out that it was a bit early yet to enable anyone to gauge reaction to the amnesty."

The *Irish Times* of a few days later [February 6] said: "Although police stations in Dublin and surrounding areas yesterday were unable to confirm that there had been any substantial surrender of arms or ammunition, it is felt that this is no indication that the Minister's appeal will go unanswered."

Yes, calling a spade a spade, the *Times* described what was called for as a "surrender of arms".

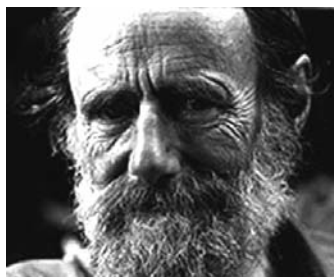
The *Times* continued in an attempt to excuse the failure of the "amnesty": "It is realised that people possessing arms illegally may wish to go immediately to the police, but as the amnesty continues until the end of March, there is every opportunity for them to do so without fear of official action."

In fact, nothing more was heard of Haughey's amnesty. No glowing reports of surrendered material, no photographs in the newspapers.

As for the Army, the IRA Volunteers stood still in disciplined fashion. No surrender of arms.

The example of 1923 and of 1945 was followed. "A more favourable day would be awaited" was the general feeling. This was the honourable stance taken by the Irish Republican Army in 1962. Does it not compare with great integrity when viewed against the shame and "treachery" (to quote General Order No 11) of recent years?

To move on to seven years later, in the autumn



• Lord Kilbracken. He renounced his British citizenship following Bloody Sunday in 1972.

of 1970, Charlie Haughey was charged with attempting to import arms illegally. Earlier he had been dismissed as Minister for Finance.

Of course he appeared before an ordinary court, with judge and jury. And he was acquitted. No question arose of a military court in a military barracks with 26-County army officers without legal training as judge and jury.

The lay tribunal was reserved for Republicans, not ex-Cabinet Ministers. Haughey would pose thereafter as a friend of the Six-County nationalists in struggle, but it was all about political power in Dublin.

When he became head of government there, he was not slow to introduce political extradition to England and to the occupied Six Counties.

But those who remembered 1961-62 and the Military Court in Collins Barracks were never deceived. They knew Charlie Haughey from his record – and it was not a good one.

In 1962, January or February, he called in the editors of the Dublin daily, evening and Sunday newspapers and demanded their support for him against the Resistance Campaign in the occupied area.

He wanted their backing against that "evil campaign". That was his description of the freedom struggle in 1962. By their fruits you shall know them... Charlie Haughey's record was clear to all who bothered to look it up.

The same *Sunday Review* of February 4 also reported: "The Northern Ireland (sic) government is throwing a radar 'net' along many miles of rugged Border country. Radar posts are being erected at strategic points to pick out potential raiders crossing into the North.

"British army engineers are erecting several of these posts in Co Fermanagh between Garrison and Belcoo. The new radar posts will be manned by [British] army personnel.

"They will be brought to beam on desolate tracts of countryside and lakes, where any suspicious movement during early morning darkness will be investigated.

"Anyone crossing the Border in the area will be picked up on the screens, and an alert radioed to security forces (sic). The [British] army engineers are working in cooperation with Special RUC Border patrols.

"It is understood that it is planned to set up similar posts along the Tyrone and Armagh Border areas.

Note: The Garrison-Belcoo area had been the scene of several armed raids. Only last November, two [Royal Mail] Post office vans were attacked and set on fire at Tullyrosmeam.

On Saturday night, February 3, there was an attempted escape from Mountjoy jail by three Republican prisoners. They were Michael MacEldowney, Slaughtneil, Maghera, Co Derry (serving eight years); Patrick Ryan, Ballinamona, Hospital, Co Limerick and Cathal Goulding, St Enda's Drive, Rathfarnham, Dublin (both doing six months).

The *Irish Independent* of February 5 stated that "the men bound and gagged a warder and cut through the bars of a window before being discovered as they tried to scale an inner prison wall.

"Thirty-one political prisoners, confined in a separate wing of the prison, were holding their weekly Saturday meeting in the prison when the break-out attempt was made.

Special Branch men and Gardai with 'walkie-talkie' apparatus ringed the prison immediately the escape alarm was sounded. Others took up positions in pill boxes and other points inside the prison."

Outside the prison, the Army Council had met again as arranged. Soundings had been taken by all members (since the normal January meeting) regarding the military campaign.

The result was as expected. It was felt that the Campaign should be ended. The Council members were unanimous in taking the same view as was reached at their earlier meeting.

This time the deliberations did not last as long as at the previous gathering. GHQ was authorised to implement the decision carefully and to draw up a comprehensive statement for release to the media. The statement was to be presented to another special Council meeting for minute examination before being published.

But first the extraordinary Army Executive meeting was to be held and reported on to the Army Council. All twelve members of the Executive were present at the meeting. They were shocked at the Council decision.

Two members in particular greeted it with consternation. They were Eoin Goff, a Dublin solicitor and Tommy McDermott, OC of the South Roscommon Unit and a Veteran of the Black-and-Tan and Free State wars who was among the last internees to be released from the Curragh Concentration Camp in 1945.

Tommy, as a member of the London Battalion, had marched in Lord Mayor MacSwiney's funeral through the city in 1920. But when the facts of the situation, including the five points of the Overall Plan from 1948, were put before the meeting, a reasoned discussion took place.

Desperate action was advocated but was abandoned. Finally the Council decision was accepted and endorsed with a caveat that the Campaign be resumed as soon as possible.

**Everyone agreed with that including the Council representatives who were present. It would, of course, be included in the public statement to be issued. And, it was taken for granted, the arms would be safeguarded. The honour of the IRA would be upheld.**

It was a long and critical meeting but in the end everyone was satisfied with the outcome. The next step was the drafting of the press release which was done by the Chief-of-Staff who had consulted widely before putting pen to paper.

The statement was gone through with a fine tooth comb by the Council. It was agreed that it was no longer the work of one person but the responsibility of the entire Council.

On February 5 a Special Army Order was issued to all active service units and to all units in the occupied area. The Campaign began in December 1956 was to end, all arms and other material were to be securely dumped – they would be needed again – and all full-time active service Volunteers were to be withdrawn. Local units in the occupied area would secure their personnel and munitions.

In some cases GHQ Staff officers attended the unit meeting, read the instructions and answered questions. Absolute silence was to be observed until the press release was put out. This would be given the widest possible circulation.

From February 5 to the 26th of the month the strictest silence was maintained and copies of the statement were smuggled into Belfast and Mountjoy prisons in advance.

Thus Republican prisoners in A-Wing, Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast and Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, had the full press release read to them before lock-up on February 26. The first news of the termination of the campaign came directly to the prisoners from GHQ itself. This advance notice greatly raised morale in both prisons for the Republicans.

It was not possible to reach the two prisoners in England, Joe Doyle of Bray, Co Wicklow and Donal Murphy of Dublin. The full text was carried on the March edition, front page, of *An tEireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*.

The March edition of SAOIRSE, fifty years later, will carry the entire statement in the 50 Years Ago series. It has often been misquoted since 1962 and so it is necessary that the full text be put on the record once more in the Voice of the Republican Movement.

Then, on February 5 another important matter was raised which necessitated inclusion in the forthcoming statement. Micheál Ó Móráin, Minister for Lands at Leinster House caused a stir by advocating membership of NATO by the 26-County State. He was speaking at a dinner in his constituency at Claremorris, Co Mayo.

The *Irish Times* Political Correspondent on February 6 said: "The prospect of Irish (sic) participation in NATO – which would effectively end both our formal military neutrality and our independent stand at the United Nations in New York – has been brought nearer by the speech made by the Minister for Lands.

"In theory, membership of NATO may not be a condition precedent to membership of the EEC, but it is crystal clear from what Mr Ó Móráin said that the Government is prepared and preparing to join the North Atlantic Alliance.

"It was recalled [in Dublin last night] that when Ireland was invited to join NATO in 1949, the Government refused on the ground that membership would involve the acceptance of the then boundaries of member States. For Ireland, it was held, this would involve the *de facto* recognition of Northern Ireland (sic)."

Ó Móráin's words as reported in the *Irish Times* of February 6 were: "It would be unrealistic to ignore the fact, he said, that all members of the European Economic Community were members of NATO [in 1962] and that the policy of neutrality in the present world division was never envisaged by our people. 'Neutrality is not a policy to which we would even wish to appear committed,' he said.

"We have, I believe, a full part to play in this day and age in the integration and development of a United States of Europe, and towards this end it may be necessary for us to share any political decision or the common good."

He did not put a tooth in it!

The reaction was interesting. James Dillon, leader of Fine Gael and Liam Cosgrave TD in effect supported Ó Móráin, as did Senator Eoin Ryan of Fianna Fáil and Senator Patrick Quinlan of University College Cork.

John de Courcy Ireland, Conor Cruise O'Brien and Brendan Corish, leader of the Labour Party, came out in opposition immediately as did Seán Mac Bride SC, leader of Clann na Poblachta. Prionsias Mac Aonghusa called on Frank Aiken to resign from the 26-County government and lead an anti-NATO movement in Leinster House and in "the country". Aiken did not respond.

A lengthy letter to the editor of the *Irish Times* on February 12 opposed the NATO move. It was signed by Michael Mullen, TD, Seán Keating, RHA, Anthony Farrington, Barry Desmond, Rex Cathcart, Anthony Coughlan and Noel Browne, TD.

Leading articles in the Dublin daily papers prevaricated on the issue. Then on February 10, the *Irish Independent* carried a statement from Micheál Ó Móráin backed down and said his speech had been "misinterpreted".

He was replying to Press inquiries for a comment on Corish's Limerick opposition address to his Claremorris outburst.

Ó Móráin's kite-flying had turned out to be a fiasco, just as had Haughey's arms "amnesty".

In 1970 during the "arms crisis", Mr Ó Móráin resigned as Minister for Justice. Just like Haughey, he had wobbled all over the place in pursuit of the Fianna Fáil leadership sought by Lemass's son-in-law.

The chairman of Gael Linn, Dónall Ó Móráin, speaking at a symposium in Limerick on February 11 said that those who have failed to make an impact on public opinion with other arguments against the language movement were now using the Common Market as their latest weapon.

"They say that in future we must learn Continental languages instead of Irish, but they forget that a bilingual primary school programme is universally accepted by educationalists as the best basis for foreign language teaching at higher grade schools."

At the same symposium entitled "Irish in our Educational System", Micheál Mac Carthaigh, Uachtarán, Conradh na Gaeilge, said that with the exception of University College, Galway, Irish had been denied the prestige it had a natural right to in the Irish universities.

"Not alone were lectures not given in Irish, but Irish did not enjoy a status higher than that of a foreign language. There was no evidence that the university authorities believed in the Irish revival, said Micheál Mac Carthaigh (*Irish Times*, February 12). The *Irish Independent* of February 13 quoted from the *London Times* under the heading "Diluting a Guarantee":

Continued on page 15.



# Beannachtaí

GET well wishes to Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and John O'Connor. From Michael Logan and Pat McDonnell, Midland and North-west comrades, England.

# A democracy or a disgrace?

HERE in Ireland Hitler's former buddies (Fine Gael, aka Cumann na nGaedheal, aka give us artillery and we'll fight the Republicans in the Four Courts) want to do away with the right to vote for anyone but them.

(Up North Adams and the LIGs brought in a Catch 22 law to disbar from standing for election all but those who promise NEVER to fight for ANYTHING EVER! As you might expect membership of their group has increased exponentially ever since!) The failed Statelets north and south in Ireland have finally attained their "rightful place among the nations of the earth" (but, I doubt if the fairest flower of all would want

his epitaph written). Ireland is now officially a bankrupt state both financially and morally.

As Gilmore and the Old Brigade support prison torturers coming from Libya for treatment and Kenny uses the withdrawal method to divorce himself from the Catholic Church Adams and his Dad's Army call for a referendum on "Unity". One suspects that the days of voting on anything are numbered here in Ireland. It is interesting that this call comes at a time when the likelihood of a YES vote is purely a matter of hope (Bob Hope and no hope).

The Senate? Useless and out of date — especially when the Staters discover that it has the power to make them have a

referendum of the people on whether to borrow PAPER fiat illusionary currency to pay off crooks so that they can purchase physical real estate such as Ireland's electric, communications and forestry assets.

Soon after this they will inevitably devalue the currency only they themselves have placed a value on but then at that time they [German and French financiers] will own Irish power and communication companies for EVER! Ah, now how powerless the poor wee feckers up in Leinster House, paddling ever further out of their depth, must feel. Easy to see why they pick on the church, the disabled, pensioners and anyone else

whom they think can't fight back.

LOCAL councils? Not needed, especially when all the money gathered through household charges, water charges and other taxes will be going directly out of the country to foreign parts. Police and military not needed, see in a crisis the EU — Germany, France and Britain (as it did in Libya and would like to do in Syria) will come here to "defend democracy too".

As their country bleeds the Free State government plans new fines and taxes against its populace with fervent gusto. While countries like Greece, Iceland and England face up to bullying and intimidation this

bunch of misfits band together like shipwrecked rats around a floating coconut (or maybe like cowards around the one cojone they share between them!)

Everyday we have become accustomed to the "Coalition" stating: "We know it is wrong but this is the legacy the previous government left us". That of course smacks of the Nuremberg Defence. At those trials both military and government figures bleated "When we killed 70,000 disabled people *we were just following orders*". When we impoverished minorities in countries all over Europe "*we were just following order*". The list goes on.

This bunch of gutless misfits should take note. The Nuremberg

Defence was not accepted. People who know the difference between right and wrong have a LEGAL and a MORAL duty to defend the weak and the disadvantaged. The people of this island will find a word to describe those in power now and their families will have to live with the collective shame when that word is spoken beside those of Black-and-Tan, Gombeen and Informer.

DID I tell you a plane crashed somewhere, a train jumped the rails and it's very cold somewhere else. Jaysus aren't we lucky after all!

— Mac Cool

## Kevin Coen remembered in Sligo

ON Sunday, January 22, 2012, Republicans from all over Connacht and further a field gathered at Sooy Cemetery in Sligo for the annual Kevin Coen commemoration.

The assembled crowd formed up behind a colour party and marched to the grave of Volunteer Coen.

The commemoration was chaired by veteran Republican, ex-internee and POW Dan Hoban from Mayo. In his opening address he said that he was "very privileged and honoured to chair this ceremony as Kevin Coen was a special friend of mine and I served time in prison with him. He was a dedicated Republican who had only one thing on his mind when he paid the supreme sacrifice and that was the freedom of his country. Also today we honour a great Republican family, the McGoldricks of Riverstown. Seán McGoldrick, who gave a

lifetime to the Republican Movement, his son and his wife Teresa are also buried here."

A decade of the Rosary was recited by Val Harden. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Tom Cull from Arigna and on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin by Mick Cullen from Bundoran. Dan then introduced the main speaker for the event Republican Sinn Féin Galway County Councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin to give the main oration.

"Friends and Republicans we may be small in numbers but we are here as the true standard-bearers. We stand up for what our predecessors did and what Kevin Coen did when he gave his life on



• Kevin Coen

January 20, 1975 at Cassidy's Cross in County Fermanagh. He fought for the all-Ireland Republic, a Republic that has not yet been achieved but some day it will. It may not come in some of our time but there are younger people here who

may see it in their lifetime.

"There were, and are, talks of freedom in every country in the world - yet not one ounce of talk about our Six Occupied Counties or our rights, which are the rights of the people who stood up against the British for the last 840 years since they first set foot on Irish soil in 1169 not 1969 as you would be led believe by some.

"I am glad to see here present today Joe O'Neill who always mentioned that his father said of all the defeats we ever had, from the first great uprising of 1798 right through to the Tan War of 1920, all the defeats we had we were together but after 1922 we saw the division of the Irish people and executions carried out by successive Free State administrators.

"As a member of Galway County council for the last number of years I can see at local level where people who

get elected to the Council turn their back on Republicanism. You have to psyche yourself and you have to say to yourself that you will be the same person coming out from that meeting as you were going in and never to forget what you were put there for - the rights of the people who elected you.

"Kevin Coen gave his life for such things. People who slept in dugouts and in hills and fought; I never was in the hills, I don't know would I be of that calibre but I have to admire them, the people who went out and left the comfort of their home and took on the might of the British empire; you would have to admire them and they did so with one thing in mind - unpaid, unmoved to get rid of Imperialism and to build a new Ireland for the people of Ireland like the people who went out in 1916 did for us.

"I couldn't go without

mentioning the current situation that in Dublin, on Wednesday, saw a protest outside Leinster House. Connemara against septic tank charges are organising a rally on these charges, ie septic tanks, water rates and household charges, taking everything away from the ordinary people. We had a meeting in Bart Gormley's town of Tuam last Friday night - I'm glad to see Bart here as well - and we decided Connemara against septic tank charges will be having a rally at Leinster House. It isn't known yet where we will start off but we would appreciate support from everyone from all counties because it just doesn't concern Connemara, it concerns all of rural Ireland and I mean all 32 Counties of Ireland."

Dan Hoban then brought the commemoration to a close and thanked all those who attended.

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