



POWs BEGIN PROTEST

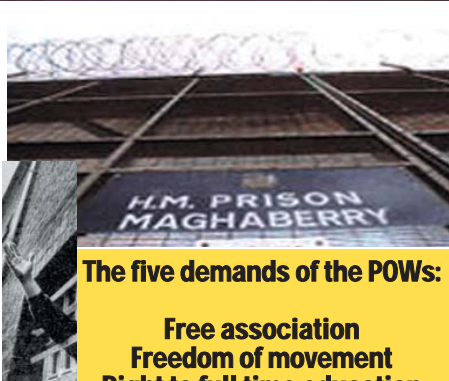
TWENTY-FIVE years after the deaths of Bobby Sands and his nine comrades in the H Blocks of Long Kesh Republican prisoners are once again forced to take on the British government because of their refusal to accept their right to political status.

The struggle in which Republican prisoners in Maghaberry prison, Co Antrim are engaged in is neither a recent phenomenon nor are the issues confined to the treatment meted out to political prisoners.

Since 1917 twenty-two Irish Republican prisoners have died on hunger strike to establish the right to political

status. The Brits over the years have attempted to criminalise the entire struggle for Irish freedom. They have used the denial of political status as a tool. In 2006 the issues at stake are no different.

In 1998 with the signing of the Stormont Agreement, the rights re-established by the deaths of the ten H Block



The five demands of the POWs:

- Free association**
- Freedom of movement**
- Right to full time education**
- Separate visiting facility**
- Right to organise their own landing**

Hunger Strikers in 1981 were wiped out with the stroke of a pen. The hypocrisy of those who negotiated and support the Stormont Agreement 'commemorating' the sacrifice of the hunger strikers and their comrades in Armagh women's prison is galling in the extreme.

By their action they are complicit in the British government's policy of criminalising the prisoners and the ongoing fight for a free Ireland. On this page the prisoners through their OC outline their reasons for stepping up their prison protest.

The harsh prison regime, which is described on page 5, is designed to break the spirit

into this escalation of their prison protest.

The demands of the prisoners are just and must be supported by all who believe in justice and democracy in Ireland. We call on people to

join the campaign for the restoration of political status and stop the latest attempt by the Brits to brand "Ireland's fight 800 years of crime."

Statement from OC, CIRA POWs, Maghaberry

"We, the Republican POWs, call on all nationalist and Republican people in Ireland and abroad to support us in our upcoming protest for better conditions and the restoration of political status. In 2003 we embarked on a protest for segregation, this battle was won and segregation was introduced in September of that year. At that time the Brits asked for a period of transition and conditions would then improve. These terms were accepted reluctantly by Republicans.

"However as in 1980 when our comrades in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh ended their first hunger-strike, we have found that the Brits are still incapable of honouring their promises. As a result we again find ourselves in the unfortunate position of having to embark on a prolonged protest. This has come about as a direct result of the intransigence of the Brits in seeking a policy of criminalisation. We hereby state that we as Republican POWs will no longer co-operate with nor accept the policies and regime imposed on us by Brit puppets.

"We have outlined our five demands. The protest which we now embark upon will not end until our demands are met. We will take whatever steps are necessary in order to improve the conditions not alone for ourselves, but also for those who may come behind us. I would therefore like to call on all Republican bodies, all politicians to back us in our plight. We have exhausted all avenues open to us. We gave the Brits the transition period required by them and still they refuse to accept that we are not criminals. We would ask everyone to support us by supporting our representatives on white-line pickets and leaflet hand-outs taking to the streets and demand that the Brits and their prison service sort this out once and for all."

On the same day the POW campaign group, the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG), said that: "Political status has been denied to Republican POWs since the implementation of the Stormont Agreement and as a result conditions, both for POWs and their families and visitors, have worsened considerably."



Successful Belfast launch of Ó Brádaigh biography

THE Belfast launch of the biography of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh by Robert W White took place in the Conway Mill on June 3, 2006.

A full house heard Fr Des Wilson, Geraldine Taylor and the subject of the book, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, deliver addresses.

A large number of books were sold and Ó Brádaigh signed these as well as many books which had already been purchased and were bought in to be inscribed.

Des Wilson spoke favourably about the book and went on to mention "how thrilled we were at the thought of that round table conference in which we would, with dignity, put our solutions on the table and none would be so dominant as to outlaw the rest".

"Removing London from all control of our affairs was economically, morally, socially, politically right.

"And the idea of ÉIRE NUA, a federation of four real, undamaged provinces, with the possible healing of the damage

done to the North-East, and the healing of the neglected West of Ireland being implicit in the new Irish union...you can see why so many of us were thrilled at that idea.

"Those of us who looked upon the unionists as potential friends rather than as perpetual opponents were pleased. So were those who realised that discrimination and refusal of development were poisoned chalice offered not just by unionists to the North-East, they were being offered by

those as well, especially to the people of the West.

"I personally look forward to the day when we will have that round table conference – when all our solutions will be on the table and when the dignity and freedom of all of us in Ireland will be secured for centuries to come. A great ideal.

"Our thanks to Ruairí Ó Brádaigh for the good he has achieved through the difficult years and to Robert for making such a fascinating and brilliant recital of what it all meant."

Protest at visit of British warship

Republican Sinn Féin held a protest on Thursday June 29 at the Famine Memorial in the Financial Centre in Dublin's Docklands at the visit of the British naval vessel *Ocean*.

A follow-up statement said that RSF "view such visits as part of the normalisation of British rule in Ireland. As we have pointed out in the past, visits by British heads of State, her representatives or the British military will never be welcome in Ireland as long as Britain claims jurisdiction in any part of the country. This claim, enforced by military might, ensures that whilst it is maintained, relations between the two countries cannot be normal.

"Republican Sinn Féin members were present to press home the point that the presence of a British naval vessel is not welcome in Dublin as long as part of the country remains under

British occupation.

"Just as we oppose the use of Irish airspace and landing facilities at Shannon by US torture and war planes, we also oppose Britain's role in the illegal occupation of Iraq."

Approximately 300 anti-war protestors marched two miles from Dublin city centre to Dublin port on June 29 to protest at the docking of the British warship HMS Ocean.

The warship carried 300 royal marines and 400 air crew during the second Gulf war.

It was involved in the helicopter assault during the early stages of Operation Telic. Operation Telic is the British



military codename of its involvement in the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

In 2003 her commanding officer, Captain Chris Clayton, said she had made a 'vital effort in securing southern Iraq', "HMS Ocean was a major component of the assault on southern Iraq and particularly the Al Faw peninsula in those first three days." The oil rich Al Faw peninsula witnessed some of the fiercest fighting in the early days of the invasion.

It is estimated that over 100,000 people have died in Iraq since the US/British invasion in early 2003. The ship was also involved in the war in Afghanistan in 2002.

The 26-County administration defended the visit, with minister for state Noel Treacy saying that the visit does not mean the government was "endorsing" British involvement in the Iraq war.

• 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>



I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin

Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm

Seoladh

Tel: Age (if under 21)

Send to:
Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-872 9747; Facs: 01-872 9757.

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie
<http://rsf.ie>

or contact your local paper seller for details

JOIN REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN



For a full British withdrawal from Ireland

OUR AIMS

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

OUR HISTORY

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

Gearrscéalta

Raids and arrests in Co Fermanagh

IN a statement on June 19 Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Republican Sinn Féin, said:

"A local member of the Ard-Chomhairle of Republican Sinn Féin was arrested and taken to Antrim police barracks when the RUC/PSNI conducted a series of raids on homes in Co Fermanagh on Monday morning, June 19.

"The man arrested is Michael Lavelle of Donagh, Lisnaskea, who was held with his wife and son in 2003 on charges which later collapsed but not before he had spent nine months in prison on remand. In his case the members of his family were all put out on the street while the house was minutely searched. Later in the day his son was also arrested when he arrived home from work.

"In another case in the Lisnaskea area, the man of the house had already left for work and the family were all herded into one room while the house was ransacked. No supervision of the raid was permitted in either case. Seized were a computer and all documents and papers dealing with family finances and the finances of the business in which the man of the house is engaged.

"In both of these cases the family solicitor has been engaged and is attending to the matter. Republican Sinn Féin regards this raiding and arresting as gratuitous harassment. The name of the RUC may have changed but otherwise these aspects of British rule remain the same."

Call for CS gas spray to be withdrawn

A CALL for CS spray to be withdrawn from the RUC/PSNI was made on June 14 after a Belfast newspaper discovered that it was being used on members of the public on average once every day in the Six Counties.

Figures obtained on June 15, showed that between April 2005 and March 2006 CS spray was used by the RUC/PSNI on members of the public 412 times.

The debilitating gas causes its victims to experience streaming eyes, burning sensations on the face, and blurred vision. In some cases victims complain of blistering, swelling, and skin inflammation.

The British Policing Board gave its backing to the RUC's use of the spray in 2003. At the time human rights groups and nationalist politicians objected.

Paul O'Connor, from the Pat Finucane Centre, said his organisation has long-standing concerns about the use of CS spray.

McGee puts his finger on it!

At the Roscommon launch on May 23 of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's biography, Eugene McGee made a central point:

"Most people will be all too aware of the splits which developed between Sinn Féin, north and south over the past 30 years. There are numerous reasons attributed by various people for what happened but perhaps comment on page 266 of the book gets to the kernel of the problem.

"In the Republican Movement the ideal member offers service to the cause and expects nothing in return. Self-promoters and people who seek power are suspect."

"People like Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, based on what we learn throughout this book, always lived up to that ideal member status. Perhaps others were swayed away from that ideal by the attraction of power and that is why we have two very different Sinn Féins today," McGee said.

Council target of nationalist demo

NATIONALISTS protested outside the offices of a majority loyalist council in County Antrim on June 6. Up to 30 protesters gathered at the offices of Ballymena Borough Council to demand an end to sectarianism in the town. The protest took place less than a month after nationalist teenager Michael McIlveen was murdered in the town. The 15-year-old was beaten by a loyalist mob as he made his way home from a night out and died later in hospital.

Results of Dublin raffle

JUNE Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 182; 2nd prize 160; 3rd prize 430; 4th prize 293; 5th prize 137; 6th prize 051; 7th prize 363; 8th prize 483.

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Gearrscéalta

Nationalist man forced to flee home by loyalists

A NATIONALIST man claimed on June 8 he is unable to return to his Co Antrim home after he was chased by a pair of machete-wielding loyalists.

Ciarán Magill said he was forced to flee Ballymena on June 4 after being chased through the town's Dunvale estate by two loyalists carrying machetes.

The 19-year-old said he had been targeted because he was a nationalist and had been wearing a Celtic soccer jersey when the incident took place.

"I was wearing a Celtic top. They came out an entry and shouted at me to come to them and then started to chase after me. I believe they were both loyalists as I knew one of them.

"One of the men chasing me was hit by a lump of timber by someone standing in an entry. I don't know who did that.

"Everybody is very mindful of what happened to Michael McIlveen. Every Catholic, nationalist and republican is keeping their heads down in Ballymena because they are scared of what the loyalists will do next. I used to live in Ballymena but left because of attacks."

Sectarian attack in Antrim

ON June 10 a 26-year-old man and a 17-year-old boy, both nationalists, were assaulted as they were hosting a barbecue at around 11pm on June 9 in an area known as "The Donkey Field", near the New Park estate in Antrim. Both people suffered injuries which were not thought to be life-threatening. The 17-year-old suffered puncture wounds, though it is not known what weapon was used in the attack

Nationalist family forced out

IT was reported on June 28 that sectarian strife in Derry had caused a nationalist family to leave their home after their daughter was attacked by a gang of loyalist youths.

The latest incident follows a decision by the RUC/PSNI to lock a gate on the city's historic walls after a spate of sectarian attacks along an interface near Derry's city centre.

The Hegarty family from the Clooney area of the Waterside said that they would move from the area after the 14-year-old was chased and punched by a 30-strong mob of loyalist youths. Catherine Hegarty, the mother of the girl, said that the attack on her daughter was watched by many people.

In the latest incident a 38-year-old nationalist man suffered a broken arm after he was attacked with a baseball bat during the early hours of Saturday. Another man sustained a fractured skull during an attack on the same evening.

Trouble at Orange parade in Co Antrim

TWO people were injured and four others arrested during trouble at a mini-Twelfth parade in Glengormley, County Antrim as the parade passed the Church Crescent in Carrmonee on June 27. Four people have appeared in court in Belfast in relation to the disturbances. An 18-year-old man was charged with disorderly behaviour and resisting police and released to attend court next month. A 19-year-old was remanded in custody and two juveniles appeared at hearing on June 28 in connection with the trouble.

Inquest into UDA murder victim

AN inquest into the death of a nationalist man murdered by the UDA opened in Lisburn, Co Antrim on June 20, 2006. James Laurence McMahon was beaten by three masked men armed with baseball bats in November 21, 2003 and he died the following day from his injuries. James McMahon had been drinking with friends in the town centre and when they saw the masked men approaching they ran away. But the men chased after them and hit McMahon over the head. His friends managed to escape and went for help. No one has been charged with his murder.

Rumours surround probe of collusion

SPECULATION has been rife in recent months that a British police ombudsman investigation into loyalist murders has found "explosive and damning" evidence linking Mark Haddock to at least a dozen killings.

There are strong suggestions that Nuala O'Loan's report – expected to be published within weeks – has found that Haddock was involved in the murders while acting as an informer for the RUC Special Branch.

The report, which has been billed as the most extensive since the Omagh bombing investigation, is expected to implicate six RUC Special Branch members in the cover-up of more than a dozen murders.

Special Branch harassment on the increase

OVER the last number of years the level of attention directed at members of the Republican Movement by the special branch has increased considerably. The attitude of the special branch towards Republicans is increasingly aggressive and hostile.

The laws and acts quoted by the special branch for the 'stop, question and search' has widened and so increasingly many Republicans are being searched under the new drugs laws.

While it is generally young males who are being stopped and searched under the new drugs act it is not exclusively so. Republican Sinn Féin have received reports from various parts of the country from young men of harassment of this kind. Verbal and indeed physical abuse usually accompany the search. For this search, under the drugs law, to be legal the gardaí must have a reasonable suspicion that the person is in some way 'connected' to illegal drugs.

However all Republicans should be aware that this power is being abused on a daily basis. Some of our members have been approached by members of the gardaí because 'they look suspicious' and have

had their cars searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

The special branch know that the young men have no connection with the illegal drugs trade but it is the only way they can justify stopping and searching them on the street. However we know there is no justification in this – it is just harassment, pure and simple. This abuse of power by the gardaí is nothing new and no doubt it will continue – despite the revelations of misconduct by the gardaí emerging from the Morris Tribunal.

(In next month's SAOIRSE we hope to publish relevant parts of the Misuse of Drugs Act and we hope to follow on with the questioning and searching of a minor).

Republican Sinn Féin, Dublin, hold a monthly picket at the GPO for the restoration of political status to Republican prisoners in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim. Not a month goes

by but some member or supporter is stopped by the special branch under Section 30 Offences Against the State Act. They proceed to ask name, address and date of birth. Members and supporters should be aware that you are not obliged to give your date of birth if you are over 18.

And then they go on to a body search which involves removing the person's mobile phone from their pockets, and on a regular basis they keep them. (They seem to have a special fondness for mobiles, they have more phone in barracks around the city than Vodafone have in their shops). This is illegal. Nor do the gardaí have the power to arbitrarily stop, question, or search you never mind removing your phone or documents.

The following is from Section 30 OAS Act: A member of the Garda Síochána (if he is not in uniform on production of his identification card if demanded) may without warrant stop, search, interrogate, and arrest any person whom he suspects of having committed or being about to commit or bring or

having been concerned in the commission of an offence under any section or subsection of this act...

In other words he cannot stop and search you just because you have been to a picket at the GPO.

Also when a person is arrested once on suspicion of an offence (ie membership) under Section 30 and released without charge, the person shall not be arrested again for the same offence without a warrant issued by a District Judge.

After the June picket at the GPO, a member of Republican Sinn Féin was stopped by the Special Branch. When the Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin asked under what section he was being searched she was told to "Piss off" and given the two fingers by the Branchman. She and the other Vice-President continued to ask under what section of the OAS Act he was operating he refused to answer all questions and became more and more aggressive.

We ask all our members to log all harassment with Head Office where a file is kept on such incidents.

Sligo honours Joe McDonnell

Republican Sin Féin held a 25th anniversary commemoration at the "Maid of Éireann" 1798 Memorial in the centre of Sligo town in honour of hunger striker Joe McDonnell on July 1, 2006.

Amongst those present were Joe's sisters Máire and Eilish and brother Paul who travelled from Belfast for the occasion. They were warmly received by those in attendance.

Joe McDonnell stood as an anti-H Block candidate in Sligo-Leitrim in the 26-County general election of June 1981. He polled more than 5,000 votes and narrowly missed being elected.

A month later on July 8 he

died having fasted for Ireland for 61 days.

Con Darcy, Sligo presided at the ceremony. Val Harran, Sligo led the attendance in a decade of the Rosary. Adrian Haire, Mayo, read the Roll of Honour of the 22 Irish republicans who died on hunger strike from 1917 to 1981.

Joe O'Neill, Bundoran gave the oration and was loudly applauded. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach read the message from

the O/C Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry Prison, Co Antrim who are now on protest for political status.

Leaflets from the Republican Prisoners Action Group highlighting the situation in Maghaberry jail and outlining the deplorable conditions of the prisoners were distributed through the town centre before, during and after the ceremony.

Ocean FM local radio reporter Niall Delaney was present throughout and recorded interviews with the McDonnell family, Joe O'Neill and Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.

Edentubber monument vandalised

AS we go to press it has been reported by local Republicans that the monument to the five Edentubber martyrs, killed in an explosion in Edentubber Co Louth in 1957 has been vandalised.

It is believed the monument was vandalised on the night/morning of June 30/July 1.

The top of the Celtic Cross was removed and all rubble cleaned up. The identity of those responsible for the vandalism is still not clear.

Limerick City Hall picketed

ON June 24 a picket was placed on Limerick City Hall by members of the Limerick Republican Graves Committee, calling on Limerick City Council to sanction repair work to the Manchester Martyrs Monument in Mount St Laurence Cemetery in the city.

The picket was led by Joe Lynch who said that despite the persistent and best efforts of the committee, they have not so far been given an assurance that refurbishment of the monument will be sanctioned.

"The aim of our committee is to record and identify all Republican graves in the city and county and to provide a service that would help people overseas to trace their Republican ancestors," Joe Lynch said.

"We feel it is now time to put our work on a formal basis and we've set up a local committee to carry out the necessary research."

"Our plans include the setting up of an information campaign at home and overseas as well as the use of a special website to make contact with people living in other countries as we feel that in this year of the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising, our Republican tradition should not be airbrushed from history."



SINN FÉIN POBLACHTACH

National Private Members

DRAW

1ú Duais: Two 2007 All-Ireland tickets (1 hurling & 1 football) plus €500 spending money

2ú Duais: €500

3ú Duais: €300

4ú Duais: Framed picture, 1916 Martyrs

5ú Duais: Bodhrán

Donations: €2 / st€1 or €10 / st€5 for book of six

Draw will take place at Ard-Fheis in Dublin, November 2006

For The Record

MON. JUNE 5: Banks in the 26-Counties have agreed to contribute €25 million to a new government fund to help voluntary groups develop community-based projects and facilities.

Representatives of the Orange Order, the Royal Black Institution and the Independent Orange Order held talks with Catholic Primate Dr Seán Brady.

TUES. JUNE 6: A man and a woman were released after being questioned by the RUC/PSNI about the Loughinisland, Co Down pub bombing by the UDA in 1994 in which six nationalist men were killed.

WED. JUNE 7: The Council of Europe accused 14 member states of "intentional or grossly negligent collusion" in allowing the United States to set up a "global spider's web of secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers" for those suspected of 'terrorism'.

Emily Logan, 26-County Ombudsman for Children told a UN committee in Geneva that the State's treatment of separated children seeking asylum is in breach of UN and European conventions on children's rights.

The parties in Stormont again failed to agree on who should chair the 'Programme-for-Government' committee.

Twenty members of the RUC/PSNI, covering all ranks from constable to chief superintendent and attached to the special unit to tackle serious crime, were reported to be under internal investigation.

Amnesty International called for an independent inquiry in British government involvement in secret rendition flights by the CIA.

THURS. JUNE 8: Stiofán Ó Dálaigh, POW Maghaberry, was granted leave to apply for a judicial review of the consequences of positive identification by sniffer dogs at Maghaberry prison.

FRI. JUNE 9: Reg Empey rejected calls from Sylvia Hermon MP to cut links with David Irvine's Progressive Unionist Party because of its links with the UVF.

Peter Hain, British Secretary of State in the Six Occupied Counties, won his appeal over the appointment of two Orangemen to the Parades Commission. He can now reappoint David Burrows and Don McKay.

SAT. JUNE 10: Three detainees, two Saudis and one from Yemen, were found dead in Guantanamo Detention Centre in Cuba. Former detainees at the camp say they 'are not surprised given the treatment of the detainees and that conditions make suicide inevitable'.

Talks between employers, unions and the 26-County administration continued on the new 26-County national partnership programme.

The Stormont Assembly's Preparation for Government Committee met following intervention by Peter Hain, the British Secretary for the Six Occupied Counties.

SUN. JUNE 11: A prisoner, held in 'inhuman conditions' in a holding cell in Mountjoy prison, Dublin lost his application for costs in the High Court. He was moved to Clover Hill prison before the case could go ahead. Judge Elizabeth Dunne refused the application because he, Jonathan Duffy, Tallaght, Dublin 'was never in a position where the authorities intended to leave him there'.

MON. JUNE 12: Ulster Unionist Councillor Peter Bowles defected to the Conservatives in protest at David Irvine joining his party. David Irvine is a member of the Progressive Unionist Party which is associated with the UVF.

Jim Wells, DUP and the Francie Molloy of the Provos will chair the 'Preparation for Government' Committee, set up to get the Stormont assembly functioning again.

Conditions in Mountjoy prison 'are poor and far from ideal' according to the Governor John Lonergan. The prison is infested with mice and cockroaches.

The Simon Community launched its strategic plan Ending Homelessness, Creating Homes.

TUES. JUNE 13: The US admitted that it transported a prisoner – a US marine – through Shannon Airport in handcuffs without permission from the 26-County administration. Stephen Moffat, Fife, a member of the UDA, was jailed for five years at the High Court, Edinburgh, for holding an automatic pistol and ammunition.



• **Union Jack flags flying in Articlave village in Co Derry. An elderly couple had their car burned out on June 28 after they complained that a loyalist flag had been erected outside their door.**

Karl Rove, a White House top aide, will not now face charges in the investigation into a leaking of a CIA officer's identity to the press.

An estimated 30,000 children and 70,000 are in makeshift camps in and around Dili to escape fighting in the streets of the East Timor capital.

Charles Haughey, former Taoiseach in the 26 Counties, died at his home in Kinsealy, Dublin.

THURS. JUNE 15: The relatives of the six men murdered in a UDA gun attack in 1994 held a press conference demanding answers as to why vital evidence was destroyed by the RUC. No one was ever charged with the attack.

FRI. JUNE 16: Vincent Kelly, Ballybough, Dublin was found guilty of membership of an illegal organisation at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin.

SUN. JUNE 18: The Catalan referendum returned a majority yes vote in the elections to grant more autonomy to the region.

MON. JUNE 19: Nora Faulkner was awarded €1,000 after the Equality Tribunal found she had been discriminated against because she was a Traveller. The award was made against St Ita's and St Joseph's Schools in Tralee, Co Kerry.

Gordon Browne, British chancellor of the exchequer endorsed Blair's policy on the Six Occupied Counties during a visit there.

Three US soldiers were charged with the murder of three detainees north of Baghdad on May 9 and then threatening to kill a fellow soldier if he told the truth about the incident.

Ken Barrett who convicted of the murder of Pat Finucane but secured early release, claimed that the RUC/PSNI have not provided him with proper protection after a newspaper tracked him down to a seaside town in southern England.

Lieut Col Nigel Wyld, a former military intelligence officer, said that it was generally accepted amongst agents that Britain had made itself complicit in the US practice of extraordinary rendition flights.

A man who protested at the continuing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi was detained in the city of Rangoon on her birthday. Aung San Suu Kyi has spent the last 10 years under house arrest behind barricades.

TUES. JUNE 20: Taoiseach Bertie Ahern criticised the British Government for not holding a full public inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane.

The inquest opened in Lisburn into the murder of a nationalist man, James McMahon, by the UDA in 2003.

Nuala O'Loan, RUC Ombudsman in the Six Occupied Counties, criticised the Parades Commission and the RUC/PSNI for their handling of a loyalist march in Lurgan, Co Armagh on July 13, 2004.

The RUC/PSNI claim that explosives and a handgun were found during searches in the Fermanagh and Armagh areas.

The Relatives For Justice group has criticized the RUC/PSNI for refusing to reveal how much money they pay their agents and informers.

Littelfuse, an electronics manufacturing plant in Dundalk, Co Louth is to close with the loss of 134 jobs.

Meath Co Council is to seek over €6 million from Shell over a fuel leak which halted construction work on the new civic offices at Trim, Co Meath.

The INLA offered a one-week amnesty to

informers after they uncovered an RUC/PSNI agent in Co Derry. The agent, a 51-year-old man confessed to being an informer for the last year. He admitted to organising attacks on Orange halls on instructions from his handler.

A report by John Simpson, the commissioner for judicial appointments found that the process for appointing members of the judiciary in the Six Occupied Counties is inadequate.

The film *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* was premiered in Cork. The film deals with the period of the Black and Tans in Ireland.

WED. JUNE 21: Human rights campaigner Monsignor Denis Faul died in hospital in Dublin.

The RUC/PSNI were granted extra time of up to 48 hours to question six people arrested in Fermanagh and Armagh last Monday.

Rioting continued in East Timor as pressure continues for Mari Alkatiri to resign.

Members of the McKevitt and Sands families held a press conference in Dublin to highlight the collusion between the Brits, the Free State and the US in the framing of Michael McKevitt. The press conference was addressed by Fr Des Wilson, Mon Raymond Murray and Fr McVeigh and was chaired by Noelle Ryan. It was also attended by members of the Relatives for Justice Group (based in Belfast). A booklet was handed out and details are on a new website www.michaelmckevitt.com

SAT. JUNE 24: Over 500 people attended a protest march in Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh over the proposed closure of the Fern Food plant.

A Latvian man was injured in a racist attack in Lisburn, Co Antrim sustaining injuries to his head and eye.

Paul McCaugherty, Beech Court, Lurgan, Co Antrim was charged at a special sitting of Craigavon Court with six charges including conspiracy to murder members of the British Crown Forces and possession of firearms and explosives.

The Conference of Religious in Ireland gave its backing to new social partnership agreement, Towards 2016 and said its implementation would make Ireland a fairer society.

SUN. JUNE 25: Gardaí in Galway destroyed 97 red balloons that the Galway Alliance Against War were carrying as a symbol of their opposition to the presence of RAF Helicopters in a protest at the Salthill airshow. Over 500 protestors turned up for the protest.

A Lithuanian man was injured in a racist attack in Castledawson, Co Derry. His house was also set on fire.

In Carrickfergus, Co Antrim Polish nationals were uninjured in a racist attack on their home. An oil tank was set on fire at the back of the house.

MON. JUNE 26: The RUC/PSNI is continuing with its extradition proceedings against Larry Zaltschek, now in the US, in relation to the break-in at Castlereagh barracks in 2002.

Peter Carragher, Spokesperson for the South Armagh Farmers and Residents' Committee, was awarded undisclosed damages after the RUC/PSNI agreed to an out of court settlement after he had lodged a claim for compensation when he was beaten up in Crossmaglen barracks in April 2002. His legal team advised him to accept the settlement as he had little chance of success in the court.

The POWs in Maghaberry prison issued a statement outlining the second phase of their ongoing fight for political status (carried in full in this issue of SAOIRSE).

A hunger strike mural near Maghera, Co Derry was attacked for the third time since May. In the latest attack the mural was petrol and paint bombed and flags were removed. An attempt was also made to burn a recently erected road sign in Irish. During last month the RUC/PSNI uncovered a cache of petrol bombs and paint bombs hidden in a ditch close to the mural.

The European Union (EU) called on all nations to sign a global anti-torture resolution. They called the practice of torture 'inhuman and degrading'.

Six of the 26-County top 400 earners paid no tax at all in 2005 while workers on the average industrial wage of around €2,000 paid six percent of all income tax.

TUES. JUNE 27: The personal data of thousands of Irish citizens that have sent or received money transfers to and from the US has been covertly logged by the CIA.

Martin O'Rourke, Blanchardstown, Dublin pleaded guilty at the Special non-jury Court to the possession of an improvised bomb on the M50 West-link toll bridge last December. He will be sentenced on June 11.

WED. JUNE 28: Paddy Murray, Antrim, was awarded a four-figure sum against the RUC/PSNI after he was illegally detained last year.

Vincent Kelly, Ballybough, Dublin who was found guilty of membership of an illegal organisation earlier in the month was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Turkish base construction company Gama is to get an additional 15 million euro on top of the original fixed price contract for work on the Ennis by-pass.

THURS. JUNE 29: Bertie Ahern, 26-County Taoiseach and Tony Blair, British Prime Minister, met in Belfast for talks and issued a joint statement afterwards.

Union Jacks and loyalists flags were erected in Articlave village, Co Derry. An elderly nationalist couple who complained about the flags had their car burned out.

Protests took place as the British navy's largest warship HMS Ocean docked in Dublin port for three days.

FRI. JUNE 30: Tension continues to rise in Lurgan, Co Armagh over bunting and flags erected to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. Locals claim that the RUC/PSNI aided loyalists in the erection of the flags.

The Parades Commission in the Occupied Six Counties placed a ban on the Orange order preventing them from marching down the Garvaghy Road, Portadown, Co Armagh on Drumree Sunday. The Orange parade is also banned from entering Stonebridge Meadows and Beeches estates after a series of sectarian attacks in recent years.

In Dunloy the parade is restricted and on the Ormeau Road the parade is rerouted away from the nationalist section of lower Ormeau. The parade in Whiterock is allowed along a nationalist section of the Springfield Road but the return route is banned. No decision has yet been made on the two parades in Ardoyne.

Five US soldiers are being investigated for allegedly raping a young woman, then killing her and three members of her family in Iraq.

SAT. JULY 1: The charity Trócaire turned down an invitation to attend ceremonies at the British war ship HMV Ocean, docked in Dublin until today.

SUN. JULY 2: The Main Street in Bellaghy, Co Derry was closed for several hours after a suspect device was found outside the home of a nationalist family.

A Derry man was hospitalised after he was attacked in the early hours of the morning. Jim Norris was attacked as he walked along Ferryquay Street. He had several stitches inserted in his head and ear.

A man was seriously injured in an assault in near the junction of Water Street, Bridge Street and Buttercrain Quay in Newry. He is in a critical condition in hospital.

A man is in a serious condition in hospital after he was assaulted in Castlemara Crescent, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim.

MON. JULY 3: Land which was taken from farmers in Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton (South Armagh) by the British army over 30 years ago will not now be returned to them at the end of this month as had been agreed. Instead the RUC/PSNI intend to take over the land - through a 'vesting order' if the farmers refuse to sell.

Leading Irish poet Paul Muldoon joined the ranks of campaigners fighting to prevent the M3 motorway going through the Hill of Tara.

The trial of a Garda detective, John White began for the illegal possession of a gun.

Fight British criminalisation of Republican POWs

ON June 19 in Maghaberry Jail, Co Antrim, Republican POWs began a protest, the first in a series of phased protests, making it clear that they will not accept the sub-standard conditions on the segregated wing and that they would not be criminalised, intimidated or coerced by the petty restrictions being imposed by prison screws to make the day-to-day life in the jail for POWs more difficult.

A statement, released from the OC, CIRA POWs, Maghaberry, on that day read:

"We, the Republican POWs, call on all nationalist and Republican people in Ireland and abroad to support us in our upcoming protest for better conditions and the restoration of political status. In 2003 we embarked on a protest for segregation, this battle was won and segregation was introduced in September of that year. At that time the Brits asked for a period of transition and conditions would then improve. These terms were accepted reluctantly by Republicans.

"However as in 1980 when our comrades in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh ended their first hunger-strike, we have found that the Brits are still incapable of honouring their promises. As a result we again find ourselves in the unfortunate position of having to embark on a prolonged protest. This has come about as a direct result of the intransigence of the Brits in seeking a policy of criminalisation. We hereby state that we as Republican POWs will no longer co-operate with nor accept the policies and regime imposed on us by Brit puppets.

"We have outlined our five demands. The protest which we now embark upon will not end until our demands are met. We will take whatever steps are necessary in order to improve the conditions not alone for ourselves, but also for those who may come behind us. I would therefore like to call on all Republican bodies, all politicians to back us in our plight. We have exhausted all avenues open to us. We gave the Brits the transition period required by them and still they refuse to accept that we are not criminals. We would ask everyone to support us by supporting our representatives on white-line pickets and leaflet hand-outs taking to the streets and demand that the Brits and their prison service sort this out once and for all."

On the same day the POW campaign group, the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG), said that: "Political status has been denied to Republican POWs since the implementation of the Stormont Agreement and as a result conditions, both for POWs and their families and visitors, have worsened considerably."

The RPAG was formed to highlight the conditions endured by the POWs and have met with the Human Rights Commission who accepted that their concerns were justified.

Issues of contention between the POWs and the British Prison Service include controlled movement which

severely restricts contact between the POWs; the daily regime of between 18 and 23-hour lock-down; continual searching of cells and body searches; and the use of the drugs dog to control/deny visits and punish prisoners returning from parole.

The late Monsignor Faul, at the request of the RPAG, visited the Officer Commanding (OC) of the POWs and issued a report strongly criticising the regime and the conditions in which the men are forced to live. In October 2005 the British Inspectorate for Prisons issued a report which was also critical of a number of practices within the segregated regime in Maghaberry and yet the British Prison Service have done nothing to address these concerns, the statement said and continued: "The RPAG contributed a submission to the consultation process for the Separated Regime Review conducted by the British Prison Service. In their reply the British Prison Service failed to address any of the issues in a productive way."

The five demands of the POWs are:

- Free association
- Freedom of movement
- Right to full time education
- Separate visiting facility
- Right to organise their own landing

VISITING CONDITIONS

When limited segregation was first introduced the British Prison Service agreed to build separate accommodation for visits. This has not been done and is not on the agenda.

In October 2005 the following procedures were introduced for visits:

1. Visitor shows photographic ID
2. Visitor gives fingerprint
3. Visitor stands against a wall and has their photograph taken
4. Visitor scans themselves (by their fingerprint)
5. Visitor passes the 'sniffer dog'.

At the time the RPAG issued a statement outlining the safety concerns in relation to this process and the very real danger of this information being passed to loyalists. More recently the father of a POW has been prevented from visiting his son because he does not own photographic ID (He has neither a passport or driving licence).

RSF SUPPORT

In a statement on June 20 Republican Sinn Féin declared its support for the protest action of the Republican prisoners.

The statement said: "In this

25th anniversary year of the H-Block hunger strike, the British government must not be allowed to go back down the road of attempting to criminalise Republicans while they treat them in an inhumane manner.

"In addition to between 21

AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The POWs are not allowed either free association or freedom of movement resulting from the 'controlled movement' policy enforced on the segregated landings. This policy prevents any more than



Republican Prisoners' Action Group

Support the demands of Republican POWs in Maghaberry!

1981

- Right to refrain from prison work
- Right to wear their own clothes
- Right to Free Association
- Visit, parcel and letter each week
- Regain lost remission

2006

- Right to Education
- End to Controlled Movement
- Right to Free Association
- Right to safe & secure visits
- Right to organise own landings

The political status won by the Hunger Strikers in '81 has been removed by Good Friday Agreement!

Republican Prisoners will never be Criminalised

The struggle for political status continues!

Published by RPAG: 229, Falls Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim
Tel: (028) 90219004

and 23 hour lock-up on alternate days there are constant strip searches. Prisoners are made to choose between daily exercise and education. They are denied facilities to enable them to organise their own education.

"The prisoners seek the right to free association on their own landings and an end to 'controlled movement'. They are abused by the use of sniffer dogs to harass their visitors and themselves.

"Safe and secure visits are denied, family visitors are exposed to loyalist visitors and the prisoners themselves are exposed to loyalists while going to and from legal visits.

"Since Republican prisoners secured separation from loyalist and ordinary prisoners some years ago, they have been targeted for special reduced conditions. The mistakes of the past must not be repeated in 2006."

DRUGS DOG

Screws have been allowed to misuse their control of the prison dog to prevent visits between the POW and their visitors. Once the dog sits down beside a visitor, only a closed visit is on offer because the screws claim that the visitor has been in contact with drugs — no visitor has been found to have drugs in their possession.

The drugs dog is further used to punish POWs returning from parole. This has happened on a few occasions and the POW was sent to the punishment block for 48 hours.

FREE ASSOCIATION

Prison Protest and 22 of them took part in a 24-hour fast on June 28 in solidarity with their comrades in Maghaberry. They have indicated that this will continue each week for the foreseeable future and in a statement issued from Portlaoise have called for support for the POWs in Maghaberry in their fight to win back political status.

On June 27 more prisoners joined the protest and support for their demands is growing. Since the announcement of the protest, messages of support have been received from groups and individuals across Ireland, Europe and the World.

One such statement of support came from EMGANN. On June 26 the Breton left independence group sent support to the Irish Republican POWs jailed in Maghaberry currently on protest.

Spokesperson Yannig Laporte, said: "Like them and the Republican Movement, we ask that the British government stop harassing Republican prisoners and stop the 21 and 23 hours lock-up in their cells. They should have the right to daily exercise and education, and should be separated from loyalists.

"Several people, in Brittany and other countries, remember Bobby Sands and his comrades' struggle, and can't understand that Irish POWs still suffer under hard prison regimes. It's no time to criminalise the Republican movement, it's time for political status, it's time for self-determination!

"We ask people in solidarity with the Irish Republican cause to send protest letters to the British Embassy in France, 35 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 75383 Paris or phone 01 44 51 31 00."

On June 29 the RPAG on behalf of the protesting POWs called on elements of the print and broadcast media to end their self-censorship of the Republican prison protest at Maghaberry jail. A special broadcast on Radio Ulster on June 28 from Magilligan Prison, Co Derry, about prison issues failed to even refer to the prison protest and numerous individuals, including Tony McPhillips of the RPAG, were refused air time.

"But Ministers, the Prison Ombudsman, numerous prison officers and ordinary prisoners were all permitted to express their views on the programme. The RPAG calls on all sections of the media to end their silence and begin publishing the daily human rights abuses of Republican prisoners that continue at Maghaberry jail."

RSF BELFAST SUPPORT

In a statement on June 28 Geraldine Taylor, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast said that in 2006 Irish Republicans were still incarcerated for their political beliefs.

"In 1981 they were political prisoners and now in 2006 they are political prisoners. Political

status is a right not a privilege.

"We like to call on all ex-prisoners' group to come out and show their support for all political prisoners who are on protest in Maghaberry Concentration Camp.

"We ask them to join in white-line pickets and any other protest organised by the Republican Prisoners Action Group and Republican Sinn Féin."

APPEAL FROM OC, REPUBLICAN PRISONERS, MAGHABERRY

"To the people of Ireland and abroad. I, as the OC of the CIRA POWs in Maghaberry concentration camp, would like to appeal to you for your support.

"As you are no doubt already aware Republican POWs have yet again been forced into a position of protest. Since the introduction of segregation in 2003 we have endured a policy of bigotry and sectarianism directed towards us from the British prison service.

"We have remained disciplined against all the odds in the belief rightly or wrongly that pressure from external groups would ensure change within this prison camp. To date however this has failed. All visitors to this camp have recognised and indeed stated that we are facing human rights abuses on a daily basis and indeed this camp has been likened to Auschwitz concentration camp.

"We as stated above remained disciplined in the face of adversity but we have exhausted all avenues available to us and now we have reached the end of the road where we feel that a form of protest is the only way forward.

"We have been locked up for up to 23 hours per day, we have no freedom of movement or association, no access to decent handicraft facilities nor full-time education.

"We are subjected to strip searches which are meant only to degrade us as at no time has any contraband been found.

"The British Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and prison service would have the people believe that they are under enormous pressure in order to hold us. They would also like you to believe through their recent reports that they are doing everything possible to ensure change. This is not the case.

"They failed to tell you that the cosmetic changes they are to introduce were in fact the very thing we have complained about for two years. They also failed to mention that external pressure was also bearing down on them.

"They have only in recent weeks abandoned one rub-down search but have recently built a strip-search facility. This strip-search facility has taken precedent over the new education block but that is no surprise.

"Family and friends of Republican POWs have routinely been forced to go

Cá bhfuil an náire?

CÉN uair nach dtugtar an téarma *breab* ar ghníomh áirithe? D'éile ach nuair is alpán é (nó "íocaíocht", dar leis an *Irish Times*, mar *payments*, Meith. 22 '06).

Faoin *Mahon Tribunal* atáim: *Monarch properties regarded payments to politicians as a necessary evil, which were part of the culture of the times*, dar le Anne Gosling, a bhíodh ina rúnai ag fear bunaithe an chomhlachta, Phil Monahan, nach maireann: *"Requests for support were never refused."*

Ach mar sin féin, "*Monahan would not have wanted to be associated ... with corrupt payments or bribery ...*", creid nó ná creid!

Le tamall, tá fiosrú ar bun ag an mBíne Breithimh maidir le líomhaintí faoi cheannacht agus breabaireacht a chuirtear i leith 69 polaiteoirí, a fuair íocaíocht mhór ó Mhonarch

sna '90aidí, agus Gort na Silíní (Cherrywood), Co BhÁC, á "fhorbairt".

Cé go bhfuil Phil Monahan marbh, ní chuireann sin deireadh leis na bhfaoin (nó do rogha téarma eile), agus d'éirigh le Anne Gosling cabhair éigin a thabhairt don Bhíne.

Ar dtús, agus í faoi cheistiú, níor féad sí cuimhneamh faoi ainmneacha na polaiteoirí a fuair íocaíocht ón gcomhlacht, ach amháin Liam Lawlor. Ach tugadh athspás agus athcáid id an lóin an lán sin le go n-oibreodh an chuimhne níos fearr agus, nuair a d'fhail sí ar an mBíne, d'éirigh léi liosta fada a chur i láthair an bhreithimh, bail ó Dhia uirthi.

OBAIR DUNLOP

Ar na daoine is mó agus is minicí a luaitear, maidir le *híocaíocht* a thabhairt do pholaiteoirí, tá Frank Dunlop, a bhí tráth ag obair do Fhianna Fáil. Arís agus arís eile, d'admhaigh sé go raibh sé fostaithe ag Monarch le hairgead a thabhairt do lucht polaitíochta le go ndéanfaíds comhoibriú le pleananna an chomhlachta sa gceantar úd, Gort na Silíní.

Is ar an tuiscint gur duine ionraic é an té a fhaigheann ár vótaí sna toghcháin a oibríonn an daonlathas, nó cuid de, ar a laghad. Bítear ag súil go gcaithfí amach é a luaithe is a chruthófaí ina choinne go raibh sé ag glacadh le breabanna ó fhorbairteoirí (nó eile).

Bítear ag súil, chomh maith, go gcaithfeadh sé seal sa briosún mar íocaíocht ar a mhímhacántacht. Agus dá mba ball de pháirtí polaitiúil é, bhí an nós ann go gcuirfí faoi fhionraíocht é a luaithe is a chuirfí mímhacántacht ina leith, as bheith ag glacadh le breabanna, *inter alia*.

Ach an amhlaidh atá an córas sin beo a thuilleadh? An amhlaidh atá an pholaitíocht

lofa go smíor in áiteanna agus go forleathan? Níor airigh mé go raibh fiosrú ar bith bunaithe ag ceann ar bith de na páirtithe atá smeartha ag na meáin toisc cuid dá gcuid ball a bhfaoin amhras mór as ucht a bhfuil ag teacht amach ón mBíne úd (agus bail ó Dhia orthu siúd atá i gceannas ann).

REÁBHLÓID FF

Cén chaoi a mhothaíonn an gnáthpholaiteoir faoi na cúrsaí seo? Ní chuirfeadh sé a dhath d'iontas orm go bhfuil na tuairiscí údaí i measc na gcúiseanna a d'éirigh na cúlhinseoirí i bhFianna Fáil amach in éadan an rialtais le déanaí, agus iad ag bagairt ar Bheirtí. Ar ndóigh, áit a bhfuil náire tá grásta!

Bhíodh sé á rá uair ag Máirtín Ó Cadhain, an scríbhneoir mór nach maireann, gur ba chuma a dhona is a bhíodh Fine Gael ó am go chéile nach mbíodh náire ariamh ar a gcuid ball, ach a mhalairt ab ea an nós a bhí ag Fianna Fáil. B'amhlaidh go gcuirfeadh náire isteach go mór orthu, agus go gcuirfidís cúrsaí i gceart gan a thuilleadh moille. Féach anois mar atá Fianna Fáil, Dia linn!

KYOTO SÁRAITHE

Ábhar eile atá ag déanamh tinnis dom le fada is ea an chaoi a bhfuil an stát Éireannach seo ag teacht salach ar Chonradh Cíteótó, ar ár gcuid dualgas maidir le haire a thabhairt don timpeallacht.

Nuair a glacann muid le coinníollacha áirithe idirnáisiunta, cén fáth in ainm Dé nach bhfuil muid sásta a bheith ionraic fúthu? Cén fáth na sínithe bréagacha? Agus féach go bhfuil fineáil i gceist mar thoradh ar ár mí-ionracas, fineáil a chaithfeas gar saoránach a bheith thíos léi ar ball.

Bealtaine 16 i mbliana a foilsíodh an tuairisc a scaoil an tAontas Eorpach leis cúpla lá roimhe sin, maidir le tíortha gur theip orthu cloí leis an gconradh a bhí sínithe acu faoin timpeallacht. San AE tá 25 stát páirteach, ach sé cinn díobh sin a loic ar a ndualgas, mar atá a leanas: An Ostair, Éire, An Iodáil, An tSloivéid, agus an Bhreatain.

Fíú deachtóir an domhain, an tUachtarán Bush, tá sé sásta faoi dheireadh thiar a admháil go raibh ciall leis an méid a bhí

ag cur síos ar an gcuachas timpeallachta ina bhfuil muid, mura ndéantar sáriarracht le cúrsaí a athrú. Is ea, dúirt Bush gur chreid sé anois go raibh an domhan ag éirí níos teo. Nó ró-teo?

An ndúiseodh duine éigin bhur mBeirtí, in ainm dFís Dé?

TRÉAS EILE

Ligeann ár máistrí orthu féin ó am go chéile go dteastaíonn uathu nach bhfaigheadh an Ghaeilge bás; agus le fada an lá, beagán ar bheagán, sin díreach an cuspóir atá acu.

An gclár atá os a gcomhair tá gach buntáiste a bhí ag an teanga ó 1921 ar aghaidh á bhaint di. Cén fáth go mbeadh fonn ar dhuine ar bith an teanga a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid nuair nach raibh bua praiticiúil ar bith ag baint léi, ach grá agus meas pearsanta?

Céard é an plan is nuaf in éadan na Gaeilge? D'éile ach deireadh a chur le riachtanas na Gaeilge sa Gharda. Thart faoi 40 bliain ó shin chuir Fine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre deireadh le riachtanas na Gaeilge sa státseirbhís ... nach rí-shoiléir atá an patrún?

— Deasún Breatnach

without seeing their loved ones for weeks on end on the say so of the drugs dog and his handler. Republican prisoners have to endure cell searches in which we are abused verbally stand naked in front of screws face ridicule and sectarianism property destroyed, photographs of loved ones defaced and thrown on the ground, pictures of hunger strikers removed on political grounds. The conditions thrust upon us are a throw back to the 1970s.

"The Prison Officers Association (POA) and screws believe that because we are small in numbers that they can claw back what they lost in the 80s. We hereby state that we will resist at all cost, we will no longer allow the Brits to continue with the criminalisation policy.

"We as Republican POWs have at no time stated that we want a return to the H Blocks. This terminology is one adopted by the POA. The POA crawl out of the woodwork at times of trouble and cry looking for extra money. At no time have I heard any constructive remarks from these fools who purport to speak for 'their' officers.

"As of June 26 Republican POWs have been refusing to eat all meals in their cells. We have also withdrawn all co-operation from a system which seeks to criminalise us further. The struggle in which we are presently engaged is one which has been embarked on for generations. Republican POWs throughout Irish history have endured much suffering in order to retain or restore Political Status. Today is no different.

"The number of Republican prisoners although small, still believe that they too have the inalienable right to political status, to be treated as Prisoners of War. These men, mostly young and most with young wives and children at

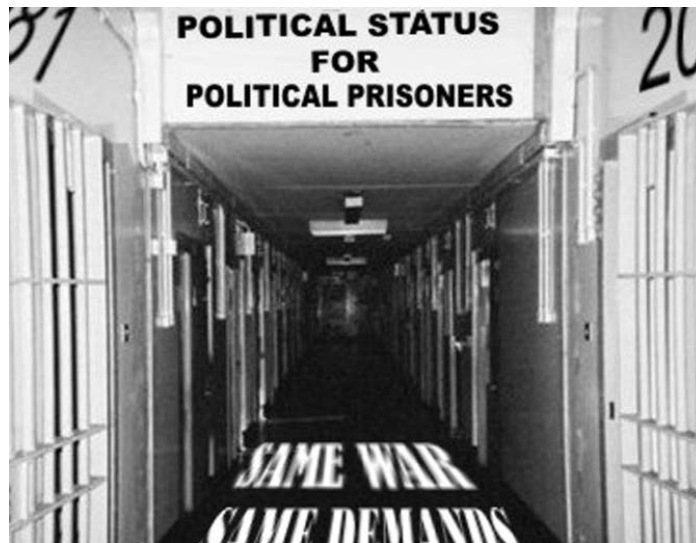
home, have endured months and in some cases many years bring tormented for their political beliefs. These young men have been through conveyor belt, arrested, charged and interned. Most of the cases against those arrested are later dropped, much later in some cases.

"However, those who are unfortunate enough to be serving long sentences have accepted it as part of the struggle. The struggle for freedom, for independence. They have found themselves in a prison camp established for one purpose and one purpose only, to break their spirits by means of mental and physical torture. The system in which we find ourselves ensnared is one built around institutionalised sectarianism and corruption, hatred and bigotry. One in which the screws are given a free hand to persecute us. The governors turn a blind eye, refusing to acknowledge the legitimacy of our complaints.

"Well no longer. The Republican prisoners have had enough. We have stood together in unity and stated loud and clear for all to hear, all those who want to of course, that we will take no more. No more abuse. No more torture. No more discrimination. **NO MORE!**

"Almost 30 years ago on September 14, 1976 a protest against criminalisation began in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. This protest ended with the deaths of ten brave men, who died so that others might benefit from the restoration of political status. Those Political Prisoners, like us today, had exhausted all avenues open to them, the Human Rights Commission, the Catholic Church and politicians.

"We the Republican POWs are calling on people to support us in our call for better



conditions. We call for an end to the strip searches, an end to the discrimination, an end to the policy of eating in the toilet, end the lock ups and end the abuse of the drugs dog and to end the controlled movement.

"We have entered into this protest knowingly. We will not shirk our responsibilities and we remain steadfast in our beliefs. We ask you the people to support us in our calls for change, we do not expect you to support our political beliefs or convictions.

"We the Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry would urge the British government, the NIO and the prison service not to test our will or determination. We fully believe in our right to be held and treated as Political Prisoners of War. We will take whatever steps are necessary in order to achieve our demands."

— OC CIRA,
Maghaberry
Concentration Camp

'PRISONERS DID NOT SIGN COMPACT'

In response to a statement from the British Prison Service in a Belfast newspaper on June 30 that the prisoners in the segregated area of Maghaberry had signed a compact before being housed there, Geraldine Taylor, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast said:

"Regarding the statement from the press officer at Maghaberry Prison in the *Irish News* on Friday, June 30 stating that all prisoners signed a document to accept conditions in the separated wing, we categorically deny that any prisoner who comes under the welfare of Republican Sinn Féin signed any such document, therefore they did not accept the conditions which they are forced to live under.

"The prisoners and their representatives have been fighting for change since they

moved across, now we find that they have been forced to take the protest further to highlight their plight in their struggle to be recognised as POWs."

The RPAG said on July 2 that Republican POWs in Maghaberry do not have access to welfare visits from suitable representatives outside the jail. POWs must forfeit a family visit in order to communicate with those who represent them and since sentenced POWs only get one visit per week this has an adverse impact on family contact.

The group said that before the Separated Regime Review in May 2006 entitlement to Welfare Visits was restricted to MLAs, MPs and Councillors from political parties with a sitting MLA/ MP. The RPAG, in their submission to the Review, highlighted the inequality in this approach. Republican Sinn Féin are prevented from standing in Six-County council elections by the political test oath and

the RPAG, who are in existence solely to highlight the issues for POWs within Maghaberry, are not a political organisation who would be standing in elections.

"The review altered this policy, presumably to create the impression that the matter had been considered. However the change was cosmetic, Councillors from political parties with no representation at MP/ MLA level now have access to welfare visits also.

"This clearly fails to address either of the objections the RPAG submitted to this policy and POWs remain in the position where their family contact must suffer in order that the discrimination, inequality and sub standard conditions forced upon them in Maghaberry can be highlighted.

"The RPAG calls on the British Prison Service to look again at this issue. To assess the inequality of their approach and to allow the POWs to have proper access to the group that represents them in the prison crisis.

"The RPAG calls on the public to give their support to the POWs at this time. The 1981 hunger strikers sacrificed themselves to improve conditions for those POWs who came after them and to ensure that political status was available to POWs as of right. No one can be justified in signing away the rights of others, however that is what happened in the Stormont Agreement, and the POWs are now in a position where they must begin the fight for political status again.

"They are relying on the Irish people to stand with them in their fight to improve conditions and ultimately to win back political status. The Irish people have never failed POWs in the past and we have faith that they will not fail them now."

'KAI' — 'KILL ALL IRISH' DRUM CARRIED AT ORANGE PARADE

A Belfast Chronology

Monday, June 5, 2006. Robert McCord, a cousin of Raymond McCord whose son Raymond jnr was murdered by the UVF in 1997, was attacked in his flat in Rathcoole estate by a group of UVF men. He was stripped to the waist and beaten and burned with cigarettes during the attack.

Friday, June 9, 2006. There was a number of security alerts in Belfast and traffic was diverted.

Monday, June 12, 2006. The son of Nuala O'Loan, Ombudsman in the Six Occupied Counties, was attacked with iron bars and seriously injured in an attack in the Oldpark area of Belfast.

Tuesday, June 13, 2006. The RUC/PSNI came under attack in the New Mosley Estate, Newtownabbey, outside Belfast from about 40 people.

Thursday, June 15, 2006. The relatives of the six men murdered in a UDA gun attack in 1994 held a press conference demanding answers as to why vital evidence was destroyed by the RUC. No one was ever charged with the attack.

Monday, June 19, 2006. Ken

Barrett who convicted of the murder of Pat Finucane but secured early release, claimed that the RUC/PSNI have not provided him with proper protection after a newspaper tracked him down to a seaside town in southern England.

An application by the British to revoke Mark Haddock's bail – on the grounds that he breached his bail conditions – was adjourned at Belfast Crown Court.

Tuesday, June 20, 2006. Bertie Ahern criticised the British Government for not holding a full public inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane.

The Shoukri brothers, Ihab and Andre, were expelled from the UDA in Belfast.

Orangemen in west Belfast rejected the Parade Commission ruling that only 50 Orangemen will be allowed through the Workman Avenue gate for their parade next Saturday.

Wednesday, June 21, 2006. The refusal of the Shoukri brothers to stand down from the UVA organisation is fueling fears of a new feud in Belfast between rival gangs



• An Orange drum had 'KAI' written on it, ie 'Kill All Irish' at the Orange parade through the Short Strand area of east Belfast on July 1.

within the UDA.

Raymond McCord met with Chief Constable Hugh Orde for talks over the murder of his son nine years ago by loyalists.

The Orange Order accepted a parades Commission ruling that 50 of

their members could walk through the Workman Avenue gate during the Whiterock parade on June 24.

Four pipe bombs, detonators and ammunition were found during a search in the Deerpark Road, north Belfast.

A man from the Philippines, Jaybe Ofrasio, arrested in January 2004 in west Belfast, won the right to trial by jury. He is accused of 'making money and property available to terrorists'. The Public Prosecution Services (PPS) accepted that his case did not involve jury intimidation.

Saturday, June 24, 2006. Residents of the Springfield Road in Belfast staged a silent protest as loyalists marched through their area after a controversial ruling by the Parades Commission.

Sunday, June 25, 2006. Racist attacks took place on the homes of two non-nationals in the Dunmurry area of Belfast. Three windows were broken in one home in Seymour Hill Mews and paint was thrown at another in Rowan Drive.

Monday, June 26, 2006. A total of 1,077 racially motivated crimes were recorded in the Occupied Six Counties in 2005. Those attending a

conference in Belfast by the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities heard that a study by the Council identified institutionalised racism in the criminal justice system and called on all political parties establish a working group to tackle racism.

Wednesday, June 28, 2006. Alison Kearns, accused of involvement in a RIRA gun smuggling plot, was granted bail by the High Court in Belfast.

Friday, June 30, 2006. The charge of attempted murder against James McCormick has been withdrawn and replaced with a charge of causing an affray. McCormick was charged with attempting to murder Brendan Devine on the same day the Robert McCartney was murdered in Belfast.

Loyalist flags were erected in Coleraine and in the Four Winds area of south Belfast.

Saturday, July 1, 2006. More than 1,000 Orangemen and 33 loyalist bands marched past the Short Strand, Belfast. Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) insignia was prominently displayed and a Red Hand Defenders banner was flown. A Rathcoole band had the letters KAI written on it – which means Kill All Irish.

Tribute to Monsignor Denis Faul

"THE late Monsignor Denis Faul was a remarkable man, principled, complex, courageous in his defence of human rights and in speaking out for what he believed in. He would argue his point strongly but never harbour a grudge afterwards."

"Mon Faul distinguished himself in the early 1970s in standing up for the nationalist people and exposing the abuses committed against them by the British Army and the RUC. He will be remembered for the series of booklets he wrote and published along with An-Mon. Réamonn Ó Muirí outlining, with carefully gathered evidence, the excesses perpetrated against nationalists at that time.

"He was perceptive in that he discerned as early as 1978 in reference to the moves to jettison from Sinn Féin the ÉIRE NUA Programme for a new four-province federal Ireland, the difference between those "who believed in something" and those "who merely sought power".

"Denis Faul was very active in support of the protesting prisoners in the H Blocks of Long Kesh but his actions in

bringing the hunger strike to an end proved controversial and alienated him from many Republicans. Nevertheless he will be remembered for his concern and his availability to the poor and oppressed and his courage, both physical and moral, in confronting what he saw as oppression.

"He was never a Republican but held that with the achievement of civil rights the passage of time would bring about a free and united Ireland.

"Bhí an tAthair Ó Maolfabhait in a Ghaeilgeoir líofa agus chath sé an Fáinne go bródúil. Cuirfear crochtú ann. Grásta ó Dhia air."



• Declan Curneen, Leitrim and John Michael Branley laid a wreath at the grave of Jack McCabe, Rossinver, Co Leitrim on Easter Sunday.

IMEACHTAÍ

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET
LYNCH'S CASTLE, SHOP STREET, GALWAY, 10am
every Saturday, to highlight the plight of Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail
Organised by Galway/Mayo, RSF

WHITE LINE PICKET FOR POLITICAL STATUS
OPPOSITE REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN OFFICE
229 FALLS ROAD, BELFAST
SATURDAY JULY 8, 2pm
Speaker: Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin

HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, JULY 9
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON
Assemble: Glancys, Cortobber, 12 noon

REDEDICATION OF MARTIN HURSON PLAQUE
SUNDAY, JULY 16, 3pm
MOSTRIM (EDGEWORTHSTOWN), CO LONGFORD

REPUBLICAN BALLAD SESSION
FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2006

GLUEPOT (CPM) CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN
Doors open 9pm
Admission: €10
Music by Beggars Bush

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET
SATURDAY, JULY 22
GPO, DUBLIN, 12.45-1.45pm

PATRICK CANNON COMMEMORATION
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1pm
BALGRIFFIN CEMETERY, DUBLIN

HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGER STRIKER KEVIN LYNCH
SATURDAY, JULY 29
Assemble at Dungivin Church after 7pm Mass
Speaker Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION
JULY 30, 3pm
BULLRING, WEXFORD TO THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

LIAM LYNCH COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 3pm
MEMORIAL, KNOCKMEALDOWN MOUNTAINS
A special presentation will be made to Dan Keating, Castlemain, Co Kerry, to mark his lifetime of service

to the Republican Movement.
Organised by the Liam Lynch Memorial Committee in conjunction with the National Graves Association.

HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12
MOONCOIN, CO KILKENNY
Assemble: Technical School, 7.30pm

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN
Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry
Anyone wishing to join should contact 087-2113130

ROGER CASEMENT/FRANCIS HUGHES CUMANN
Republican Sinn Féin, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY CUMANN
Republican Sinn Féin, Cork
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or visit our website www.rsfcork.com

BRUGHA/SABHAT HURSON/SANDS CUMANN
Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ken at 087-9531249

'Bobby Sands and his co strike rather than we

REPUBLICANS from all over Ireland, as well as abroad, gathered at Bodinstown Co Kildare on Sunday June 11 2006 for the annual Republican pilgrimage to the grave of Theobald Wolfe Tone. Those taking part gathered in blazing sunshine in Sallins village at 2.30pm accompanied by the usual heavy Special Branch presence and their accompanying harassment.

Those taking part paraded from Sallins to Bodinstown churchyard led by a large colour party and a piper as well as Chief Marshall Tomás Ó Curraoin, Co na Gaillimhe.

Gathering at the grave of Tone, proceedings were chaired by Cathleen Knowles McGuirk. Peig Galligan, Dublin spoke on behalf of the National Graves Association and had the large crowd enraptured with her word pictures of the ten men executed in Mountjoy between 1920 and 1921.

Cathleen Knowles McGuirk then introduced the main speaker Dr Seán Maguire, Co Mayo, son of Commandant General Tom Maguire, last and faithful survivor of the Second All-Ireland Dáil who died in 1993 aged 101 years. During the course of his oration Seán Maguire said:

“ ‘We have come to the holiest place in Ireland: holier to us than the place where Patrick sleeps in Down. Patrick brought us life, but this man died for us. And though many before him and some since have died in testimony of the truth of Ireland’s claim to nationhood, Wolfe Tone was the greatest of all that have died for Ireland whether in old time or in new. He was the greatest of Irish nationalists. I believe he was the greatest of Irish men. And if I am right in this I am right in saying that we stand in the holiest place in Ireland and that the holiest sod of a Nation’s soil is the sod where the greatest of her dead lies buried.’ ”

That is the first paragraph of the address delivered by Pádraig Pearse at this spot on June 12, 1913.



• *The main oration was delivered by Dr Seán Maguire, Co Mayo, son of Commandant General Tom Maguire, last and faithful survivor of the Second All-Ireland Dáil, who died in 1993.*

Pearse spoke again in Glasnevin Cemetery on August 1915 at the grave of another unconquerable man, Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa. During that address he said, “Our foes are strong and wise and wary but strong and wise and wary as they are they cannot undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men the seeds sown by the young men of another generation.”

Pearse continued: “Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations.”

At Wolfe Tone’s grave we are at the source of all the seeds sown by all the

generations and we have the unbroken sequence of loyalty and faithfulness to Tone’s teaching right down to the present day.

Tone had a close friend and comrade, Thomas Russell, a Cork Protestant who is remembered in the famous ballad as “The Man from God

Knows Where”. He was interned without trial in the 1790s and was with Emmet who sent him to the North to organise the 1803 Rising there.

Those are the first three links in the chain, Tone, Russell and Emmet. Michael Dwyer carried on in Co Wicklow.

Thomas Davis, the Young Irelander, visited Bodinstown and found Tone’s grave unmarked but guarded by the local blacksmith who would allow nobody to set foot on it. The blacksmiths were one group who suffered excessively in ’98 because it was they who made the pikes.



• *The Colour Party at the Grave of Wolfe Tone in Bodinstown on Jun.*

Through the blacksmiths we have the connection and sequence with the local people – unbroken all the time.

Tone was captured on a French warship in Lough Swilly, brought to Dublin and sentenced to death. While he was awaiting execution his captors made a botched attempt to cut his throat and tried to brand him as a suicide, a travesty which I do not believe. They tried to destroy his character as well as his body. They adopted the same manoeuvre with Roger Casement later on.

When Tone’s body was released for burial an attempt was made to keep the people away. It failed. The people would not tolerate his body being hijacked. The same treatment was given to Terence Mac Swiney. His funeral was hijacked also and we saw the same in our own day in the case of Frank Stagg.

Davis, a Young Irelander, was here. The Fenians were here and that brings us to Pearse as I have said already.

We know that Pearse’s faithful disciples, Liam Mellows, Brian O’Higgins, Mrs Margaret Buckley and Miss Mary MacSwiney, Seán Russell and Dáithí Ó Conaill, among others, spoke here.

Pearse proclaimed the Republic at Easter 1916. The Proclamation was ratified by the people in the 1918 election and the deputies assembled in the Mansion House in January 1919. This was the First Dáil Éireann. It was the functioning sovereign Parliament of the 32 Counties.

There was another election in 1921 which elected the Second Dáil Éireann. There were six women elected to it. The members – Teachtaí

Dála – swore to defend the Republic against all enemies foreign and domestic. The term Dáil Éireann by definition refers to the sovereign parliament of the 32 County United Ireland. The present occupants of Leinster House call themselves the 29th Dáil Éireann when in fact they are the 27th 26-County Assembly.

The second Dáil Éireann voted on the Treaty of 1921 and by a majority of seven voted to accept that Treaty which would give them a Home Rule type of government with the King of England at its head. Those who voted for the Treaty reneged on their oath which was freely given and thereby committed perjury which was and is a poor foundation for any enterprise and signs on them. None of the six women voted for the Treaty.

The faithful members of the Second Dáil continued the sequence that had been legitimately established and kept their unbroken links and sequence back to Wolfe Tone. They continued to strive to achieve his motto “to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils and to unite Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter”.

Permit me an interesting deviation. In 1973 Brian Inglis wrote a book on Roger Casement. The book was reviewed by AJP Taylor, Professor of History at Oxford University. This is what he wrote, “Here is Casement’s message for the present day. There is no Irish problem without solution. The problem that had marked Ireland for centuries is the British presence in Ireland. That problem can only be solved by British withdrawal.” That is an independent Englishman’s opinion.



• *A section of the attendance and some of the banners at the Wolfe Tone commemoration.*

Comrades died on hunger in a prison uniform'



te 11.



• **Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Dublin, Ard Comhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, chaired the proceedings.**

Having reneged on the Republic the Free State assembly attacked the faithful Republican forces in the Four Courts and released the Free State Reign of Terror.

The Republican Sinn Féin members of the Second Dáil continued to meet and organise but life was not easy and numbers began to diminish as deaths took place. In 1938 at a Sinn Féin meeting Miss Mary MacSwiney proposed that the authority of the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil be passed on to the Army Council of the Irish Republican Army. This is a procedure recognised in international law that when a legitimate government is under attack it may pass on its powers.

The speaker here at Bodinstown in

1930 was one of the faithful members who voted for Miss MacSwiney's motion. He lived on to become the last faithful survivor of the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil Éireann. In 1969 he endorsed the Provisional Movement but when the Provisionals reneged and became a partitionist party that endorsement was promptly withdrawn in 1986. He recognised and endorsed the Continuity Movement as the successors of the 1938 leadership and consequently as successors to the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil Éireann and the lineal descendants of 1916, 1867, 1848, 1803 and 1798, right back to Wolfe Tone.

One of the arguments in favour of accepting the Treaty of Surrender is

that the Irish Republican Army would be unable to carry on the fight any longer. Dom Brian Murphy OSB in his book *Patrick Pearse and the Lost Republican Ideal* refuted this theory and quotes from leaders in the south and west and he also quotes a memorandum from the British Commander, General Macready, to the British Cabinet, written on May 23, 1921: "I am convinced that by October unless a peaceful solution has been reached, it will not be safe to ask the troops to continue there another winter under the conditions which obtained during the last."

The 25th anniversary of the Belfast hunger strike is with us and those who reneged on Republicanism and became Stormont parliamentarians tell us that the hunger strikers were the beginning of their moves to accept the Good Friday surrender. Who do these people think they are that the can deceive people into their way of thinking. No matter how often Mr Adams and his hangers-on perform the Pontius Pilate manoeuvre and wash their hands in public they will convince nobody that Bobby Sands and his comrades died on hunger strike rather than wear a prison uniform no more than he died on hunger strike in order that young men and women could join the RUC/PSNI and wear a peeler's uniform.

Participation in a partition parliament attempts to deny the sovereignty of the Irish people. Sovereignty is unalienable and cannot be voted away no matter how great the majority.

The referendum which purports to withdraw the claim to the Six Counties is invalid because the Six Counties are an integral part of the ancient Irish nation. The Six Counties are as much part of Críoch Fodhla as any other county.

Mr Adams must try again because to quote an American aphorism you can't fool all the people all the time. My only comment is what Pearse said: "Let no man blaspheme the cause that



• **Veteran Republican Frank Graham, Dublin, laid the wreath at the monument.**

the dead generations of Ireland served." We can trace back through all the years and all the vicissitudes right back to Wolfe Tone. The chain is unbroken and it now behoves us as faithful inheritors of a glorious past to pass on our inheritance clean and unsullied to our children and grandchildren and generations yet to come.

Let the generations be able to look back on us and say they were faithful and they left us a priceless legacy.

We saw that Thomas Russell and his comrades were prisoners during the 1790s and now today we have Republicans held as prisoners in both partitioned areas of our country. We send them our warmest greetings and we will remain faithful to the principles for which they are suffering.

Sar a fhágaimid an láthair ársa seo, na mhián liom aguísín a chur leis an méid atá ráite agam. Comharba Wolfe

Tone a b'ea an Piarasach agus bhíodair ar aon intinn an ceangal le Sasana a bhriseadh.

Bhí cuspoir breise ag Pádraig Mac Piarais áfach. Thuig sé tábhacht na teangan agus bhí sé go cruógach cúis na teanga a chur chun cinn.

Ní raibh an brú céanna ar an dteanga in aimsir Wolfe Tone is a bhí ó shoin i leith. Bhéadh Wolfe Tone ar aon intinn leis an bPiarasach dá mbéadh sé in a bheatha in aimsir an Phiarsaigh; tá mé cinnte de sin.

Dá bhrí sin ba mhián liom tábhacht na teangan a chur in iúl agus impím oraibh bheith dlíis don Ghaeilge agus í a labhairt nuair a bhéas an deis ann é sin a dhéanamh.

Míle buíochas. Go dtéidh sibh slán abhaile agus go n-éirí an bóthar libh."

Following the oration the parade again formed up and marched back to Sallins where the ceremonies ended with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.



• **Cumann na mBan Colour Party at the Wolfe Tone monuemnt in Bodinstown.**

Seán Mac Diarmada commemorated

THE annual Seán Mac Diarmada 1916 commemoration took place in his native Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim on May 29, just a few yards from the artificial border.

A crowd of faithful Republicans gathered in the village square in front of the Monument.

The proceedings were chaired by Joe O'Neill, Bundoran, Co Donegal. Wreaths were laid by Paddy McNamara from Arigna on behalf of the Republican Movement and by John Michael Branley on behalf of the organising committee. A decade of the rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Séamus MacGowan, Kinlough. The Proclamation was read by Thomas Kelly, Kinlough followed by a minutes silence for our patriot dead.

In the course of his oration Joe O'Neill said that "...



• Joe O'Neill addresses the annual Seán Mac Diarmada commemoration in Kiltyclogher on May 29.

nowhere in the Proclamation or in the statements of the hunger strikers was there any mention of the Six County or a 26 County State. No it was for a 32 County Republic of Ireland and Tone's original idea to break the connection with England that Republicans stood for'.



Tom Maguire commemoration

WEDNESDAY, July 5, marked the 13th anniversary of the death of Mayo Republican leader and freedom-fighter, Comdt-General Tom Maguire.

A wreath-laying ceremony took place that evening at 9pm at his graveside in Cross Cemetery. Tom Maguire commanded the South Mayo Brigade Flying Column at the Kilfoyle and Tourmakeady ambushes of British forces in 1921.

The latter engagement was the largest action in the West of Ireland at that period and General Maguire suffered severe wounds on that occasion.

He went on to become GOC Second Western Division, IRA, embracing South Mayo, North Galway and South Roscommon Brigades. He was also elected Deputy for South Mayo-South Roscommon to the 32-County Dáil Éireann of 1921.

He voted against the Treaty and remained faithful to the All-Ireland Republic until his death in 1993 at the great age of 101 years.

Michael O'Brien

THE death took place at Kerry General Hospital on June 15, after a short illness, of life-long Republican, Michael 'Mikie' O'Brien of Killynn, Co Kerry.

Michael 'Mikie' O'Brien was born in Clounafineela, Killynn, Co Kerry in 1911. During the time of the Black-and-Tans his family provided food and shelter for the Republicans on the run around Stacks Mountain.

He was only 11-years-old when he met 'Aero' Lyons, later immortalised in song and story for his noble stand for the Republic in the caves of Clashmealicon on the rugged Kerry coast.

Even at that tender age Mike had his "dumps" for the men on the run in that period including Georgie O'Shea and Tim Twomey, both Killynn

men who had shown outstanding courage and bravery in the fight against the Black-and-Tans, only later murdered by the Free State at Ballyseedy Cross in 1923.

Mikie joined his local unit of the IRA in the late 1920s and remained a staunch Republican down to the present day. He was Joint-Honorary President of Republican Sinn Féin in Kerry along with his great comrade Dan Keating, Chairperson and Trustee of the Ballyseedy Memorial Committee and was honoured by CABHAIR as the Munster Honoree in 2002.

He was jailed in Arbour Hill



• The Republican Sinn Féin guard of honour, led by Dan Keating, Patron of the organisation, flanking the hearse at Mikie O'Brien's funeral.

in 1935 for six months for movements. He worked as a failing to account for his carpenter/foreman for Kerry

erection of a memorial at Ballymullen Barracks to seven Republican prisoners executed there in 1923. The memorial was unveiled by Dan Keating in 1995.

Republican Sinn Féin provided a guard of honour to the church and his place of burial, where a lone piper led the way. At his graveside Liam Cotter delivered a wonderful oration, outlining Mikie's life-long contribution to the Republican Movement, his great integrity and steadfast dedication to the 32-County Republic.

The huge crowd who attended the funeral of Michael O'Brien showed the esteem and high regard that he was held among his own people. Liam Cotter expressed the sympathy of the Republican Movement and Ballyseedy memorial Committee to the O'Brien family.

Mary Costello

A LARGE turn-out of local Republicans attended the funeral of Mary Costello of Emmet Place, St Joseph's Street, Limerick, who died aged 68 years on June 10, 2006.

Her husband Eddie was the Republican Sinn Féin Munster Honoree at the CABHAIR Testimonial Dinner in 2000. The late Mary Costello was a member of the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society and was also very involved in the antiques trade in Limerick for many years.

Her uncle, Sonny Darcy, was interned in the Curragh in the Forties when the prison camp was burned down in protest by those incarcerated there.

Mary and her husband Eddie ran an antique shop, *Bygons*, in Limerick and had an advertisement in the CABHAIR brochure every year.

Mary's house was always open to Republicans and she

also knew what harassment was at first hand as on many occasions when the Special Branch raided her home and her shop and arrested her family members for no other reason than their support for Republicanism.

Mary was very respected in the community and will be sadly missed by her husband, son John, daughter Denise and grandchildren and her many friends especially in the Republican Movement.

Mary was a true Republican and never accepted the sell-out of Republican principles.

May she rest in peace with Tone and Sands and will be sadly missed by the Republican Movement, Limerick.

John Ryan

THE death occurred suddenly of John Ryan, aged 69 on Saturday June 24. John took ill at his home in Newbridge, Co Kildare in the morning and he died in Naas General hospital in the afternoon.

John was a lifelong Republican, first joining the Republican Movement in the 1950s. During the 1970s he was imprisoned for refusing to pay a fine for selling Easter Lillies. Twice John contested elections for Sinn Féin in 1985 and again in 1994 to Newbridge Town Council. Whilst not successful electorally John was happy that the flag of Irish Republicanism was unfurled in his native Newbridge.

Apart from his love of his family and the Republican Movement John was an active member of the famous Sarsfield's GAA Club as well as the long serving chairman of Newbridge gun club.

His body was removed from his home on the morning of June 27 to St Conleth's church Newbridge. The coffin was draped with the national flag

and a beret was placed on top of it. Members of Republican Sinn

Fein, Sarsfield's GAA club and the Newbridge Gun Club provided a guard of honour. Following his funeral mass his body was taken to Newbridge cemetery.

The graveside oration was delivered by Republican Sinn Féin, Leas-Uachtarán and

fellow Kildare man Des Dalton. In his oration Des Dalton praised John's commitment to the cause of a free Ireland, his family and community. He extended the sympathy of the Republican movement to John's wife Connie, his sons and daughter.



• Funeral of Kildare Republican John Ryan on June 29.

WHAT THEY SAID

"I never knew the IRA began like that", an English colleague says after the press screening of Ken Loach's *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* at Cannes Film Festival on Thursday morning. "We've always been conditioned to think that they were never anything but vicious terrorists."

— Sunday Tribune, May 21, 2006. Ciarán Carty talks to Ken Loach.

In 1990, Loach attempted to confront contemporary events in Ireland with *Hidden Agenda*, dealing with the shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland.

British tabloid journalists savaged him after the screening in the same pressroom where on Thursday he was greeted with applause.

— Sunday Tribune. If anything it's the Irish today — at a time of revisionist history — who probably need a movie like *Barley* more than the British. "The wounds are still open," says Liam Cunningham, who plays the role of a Volunteer who was in the great lockout of 1913 and believes in the ideal of a socialist republic.

"We're now being sold the idea that we got independence on the back of 1916 and that the violence led to brother against brother. A lot of what actually happened is being airbrushed out of history."

— Sunday Tribune. Loach shows the Treaty that ensued as a personal chalice. The Irish negotiators were convinced that if they didn't accept a partitioned Free State still swearing allegiance to the Crown there would be "immediate and terrible war".

— Sunday Tribune. Writing in the *Daily Mail* last week, Ruth Dudley Edwards argued that, far from being a brutal oppressor, Britain was a benign Empire with nothing to apologise for.

— Sunday Tribune Review, June 4, 2006, article by Shane Coleman.

... Journalist and Michael Collins' biographer, Tim Pat Coogan accused Edwards of adopting a "crypto-unionist" agenda. "Loach is to be stigmatised, apparently because he shows Irish nationalism in a favourable light — but the day is long past when such a thought-provoking film as *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* can simply be rubbished in condescending tones by a unionist apologist".

— Sunday Tribune Review. "If Mr Loach succeeds, through his use of the Irish issue, in helping to force a rethink on US/British policy in Iraq then he will have done us all a service."

— Sunday Tribune Review quoting Tim Pat Coogan.

In terms of historical accuracy, it is certainly superior to Michael Collins [the film] — despite Ruth

Dudley Edwards's claim that it is a 'travesty of history'

— Shane Coleman in Sunday Tribune Review.

[Manus] O'Riordan says it cannot be overlooked that the Civil War (*sic*) was mainly driven by the insistence of the British, who demanded that the new [Free] State take action against the anti-Treaty rebels.

— Sunday Tribune Review. [Fine Gael Senator Brian] Hayes also warns that "there is a real need for re-education about that period" to ensure that the younger generation do not make connections between the War of Independence and what happened in Northern Ireland 50 years later.

— Sunday Tribune Review. An expanded role for British intelligence in Northern Ireland at the expense of the PSNI is a matter of concern, the Policing Oversight Commissioner (Al Hutchinson, a former senior officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) has warned.

Under the plans, MI5 is to investigate paramilitary groups and their activities, while the police are to gather intelligence on 'ordinary' crime.

— Irish Times, June 7, 2006, reported by Dan Keenan, Northern News Editor.

PSNI recruits are currently trained at a former catering college at Garneville, east Belfast. A new college, with institutional links to the Garda training college (at Templemore, Co Tipperary), is planned for a site near Cookstown, Co Tyrone.

Some €90 million (€130.5 million euro) has been committed to the project, but it is claimed this is €40 million (€58 million) short of what is required.

— Irish Times report.

The Council of Europe has accused 14 member states of 'intentional or grossly negligent collusion' in allowing the United States to set-up "a global spiders web of secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers" for terrorism suspects.

Ireland is among the countries named in the report by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights published yesterday.

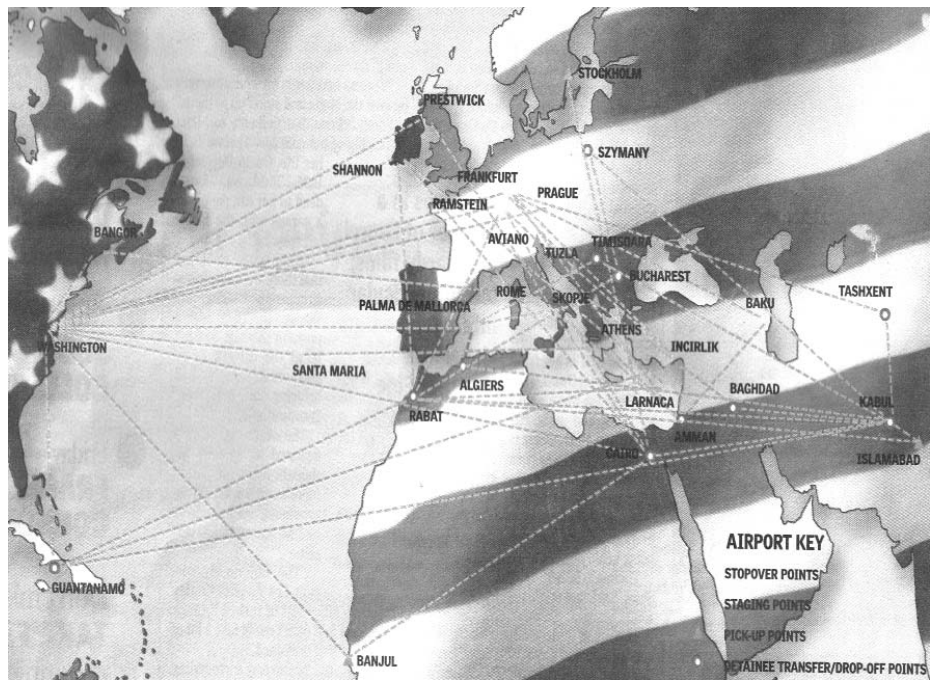
Shannon is involved in an indirect fashion", said Dick Marty, the Swiss senator who has spent the past six months drawing up the report. Planes landed at Shannon after rendition operations when they no longer had detainees on board. This was "negligent collusion", the report said.

— Irish Times, June 8, 2006.

Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Dr Maurice Manning, called for an urgent investigation last night. He said a new inspection and monitoring system for US military and CIA flights which stop over in Ireland is needed.

— Irish Times.

This report reinforces the case made by the Irish Human Rights Commission that there should be a full inspection process for US military flights passing



• 'Spider's web of torture' — map of US 'rendition' flight stopover, pick-up and staging points.

through Shannon. This would ensure the international norms Ireland adheres to are upheld. In the light of this report it is no longer enough to rely on diplomatic assurances that this is the case.

— Irish Times Editorial, June 8, 2006.

"Now I just wonder where Ireland is heading when Dick Roche, the man whose job it is to protect our environment, is the very same man who gave the go-ahead to put a motorway over the graves of our high-kings."

"And then the Taoiseach accused those of us against the project as somehow colluding with all the deaths on the roads! You couldn't make it up."

— Sunday Tribune magazine June 11, 2006, Stuart Townsend interview with Patricia Danaher.

And, in spite of republican Swatragh (Co Derry where his father was born) and his own gleefully recalled record — he burned a Union [Jack] flag outside Trinity College on Victory in Europe (VE) Day 1945 — he (Haughey) introduced Special Military Courts to put an end to the IRA campaign.

— Irish Times, June 14, 2006, supplement. Article on Haughey's early years by Dick Walsh.

"I now categorically state that at no time have I taken part in any illegal importation or attempted importation of arms into this country."

Speaking following his resignation from government at the request of the Taoiseach, Mr Jack Lynch, on May 8, 1970.

— Irish Times supplement, quotations from Charles Haughey.

"The cynical attempt at partitioning Ireland has ended in total, tragic failure...The Irish nation must now mobilise all its moral and physical resources, it must manifest without

equivocation its concern for the people of the North".

— As a Fianna Fáil TD on internment and violence in the North on TV on August 12, 1971.

Had he not, as Minister for Justice in 1962 re-activated the Special Criminal Court to crush the IRAs Border campaign?

— Irish Times supplement, Joe Carroll reports on the Arms Crisis.

Over the last five years I have become deeply involve in the Control Arms Campaign, run by Oxfam, Amnesty International and International Action Network on Small Arms.

A survey released by the Control Arms Campaign today [18/06/06] shows that almost one in three people across six countries have been affected by gun crime in the last five years.

— Irish News, June 19, 2006, article by Helen Mirren.

There are at least 640 million firearms in existence in the world today. Up to 14 billion bullets are manufactured globally every year — two for every man, woman and child on the planet. And every day up to 1,000 people are killed by guns and other small arms on average.

— Helen Mirren.

Ideas and policies generated by [Charles] Haughey and Mansergh were adopted almost wholesale by Gerry Adams and Fr Reid.

— Irish Times, June 19, 2006 article by Ed Moloney.

It was, of course, Haughey's strong brand of nationalism that made him so acceptable to Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams and Belfast-based Redemptorist priest Fr Alex Reid, when, in 1986, they decided it was time to take the initiative they have begun four years earlier an important step forward [ie accepting the 26-County partitionist and collaborationist state].

— Ed Moloney. Although Haughey had

begun his ministerial career in 1961 by dealing a death-blow to the IRA's 1956-62 Border campaign, when he introduced military courts, by the mid to late 1980s his image had been entirely transformed.

— Ed Moloney.

An indirect dialogue between Charles Haughey and Gerry Adams began in 1986... This was not the first time the two men had communicated. In 1981 during the Republican hunger strikes, they had exchanged messages via Pádraig Ó h-Annracháin, de Valera's former private secretary. This time Fr Reid took on the job of go-between.

— Ed Moloney.

The high points of the diplomacy came in May 1987 when the then editor of the *Irish Press*, Tim Pat Coogan, delivered a 15-page 7,000 word letter from Fr Reid to Haughey which outlined in detail the history of the Redemptorist's exchanges with the Sinn Féin leader and set out the terms Gerry Adams would accept for an IRA ceasefire.

— Ed Moloney. Editorial note: None of these revelations has been denied. Even as the hunger strikers were dying in 1981, before the IRA general convention and the Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin, and in the very month of the Loughgall massacre in 1987, the sell-out of the All-Ireland Republic was underway.

Haughey, Reid and Adams initiated the process as outlined. Later John Hume joined the process, when asked. He gave it cover.

"It brought back old memories all right," Dan Keating (104) said. "I thought it very political, very good; it worked very well."

Mr Keating, a rifleman, took part in two large-scale actions, at Castlemaine and Castleisland, in which 12 Black and Tans and other British personnel were killed.

— Irish Independent, June

26, 2006. David McKitterick article on Ken Loach's prize-winning film "The Wind that Shakes the Barley".

Mr Keating, who later fought on the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War (*sic*), said of his opponents:

"They were worse than the Black and Tans, and they committed some awful atrocities."

— Irish Independent. The press reports of Dan never said that he is Patron of Republican Sinn Féin.

The United States Supreme Court has delivered a historic judgement on President Bush's interpretation of his powers as a wartime leader by ruling that he cannot set up a criminal justice process at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp which violates US and international law.

— Irish Times editorial, June 30, 2006.

There is insufficient evidence for them [the 10 charged] to be held legally. Intelligence arguments have been used by the military against putting them on open trial. Many have been repeatedly beaten, shackled, sexually humiliated, deprived of sleep or otherwise tortured at the camp.

They have been worse treated in other places before being sent there by 'extraordinary rendition', the mendacious euphemisms used by the administration to describe this illegal process.

— Irish Times editorial.

The Supreme Court found the judicial process eventually put in train illegal on four counts.

It violates the US military code. It transgresses US criminal law. It has inadequate congressional authority. And it breaches the Geneva Convention, of which the US is itself a prominent signatory.

— Irish Times editorial.

Bobby Sands Died for Political Status

A chara

Twenty-five years ago a young Irish soldier lay at death's door. His plight had brought interest from the world. Who was this man elected MP from his prison cell to a parliament he had fought to overthrow and who now held him in captivity, which tried to break him but failed.

What were his beliefs, why did he hunger for 66 days and give his life? We hear it was for Irish freedom. In the larger scale it was but the reasons behind the hunger strike were down to prison treatment with the British trying to criminalise the struggle of Irish freedom by criminalising its Prisoners of War.

Bobby and the blanket men fought back with the only weapons they had, their lives, their pride and their beliefs. Ten men died in that spring/summer of 1981 and when the hunger strike ended the British granted the majority of their demands. Every Irish Republican prisoner who came after that period enjoyed political status won for them by the brave hunger strikers.

Twenty-five years later this is not the case. Over 35 Irish Republican prisoners are held in restricted punishment-minded incarceration in the British prison Maghaberry. These men are in jail for the same reasons and the same type of offences that Bobby and his comrades were incarcerated.

Those who signed the Stormont Agreement signed away their right to the concessions won at such a great cost. Those same people commemorated Bobby and his comrades but fail to raise their voice to help his present day counterparts. Bobby Sands died for political status — the five demands. Two of these demands — the right to free association and the right to organise their own education — is denied to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry.

Their families are denied access to the jail regularly through the abuse of the passive drug dog. Prisoners are on 22/23 hour lock-up, handicrafts and art has been almost done away with, prisoners can only buy books from the prison shop at exorbitant prices.

A prisoner can expect to get searched 30 times a day. Every one visiting the jail is photographed and finger-printed at intervals with their personal information on computers for anyone in the jail to access.

Is this what Bobby Sands and his comrades died for? Those who claim Bobby is an inspiration to them but do not speak out in defence of these prisoners are hypocrites. No one is saying they should agree with the prisoners' political beliefs but they are Republican prisoners. If you claim to support Bobby Sands but sit on your hands regarding today's prisoners it clearly shows you no longer support what Bobby and his comrades died for.

Remember the men of '81 but don't forget those of '06.

PACKY CARTY
East Tyrone

Bórd na Gun?

A chara

To publish or not to publish. When it comes to greyhound doping that is the question. Meanwhile we await another report from the International Monitoring Commission (IMC). Could the IMC be another Bord na Gun?!

PÁDRAIG Ua CORBAIDH
Co an Cabhain

Experiences Of Maghaberry Jail

A chara

In April 2005 I had the misfortune of finding myself incarcerated in Maghaberry Prison in Co Antrim.

I had been arrested by the British Security Services on the Moy Road in Armagh for possession of items contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000.

I was held on the roadside for several hours before being taken to Antrim holding centre where I was interrogated for several days.

I believe my detention to have been illegal; I was finally charged with being in possession of a radio scanner contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000.

I was taken to Maghaberry and sent to Roe House. On Roe 1 & 2 prisoners are acclimatised before moving onto permanent Houses of residence. For a total of six days between the Antrim holding Centre and the first few days in Maghaberry I was held incommunicado.

The only outside contact I had was with my solicitor. I was only allowed to speak to my wife on the Tuesday following my arrest.

I asked for the segregated unit, a British euphemism for the Republican Wing. I was informed that the regime on the segregated wing was a lot harsher and that I should rethink my decision not to go on general. I persisted and was eventually moved over there. When I arrived on the Republican Wing I was greeted by several people, who made time to explain the system and regime, to ensure I had tobacco, biscuits and above all coffee.

The welcome and generosity of these men was fantastic, I was put at my ease, made to feel safe, I was now among friends. The regime is hard on the Republican Wing in Maghaberry. You alternate between 20 and 22-hour lock up. You are secured in the recreation room with access to the cage at these times; this is the only time that you are allowed anything close to free association.

There are no opportunities for education or craft work. Cell association is allowed on some days, where up to three prisoners are locked in one cell for a couple of hours to converse.

At meal times you are called from your cells three at a time to a hot food cart at the top of the landing to retrieve your food, make your mug of tea, grab your bread and practically sprint back to your cell to eat it.

The search regime is ridiculous and needless. On my way to a legal visit, I could be searched 7 times sometimes twice within twenty feet. Then you have the cell searches, up to 20 gaolers in combat uniforms, and a drug dog, arrive in your



cell. You get pushed around a bit and they upturn everything.

No Republican in Maghaberry has ever been found in possession of drugs. While these searches went on in the Republican Wing constantly, the rest of the gaol was rife with drugs. It is an element of a regime that is designed to break the spirit of men.

Many of the gaolers took great delight in making life harder. Every hour on the hour at night they have to check you are in your cell. They open the flap in the door and shine in a torch, one of the more spiteful and inventive gaolers delighted in banging the door a couple of times to wake you up every hour on the hour.

I was finally released on bail to an address in the 26-Counties and I had to sign on at a RUC barracks twice a week.

The reason I am writing this article is to express my admiration for the prisoners on Roe 3 & 4, Comrades, and Republicans. Despite a regime designed to break their spirit, despite the machinations of the gaolers to deny visits with the now infamous drug dog they remain strong of spirit, united as comrades, each one there for the other.

Prison is a horrible place, without the comradeship that exists between these men, their humour and their generosity of spirit it would have been a far worse place for me. These men are subject to a regime designed to criminalise them and break their spirit.

This regime was made possible by the traitorous actions of the provisionals, some of whom are now subjected to the same regime due to their short sightedness. The prisoners deserve political status, they are political prisoners incarcerated for political actions. It is a sad indictment of our times that 25 years after Bobby Sands and nine other men laid down their lives for Political Status, Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry are treated in this manner.

We must assist these men however possible; their plight must not remain ignored by the British. This should be a major goal for all of us as we move forward. Only with continuing pressure and protest from the outside, have they any hope of receiving proper treatment. These are strong spirited men who will undertake all protest actions available to them. We must try to ensure that all outside avenues are exhausted before they must contemplate any other action, because they will contemplate all actions available to them.

I would like to thank my comrades on Roe House at that time, who made life bearable for me. Tommy Crossan, donor of coffee, wit and the Irish News, Martin Overend another donor of coffee, companionship and wit, Stephen Daly for advice, Kevin Sutton for chocolate biscuits, companionship and tobacco, and Ciaran MacLoughlin for walking a stone off me.

Without the assistance of

these men and others on the Republican Wing and the support of my beautiful wife and children, I would have been fit for a padded cell only.

GEOFFREY COOLING
Dublin

Research on Seventy-Seven

A chara

I am researching the Civil War period of our people's history; in particular the Seventy-Seven Volunteers executed by the Free State.

I would greatly appreciate any information, eg last letters or photographs of the following executed Volunteers.

Volunteers Joseph Spooner, executed Beggar's Bush, Dublin, November 30, 1922; Patrick Farrelly, executed Beggar's Bush, Dublin, November 30, 1922. 1923: Leo Dowling, Portobello, January 8, Sylvester Heaney, Portobello, January 8, Laurence Sheehy, Portobello, January 8, Anthony O'Reilly, Portobello, January 8, Terence Brady, Portobello, January 8; John McNulty, Dundalk, January 13, Thomas Murray, Dundalk, January 13; John Clifford, Tralee, January 20; James Melia, Dundalk, January 22; William Conroy, Birr, Offaly, January 26; Patrick Geraghty, executed Portlaoise, January 27, Joseph Byrne, executed Portlaoise, January 27; John Newell, executed Tuam, April 11, Edward Greaney, executed Tuam, April 11.

I intend to launch "Seventy-Seven of mine said Ireland", a book containing biographical material on the Seventy-seven Volunteers in late summer 2006. Please contact me at the address below is you have any information on the above.

MARTIN O'DWYER
Cashel Folk Village
Cashel
Co Tipperary

Selective Policy of Catholic Church

A chara

I don't usually hit out at the Catholic Church or its teachings as I am a proud Catholic myself. However on this occasion I feel I have no other option.

I have been to a few Republican funerals over the past year or so and have nothing but contempt for these so-called priests who refuse an Irish person the right to have their National Flag draped over their coffin on entry to the chapel. They say it is the law of the Church. It's actually a man-made law.

The Hierarchy seem to be using a selective policy when it comes to letting our National Flag into the chapel. When I say selective I mean they have no problem when a garda passes

away or a member of the Free State army. It is now time for a concerted campaign to be raised nationally and expose the hypocrisy of the Catholic Church in Ireland in regards to this.

It is an honour for any Irish man or woman to have their flag draped over their coffin. If for one will be taken straight to the cemetery if refused entry to my own chapel with the Irish Tricolour over my coffin. Wake up and don't let out families and comrades be demoralised and denied a basic dignified funeral. If we don't do something about it now, then we will all suffer this.

FR

Newry, An Dún

Thanks To the POWs

A chara

I would like to thank the Republican prisoners on E3 landing in Portlaoise Jail for the Mass card and expression of sympathy I received on the death of my wife Mary who passed away on June 10 last.

To see a card signed by the POWs meant a lot and helped me at a lonely time in my life as the burden of losing a loved one is a hard cross to bear.

A large turnout of local Republicans attended the funeral of Mary and at the removal her coffin was draped in the National Flag.

Her uncle, Sonny Darcy, was interned in the Curragh in the Forties when the prison camp was burned down in protest by those incarcerated there.

Our house was always open to Republicans Mary also knew what harassment was at first hand as on many occasions the Special Branch raided our home for no other reason than our support for Republicanism.

The POWs held a special place on Mary's heart and I know she would be touched by the gesture of those on E3.

EDDY COSTELLO
Limerick

No to Partition

A chara,

There will be a march in Wexford to commemorate the 1981 hunger strikers (details in SAOIRSE). Bobby Sands and his comrades died rather than accept Margaret Thatcher's terrorism in Ireland. Just like the hunger strikers of 1981 Republican Sinn Féin today does not recognise any of the two partitionist states.

BRENDAN TOBIN
Wexford

Re-route The M3 From Tara

A chara,

Republican Sinn Féin strongly objects to the routing of the

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Letters to the Editor should be as short as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page. Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published.

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proposed M3 motorway through the Tara-Skryne valley because this is an area of immense archaeological and historical importance.

The proposed M3 motorway should be routed east of the Tara-Screen valley which would avoid all the present controversy. But of course the real reason why the National Roads authority is obstinately sticking to its present route all comes down to one thing and that is revenue from tolls.

The Navan M3 Interchange has to be located at Blundelstown at Tara in order to catch all Dublin bound commuters. It is the intention of the that the M3 has to intersect with the old N3 in order to funnel all traffic onto the M3 for toll purposes, otherwise some commuters would continue to use the old N3 for free.

Maximum profit from tolls is this really what it is all about? Is it not bad enough proposing to run a motorway through the Tara-Skryne valley without the added insult of erecting a toll bridge on it in order to fleece and crucify the motorists further?

There should be no such thing as toll bridges, certainly not on the proposed M3 motorway.

We call on the Minister for the Environment, Dick Roche, to re-route the M3 away from Tara and to abolish all toll charges.

PÁDRAIG ENNIS
PRO Comhairle Laighean
Republican Sinn Féin

Fine Piece of Scholarship

A chara

I have just completed reading *Ruairí Ó Brádaigh: The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary*. I would like to commend the author, Robert White, on doing such a fine piece of scholarship.

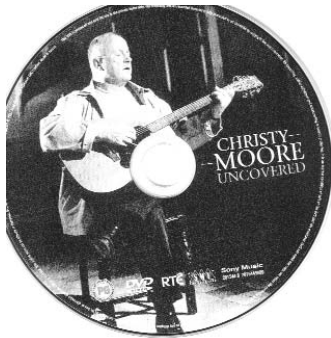
The book was informative and a delight to read. The 436 pages went by rapidly. It is quite evident that Mr White had gone to painstaking effort to research the many milestone events of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's life. Without question, one must conclude that Ruairí Ó Brádaigh is a principled man, dedicated to the ideals set down by the heroes of Easter 1916.

As the book details, those who took control of the Provisionals from 1986 on cannot say the same. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh made the decision to follow Tone, Mitchell and Pearse. Gerry Adams has chosen to follow Collins, de Valera and Goulding. Leinster House has proven not to be a stepping-stone to a united, 32-County Republic, but rather a stone wall.

The account of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's life is long overdue. I would hope that an account of Dáithí Ó Conaill's life is somewhere in the offing.

CHARLES EVERS
New Jersey, USA

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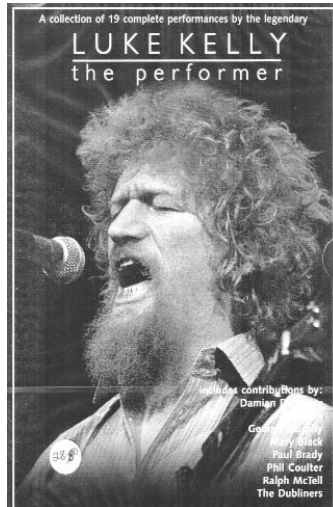
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RUAIRÍ Ó BRÁDAIGH
The Life and Politics
of an
Irish Revolutionary
by Robert W. White



Scolaidh Ibhachtainéis Ruairí Uí Bhraidaigh
ag Radaí Ó'Donnell
i mBailé Átha Cliath, 12 Aibreán 2006
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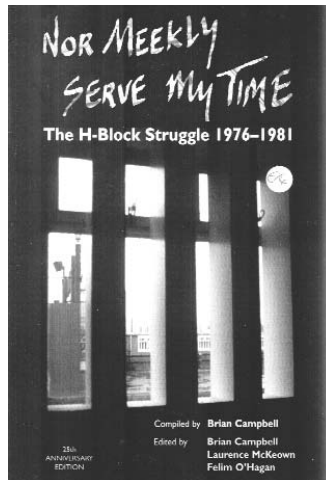
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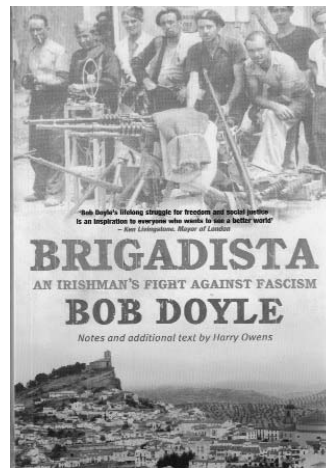
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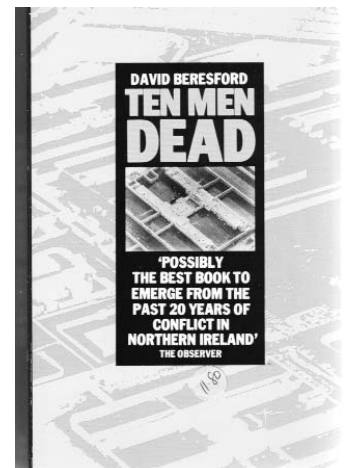
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Michael O'Riordan

THE death took place on May 18 of Michael O'Riordan, former general secretary of the Communist Party of Ireland.

He was born on November 12, 1917 in Pope's Quay, Cork, the youngest of five children born to parents from the Ballingearry-Gougane Barra Gaeltacht of West Cork. He married Kay Keohane from Clonakilty and they had three children, two of whom survived, Manus and Brenda. His wife Kay died in 1991.

Michael O'Riordan worked for 20 years as a bus conductor and served on

branch committees of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union in both Cork and Dublin. He later devoted his life to active politics.

As an Irish Republican he fought Blueshirt fascism on the streets of Cork in 1933-34. He joined the Connolly Column as a volunteer in the 15th International Brigade, defending the Spanish republic from Franco's fascists and was wounded on August 1, 1938

whilst fighting on Hill 481 outside Gandesa.

By 1940 he was a Republican political prisoner in the Curragh Concentration Camp where he edited the anti-fascist journal "An Splannc". In 1944 he was founding secretary of the Liam Mellows branch of the Irish Labour Party and in 1945 he was founding secretary of the Cork Socialist Party.

From 1970 to 1983 he was general secretary of the re-united Communist Party of Ireland and then became its National Chairman until 1988. In 1996 he was made an honorary citizen of Spain and in 1997 four of the five surviving International

Brigade members were honoured by Dublin City Council.

On the day of his funeral on May 20, a huge crowd turned out to pay tribute to Michael O'Riordan. On the road to Glasnevin Cemetery hundreds of mourners carrying red flags took up positions to await the arrival of the hearse.

In the little chapel there was not enough room for even half of the people who were in attendance but Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Richard Behal and an t-Athair Piaras Ó Dúill managed to squeeze in.

The ceremony was conducted by Manus

O'Riordan and other family members sang both in Spanish and Gaelic and read poetry. His daughter Brenda played a piece from O'Carolan on the harp and two songs, "A Rebel Song" and "The Wounded Huzzar" were sung by members of the family. A message from Fidel Castro was read out and it was announced that the Cuban Ambassador was present.

Before the close of the tribute those present in the chapel stood and sang "The International". Michael O'Riordan was a legendary figure and one who was admired and respected for the positions he adopted in

political life in face of opposition and on many occasions he suffered hostility from both Church and State. He was the author of *Connolly Column*, first published in 1979.

Representing Republican Sinn Féin were Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Ard Chomhairle, Seán Ó Sé and Bernard Hickey.

Also present among the mourners were Michael Farrell, Tommy McKearney, Ronnie Drew and Michael McEvilly. Cathleen managed to speak with Manus outside and offer him condolences. She also signed the Book of Condolence.

'OPERATION HARVEST' AND THE BATTLE-SCHOOL

**50
Years
Ago**

IN late July 1956 a meeting of the Army Council of the IRA was presented with a draft document entitled "Operation Harvest".

It had been drawn up by the Director of Operations on GHQ Staff, Seán Cronin and it outlined a programme for an all-out military campaign against British occupation in the Six Counties scheduled to commence late that autumn and early winter.

Cronin and another Headquarters Staff member, Charlie Murphy, had just returned from a tour of IRA units in the Six Occupied Counties and Operation Harvest was to be amended a number of times before it was finally adopted by the Army Council.

The Annual General Army Convention for 1956 had met in late May. In contrast to the 1955 Convention which endorsed unanimously Army policy of the great arms raids and called for their continuance, there were two dominant viewpoints a year later.

Army policy since 1948 had been based on the necessity for a friendly and or neutral territory adjoining or near to the theatre of armed struggle to be used for training and supply of guerrilla forces and such purposes.

All available books, booklets and documentation of underground resistance and partisan movements engaged in WWII, had been studied by the Army leadership and the foregoing conclusion had been drawn.

However the previous December John A Costello, the head of the Dublin government had threatened the Republican Movement when he said publicly in effect "Your next move will be your last." And that the 26-County forces would be used to prevent further armed activity by Republicans in the Six Counties. Therefore the ground for supporting such activity south of the Border would be much narrower.

Accordingly, there was a strong view at the Army Convention that the remaining time and space available in the 26 Counties should be utilised to maximum effect, ie to launch the full-scale campaign with the fullest possible advantage.

A Dublin delegate at the convention stated that the time was opportune. "... now that Mid-Ulster had given us the green light" (a reference to the overwhelming Sinn Féin vote as opposed to the lost deposit of the Anti-Partitionist candidate).

The Chief-of-Staff, Tony Magan, was more careful and went on record as saying that he was "not so sure the Mid-Ulster result was the green light." This was the second viewpoint.

It acknowledged and took into consideration the first point of view, but remained to be persuaded. The Army should not be constrained into premature action on the ground that "there was no alternative." There is always an alternative, and even several, which should be examined. Such might indeed be unpalatable.

As usual the convention elected an Executive, which in turn elected an Army Council. The Council consisted of **Tomás MacCurtáin**, chairperson, **Tony Magan**, **Larry Grogan**, **Paddy Doyle**, **Gearóid Mac Cárthaigh**, **Robert Russell** and **Charlie Murphy**. Six substitutes were also elected. (See Ó Brádaigh biography, pp. 57, 58).

Early in July Gearóid became indisposed and was no longer available. He had been Director



• British troops search Greek Orthodox priests for arms at Kikko Monastery, former residence of exiled Archbishop Makarios.

of Training since 1951 and before that Adjutant-General. He had done an excellent job in the Training Department as the national and many local training courses and camps had shown.

Gearóid was replaced by the first sub, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, who kept silent for the first couple of meetings, as he sought to 'learn his trade'.

Gearóid was a native of Cork city who was working in Dublin. A man of much experience, he had been interned at the Curragh in 1940 at the age of 19 and was held until 1944. He was regarded with great affection by the Volunteers. MacCurtáin, Megan, Grogan, and Doyle were all 1940s veterans. Russell, Murphy and Ó Brádaigh belonged to the late 1940s and early 50s.

Tony Magan, a native of Co Meath was re-appointed Chief-of-Staff; Robert Russell of Dublin became Adjutant-General and Larry Grogan of Drogheda, a veteran of the 1920s, resumed as Quartermaster General. Seán Cronin, a native of Kerry who had spent some years in the USA, was Director of Operations.

Charlie Murphy of Dublin replaced Gearóid Mac Cárthaigh as Director of Training. Paddy Doyle of Belfast was OC Belfast Battalion.

In mid-July the normal national training camp was replaced by a more select and specialised camp called a "battle-school". Fifteen or sixteen Volunteers from all around the country were picked to participate.

It was held in the Wicklow mountains and the D/Operations was in charge, assisted by the D/Training. Cronin had produced a booklet of about 60 pages in a green cover entitled 'Notes on Guerrilla Warfare'.

The Volunteers on the battle-school were regarded as being already on active service. Each had a rifle which had to be with the Volunteer at all times - he was never to be separated from it.

The personnel rose at 6am, washed and shaved in the cold mountain stream and were put once through a specially-constructed 'assault course' before breakfast. Later in the day they had to negotiate the course several times.

This assault course had been specially built with barbed wire and rounded poles from the nearby forestry, under the direction of a former British Army officer.

It consisted of a series of obstacles, which had to be crossed at speed by the Volunteer carrying his rifle. These included a high jump, a

water jump, crawling through coiled barbed wire, stepping on the back of the leading Volunteer who would lie prone on coiled wire and then rise and follow on.

On the last day of the week-long battle-school the 15 or so men had to go over the course with live rifle fire directed over their heads. Beyond cuts and scratches, no one was injured.

There was no basic training on weapons or explosives. All were presumed to have completed that long since. Instead it was the carrying out of ambushes and barrack attacks with a cover-party and an assault party acting in concert.

The covert advance to the objective and withdrawal afterwards were simulated. Mines were constructed, placed and exploded, as were canister-bombs and petrol bombs. Lectures were given in the evening and a strict programme was adhered to throughout.

Olive-green fatigues, including caps were issued and worn, and each man was responsible for his own enamel plate and mug together with a set of spoon, knife and fork. Latrines were dug and maintained.

At the conclusion, following the course of firing weapons in each case, each Volunteer was instructed to carry out such advanced training in his local area, presumably at the weekends.

In this manner a certain momentum was being built up and the advanced training was certain to sort out the men from the boys. For anyone with commonsense the trend was unmistakable.

Meanwhile, elsewhere the anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggle continued. In an interview published in Washington and carried in the *Irish Press* of April 17, the new Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mr Solomon Bandaranaike said that he had made up his mind that British forces based on Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) would "have to go".

"Having foreign bases on our soil is not at all consistent with our sovereign rights as a nation", he said in an interview with US News and World Report, a weekly news magazine.

"It is against my line of thinking in making Ceylon, the Switzerland of Asia. Also it would make us one of the first targets if war should break out."

Britain has a navy base at Trincomalee and two air bases on the island.

He would have to examine "very carefully" the US recent decision to grant economic aid to Ceylon.

"I am not ruling out aid from any country in the world," he added. "But I must look into it very carefully to see what conditions might be attached", the *Irish Press* report concluded.

An *t-Éireanach Aontaithe/ The United Irishman*, June 1956 noted that Britain was fighting a little publicised war against the people of her Aden protectorate in South-Western Arabia.

"She wants to hold their oil-rich land. They want independence. There is, of course, nothing particularly new in this kind of situation.

"Even the RAF bombing of isolated hill villages is not new. They practised such methods in India during the 1930s.

"What may be new is the curtain of silence Britain draws over her atrocities. She has successfully kept the whole business a secret from the world.

"Aden guerrillas, led by the crippled Salem Ali Maher (he was incapacitated during a British bombing raid on his native village), are hitting back.

"The British have an Air Vice-Marshal (LF Sinclair) commanding there. As well as RAF units, they have British-officered native levies."

At the beginning of July fifty years ago the leader of EOKA, 'Dighenis', in a statement declared "open war" on British Occupation Forces in Cyprus. The British sentenced an eighth Cypriot to death on a charge of killing a Turkish-Cypriot policeman. Two Cypriots had already been hanged by the British.

Towards the end of July in a debate in the British Commons, a leading Conservative MP was reported as follows:

"Mr WE Elliot suggested the setting up of a Boundary Commission in Cyprus to delimit a Turkish and a Greek area and a British enclave ..."

The *Irish Press* of July 27 in an editorial said: "Here is a full parallel with Ireland - a demand for self-determination smashed down with overwhelming military force and then a proposal for Partition to be implemented by a Boundary Commission. We have not heard the end of Mr Elliot's suggestion.

"The Cypriots should be forewarned: Partition will destroy them too. The minority will be lifted into a privileged position. The majority, with British connivance, will be denied employment, their voting rights will be made ineffective, they will be penalised in their religion, their education, their appointments to higher posts.

"The economy of their island will be disrupted and they will never know prosperity. The worse of all settlements would be to dismember this historic island which, like ours, has lived as a unit through thousand of years of history.

"But Ireland stands as a warning that dismemberment leads only to frustration and ends only in unmeasurable national loss", the editorial concluded.

That was in 1956. It all came to pass with the 1959 London Agreement. Today, fifty years later, Cyprus stands divided, partitioned, with Turkish occupation forces in one section and British forces holding two 'sovereign base areas' within the other section.

Partition is the British legacy and solution in Palestine, India, Cyprus and Ireland. Trouble and strife are the order of the day in all four.

(More next month. Ref. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh - *The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary* (pub 2006); An *t-Éireanach Aontaithe/ The United Irishman*, June 1956 and *The Irish Press*, April 17 and July 27, 1956.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON is a city at war. The Bush Klan, long operating in its own delusion of what is and is not terrorism, has declared war on dissenters and those who dare question his war on Iraq.

Ironically, many of the dissenters are those who have served in combat, and those pursuing the war are those too old to serve and when they had the chance, proved to be less than honourable and many like Bush and Cheney – cowards.

Speaking first hand, I was against the war in Vietnam, but I was not a son of privilege and ended up on the Marine Corps. The loudest critics in Congress, Martha, Hegel, Range, et al have served in combat and saw enough that they want no unnecessary wars.

People on opposing sides actually hate each other. America is two countries now, one of those believing in the right to free speech and the other believing that God directs George Bush as he himself publicly claims. There was a time when someone making such a claim would be put in a padded cell in a mental institution.

When we judge American presidents, the prime consideration must be their fidelity to the constitutional oath of office to which they swore complete allegiance. The presidency should be occupied by an individual whose actions emit good example to American citizens and the rest of the world that America says it is trying to impress with the option of its brand of democracy.

The basic law of the land must take precedence over his own personal agenda. Observing that law gains respect but ignoring it can bring only justifiable contempt for the latter.

This is what it means to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.' The president cannot act without considering the constitutionality of his actions, confident that judicial review will strike down any breaches of the Constitution.

The oath is not just a decorative formality. It is the foundation and imprimatur of his power. Early American presidents believed the oath required them to veto unconstitutional legislation.

This has evolved as something not intended by the authors on the document. The oath was the prime line of defence in the system of checks and balances intended to restrain the abuse of power. The one-man executive, like the Kings, strains for abuse.

GUARANTEE FREE SPEECH

The people ultimately must query the executive so he lives up to the promise to 'uphold the laws of the land.' The president by his sworn oath must guarantee free speech, against unreasonable searches, not abuse the war powers and enforce *habeas corpus* and other essential rights.

America was formed because the rights of Americans were being violated by the British King, but lately, Bush has assumed the mantle of a king, not the leader of a democracy. He says he is protecting his country.

Each person should decide for himself or herself the ideas and beliefs deserving of expression and act on those beliefs. The essence of early America was dissent. It is the cornerstone of the nation and without it the nation ceases to exist as those who started the American ideal intended.

The American constitutional tradition of free thought and free expression is nowhere more essential than when it comes to criticizing those in power. The right to do so makes America special. Take it away and it becomes run of the mill.

At the very core of the First Amendment of the US Constitution lies the right to criticise elected officeholders. Bush has failed to protect that right and seeks in every way to suppress it.

The First Amendment is the greatest law ever written in the United States since its inception. All else takes a back seat. Bush at the start of his regime, fears dissent and cannot stand to be questioned and sees dissenters as his personal enemies.

HE has created a political civil divided and Americans on both sides hate each other.

In his crusade to curtail dissent, Bush has promoted restrictions on the rights of Americans to criticise the



Government on streets of America's cities and towns, which is strictly imposed whenever Bush makes an appearance.

He is not to see any dissenters against him so he can magnify the delusion that people approve of his policies.

When Bush makes a public appearance, non-violent protestors have been harassed by law enforcement – either by Secret Service agents or local police under their directions – and forced out of Bush's line of sight to a designated protest area known as the free speech zone.

They are often behind fences or other obstructions and far out of sight of the media. If protestors fail to comply with the order to move, they are subject to arrest and prosecutions and beatings.

Hitler, Stalin, Mao and others never saw dissent. Now George Bush joins that exclusive club of war criminals. All of the above did not protect their own citizens, but saw them as objects of abuse. All of them believed when they spoke they knew best for the nation and needed no input from the ignorant masses.

I believe an Irishman, Éamon de Valera said that he knew the wishes of the people. But what he meant was his wishes were the wishes of the people. I guess he believed the Irish people wanted permanent partition. He wanted to keep Ireland strictly Catholic like Bush wants America to be right-wing Christian.

There are numerous examples of Americans being arrested for expressing their constitutionally protected rights by the Bush Gestapo. Bill O'Neill, a retired steelworker was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for refusing an order to move into the free speech zone. He was in a crowd of pro-Bush types who did not have to move. He was carrying a sign supporting Irish immigrants.

A Bill Ramsey in Missouri tried to unfurl an anti-Bush sign and he refused an order to move from a group of Bush worshipers and go into the free speech zone, which is a constructive prison.

'CORRAL'

He was arrested by a police officer who said the Secret Service said they were to 'corral' people that were there making a statement pretty much against Bush and his view.

Andrew Wimmer in St Louis was arrested for displaying a sign which read "Instead of war, invest in people". A woman with a sign that said "Mr President, we love you" was allowed to stay. Favourable demonstrators are not protestors because to stay you must toe the party line.

Actions such as these against protestors violate previous constitutional precedent, which pertains to free speech and public assembly and protest. At the Supreme Court explained in *UNITED STATES v. GRACE* (1983) a case involving two plaintiffs threatened with arrest for leafleting and picketing on the sidewalk in front of the supreme Court building, "Public places historically associated with the free exercise of expressive activities, such as street, sidewalks and parks are considered to be public forums".

In such places the government's ability to permissibly restrict expressive conduct is very limited. Any restrictions on the time, place or manner of speech must be "content-neutral and narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest, and leave open ample alternative channels of communication".

When the government action such as those we mentioned discriminates on the basis of viewpoint, as they clearly do, it is even less likely to survive the First Amendment challenge (*MAHONY v. BABBITT* 1997).

The government, even the Bush Klan, has no authority to allow one side to fight freely and forbid the other side to fight at all. The Secret Service pattern and practice of herding protestors into free speech cages, while leaving Bush supporters untouched, violates that principle and establishes a disturbing precedent. To get on Bush's side, other countries will cooperate on suppressing protest.

I believe when Bush was in Ireland, Republican Sinn Féin was restricted in its protest, but did make its point because Bush declared it a proscribed organisation in a spiteful action that an eight-year-old schoolboy might make.

The Free State in lapdog mode would not permit proper protest. This is beyond the scope of the brief of the Secret Service, which is charged to protect the president from physical

harm, not political criticism.

Furthermore, it is the charge of Bush to put a stop to this practice because it violates the Constitution he is sworn to uphold. Those who protect him must also respect the rights of citizens.

Each SS agent is sworn to uphold the Constitution. America's founders sought a viable executive, but one who complies with the law. Not one who ignores law he dislikes. This is not a choice here.

What we are considering here is the basic right of citizens to engage in free expression of their ideas. No one has a monopoly on ideas and to determine which are more right than other are.

DISSENT is suppressed when the authority against which the dissenter seeks to make their point of dissatisfaction and the act of suppression is an admission in practice of their weakness of policy.

The powers that be attempt to stifle peaceful protest and the logic reaction is violence whether it is America, Ireland or South Africa. Speech is positive and spreads ideas not blood.

Suppression of it is the use of physical force causing the caging of human beings in constructive imprisonment. If dissenters try to move from the cage they are roughed up and/or arrested as we have shown.

Arab-American groups are under the microscope as are Irish-American supporters of true Republicanism in Ireland. Bush has personally declared such Irish supporters as fellow travellers with terrorists and he says have a link to el Qaeda.

Phone calls, emails and wire taps to Ireland are monitored just as those to Muslim nations. Bush has told the National Security Administration that if things flare up again in Ireland, he will support any policy the British deem necessary to restore order.

We can only be cautious in our actions, which is a prior restraint on legal political activity when we have to fear suppression. Bush does not care because he had declared that if it does not agree with a law, that as leader, he can ignore it.

Here is the question of the day – What has the United States become? You can speak out but there is a price to pay. That is not free speech.

The constitution states we are entitled to say anything we want and Bush has sworn under oath to enforce constitutional rights. His refusal to do so makes him a lawbreaker and subject to impeachment.

— Peadar Mac Fhínní

Comhbhrón

BECKHAM, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mary Guirín, Castleconnel, Co Limerick on the death of her brother George Beckham. From Republican Sinn Féin and the Republican Movement, Limerick.

COSTELLO, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Eddie Costello, and the Costello family Limerick, on the death of his wife Mary. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

COSTELLO, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Eddie Costello, and the Costello family Limerick, on the death of his wife Mary. From Ken O'Reilly, Dave Cleary and Christie Moran, Limerick.

COSTELLO, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Eddie Costello, and the Costello family Limerick, on the death of his wife Mary. From Mick Hanley, Limerick.

COSTELLO, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Eddie Costello,

and the Costello family Limerick, on the death of his wife Mary. From Des and Annette Long, Limerick.

COSTELLO, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Eddie Costello, and family on the death of his wife Mary. From Seán O'Neill, Limerick.

COSTELLO, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Eddie Costello, and the Costello family Limerick, on the death of his wife Mary. From Angela Coleman, Limerick.

HARTIGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Hartigan family, London on the death of Maisie, wife of the late Paddy Kelly, and London. From all London Republicans.

McKENNA, Cumann Thomas Harte, Republican Sinn Féin, Lurgan, Co Armagh deeply regret the death on June 28 of Mrs Mabel McKenna, grandmother of our comrade and friend Dara (Political Prisoner, Maghaberry jail). We extend deepest

sympathy to the McKenna family. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for her.

O'BRIEN, Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin, extends deepest sympathy to the family of Michael 'Mikie' O'Brien, Killllyn, Co Kerry.

O'BRIEN, The Trustees and Committee of Ballyseedy Memorial express sincere and deepest sympathy to the O'Brien family, Killllyn, Co Kerry on the death of Michael, our esteemed Chairman and Trustee.

O'BRIEN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the O'Brien family, Killllyn, Co Kerry on the death of Michael. From Maurice Dowling and Tom Lawlor, Tralee.

O'BRIEN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the O'Brien family, Killllyn, Co Kerry on the death of Michael. From Liam Cotter, The Spa, Tralee.

O'BRIEN, Deepest and sincerest sympathy is extended to the O'Brien family, Killllyn, Co Kerry on your great loss. From Matt Leen, Tralee.

O'BRIEN, Comhbhrón ó chroí do Clann O'Brien, Co Chiarraí. O Maiteas Ó Dubhdha, Caisleán Gréire, Co Chiarraí.

O'RIORDAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and worldwide friends and comrades of veteran Irish Communist and exemplary internationalist Michael O'RIORDAN. He took a very courageous stand on issues that were not popular but which he believed to be right. From Stephen Coyle, Glasgow.

O'SULLIVAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Tom O'Sullivan and the O'Sullivan family on the death of their brother Billy. From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

O'SULLIVAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Tom O'Sullivan and the O'Sullivan family on the death of their brother Billy. From the Republican Movement, Tipperary.

O'SULLIVAN, Deepest

sympathy is extended to Tom O'Sullivan and the O'Sullivan family on the death of their brother Billy. From Des and Annette Long and family, Limerick.

I gCuimhne

HIGHSTEAD — 30th Anniversary. In proud memory of Derek Highstead, organiser in England of Sinn Féin in the 1970s and who died on July 16, 1976 and also his wife Mena who died in 1995 and was Life President of the Hartigan/Highstead Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin until her death. From all Republicans in England.

HURSON – In proud memory of Volunteer Martin Hurson whose 25th anniversary occurs on July 13. He gave his life for Irish freedom and justice. Remembered by the Casey/McCreesh Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Longford.

MCDONNELL/HURSON – 25th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Joe McDonnell whose 25th Anniversary occurs on July 8 and Martin Hurson whose anniversary occurs on July 13. Remembered with pride always by the Willy Stewart/Joe Conway Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Newry/Dundalk.

MCDONNELL/HURSON – 25th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Joe McDonnell and Martin Hurson whose 25th Anniversaries occur on July 8 and July 13 respectively. Remembered with pride by the Republican Movement, Newry and Dundalk.

RUANE — 15th Anniversary. In loving memory of Tony Ruane who died June 1991. Tony was a staunch, life-long Republican and will always be remembered. He was a native of Bohola, Co Mayo. Fond remembrance to his family from Michael Geraghty, USA.

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

THE battle of the Somme has been high on the agenda here in Ireland over recent days. It appears this battle was a very civilised affair with Germans and Irishmen facing each other at dawn across the fields of Thiepville.

For those who know nothing about the battle it is probably important that I outline the background.

It seems both sides were lovers of flowers. Poppies grew abundantly in the immediate area and a dispute broke out about who could have the loveliest bunches.

Subsequently both sides entered a dispute to claim the relevant territory.

Initially the French, British and Germans went to it with handbags and feathery implements but quite quickly flower enthusiasts from many other countries joined in on one side or the other.

Irishmen joined in because they were told that the dear old shamrock of which they were very proud had been dug up to make more room for poppies. Orangemen in particular took great offence and rushed to the scene of the dispute.

It was at this point things

turned nasty. It appears a German in a rush to dig up a particular field struck an Irishman on the head with a shovel. This was of course an accident but one word led to another and quickly the whole area around the Somme was alive with the sounds of battle. Within hours the reason for the dispute was forgotten and a fierce battle ensued for over four months.

Lenny Murphy was awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in the battle while King Rat and other expert butchers received less prestigious awards from a grateful British

government.

WHICH brings us to the present day. It appears that with hindsight the Free State government has decided that it must take part in commemorating these flower lovers. To this end a succession of Leinster House Ministers and Mary McAleese grovelled and pranced around graveyards and commemorative gardens on July 1.

The reality of the Somme of course is that it was a murderous battle distinguished

by the callousness of both sides. No quarter was given and those who fought the battle acted more like beasts of the fields than courageous soldiers.

To compare such a colonial murder-pool with the brave Irish Volunteers who sacrificed their lives and freedom is a disgrace.

Another disgrace is that the sons of those who took no part in the battle of the Somme should try to seek some reflected glory from it.

Those of us who actually

witnessed the aftermath of that battle. The maimed soldiers who were our neighbours. Those of us who have drunk tea with their sisters and brothers. And those of us who found that experience another strong reason to break the link with England so that such a catastrophe would not happen again have looked on at this week with disgust. Is there nothing sacred to the gangs of suited individuals in this country who describe themselves as politicians?

— Mac Cool

Republican Garden – Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Special Appeal for Funds - To Pay off Our Loan of 8,000

THE Committee & Trustees of the Republican Garden are very pleased to announce that the Republican Garden is now open. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who gave donations, big or small. Without you it would not have been possible, together we can do great things.

1973 - Volunteer Paddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon
1973 - Dermot Crowley, Cork City
1973 - Sean Loughran, Dungannon
1984 - Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Magherafelt
1984 - Ciaran Fleming, Derry City
The Hunger Strikers who died 1974 - 1981
Those who are being remembered all had some connections with Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo areas.

We are asking you to give a donation please to any of the names listed below:
Chairperson: Joe O'Neill

Vice-Chairperson: Jimmy McElhinney
Treasurers: Mick Cullen & Joe Dillon
Joint Secretaries: Mary O'Neill & Phyllis Cullen
Trustees: Pat Barry, Ann Sheerin, Martin McGrath, Declan Curneen, Seamus McGovern, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.

NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.



The Wind That Shakes the Barley

THE film director, Ken Loach, found the title for his film in the name of this song, written by Robert Dwyer Joyce (1830—1883).

Robert Dwyer Joyce was a physician, poet and Fenian sympathiser. Joyce contributed verse to the leading periodicals of the era including *The Nation*, *Harp*, *The Celt*, *Irishman* and the *Irish People*. He left Ireland in 1866 disillusioned with Fenianism when the anticipated rising failed to materialise in 1865. He practised medicine in Boston and lectured at Harvard medical school.

In the USA Joyce became closely associated with the Fenian movement and with its leaders John Devoy, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, James J. O'Kelly and the Fenian poet John Boyle O'Reilly. He supported the New Departure though convinced that Irish freedom could be won only by the gun. He experimented with new methods of gun-casting and researched into ways of improving Fenian gunpowder factories. He returned to Ireland in September 1883 and died at his brother's home a few weeks

later.

This is a patriotic love song, inspired by the Rising of 1798. He has two loves, the girl he loves and his country. They are parted by the bullet of a yeoman and she dies in his arms. He takes revenge by joining the United Irishmen and fighting at the battle of Oulart, Co. Wexford.

The Wind That Shakes the Barley

I sat within the valley green
I sat me with my true love;
While sad heart strove the two between,
The old love and the new love;
The old for her, the new that made
Me think of Ireland dearly,
While soft the wind blew down the glen
And shook the golden barley.

'Twas hard the woeful words to frame
To break the ties that bound



• Ken Loach

us;
But harder still to bear the shame
Of foreign chains around us.
And so I said, 'The mountain glen
I'll seek at morning early,
And join the brave United Men,
While soft winds shake the barley.

While sad I kissed away her tears
My fond arms round her

clinging,
The foeman's shot burst on our ears,
From out the wildwood ringing;
The bullet pierced my true love's side,
In life's young spring so early,
And on my breast in blood she died,
While soft winds shook the barley.

But blood for blood without remorse
I've taken at Oulart Hollow;
I've placed my true love's clay-cold corpse
Where I full soon will follow;
And round her grave I wander drear,
Noon, night and morning early,
With breaking heart where'er I hear
The wind that shakes the barley.

This fine song is sung by the late Frank Harte on a CD entitled '1798 the First Year of Liberty—Irish Traditional Songs of the Rebellion of 1798' by Frank Harte and Donal Lunny.



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