

# SAOIRSE



## Irish Freedom

*The Voice of the Republican Movement*

UIMH 299 MÁRTA – MARCH 2012 <http://saoirse.info> €2 (£1.50 stg, USA \$35 p.a.)



### WHO FEARS TO SPEAK OF EASTER WEEK?

SEMINAR: CENTENARY 1916-2016

IRELAND INSTITUTE

PEARSE STREET, DUBLIN

APRIL 21, 2012, 12 noon-5pm

The seminar will be the first of many events that Republican Sinn Féin will host in the run-up to the Centenary of the 1916 Rising.

Speakers to date include the historian Ruan O'Donnell and President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton.

# NO to Austerity Treaty

THE forthcoming referendum on the Austerity Treaty in the 26 Counties is an opportunity to send out a clear statement of intent that people are not prepared to cede any more power to the undemocratic and unelected bureaucratic elite that is the EU.

Since the first referendum on joining the then EEC Republican Sinn Féin have consistently warned of the steady seepage of economic and political power to Brussels.

The contempt which the political establishments in both Leinster House and the EU hold for the will of the people was exemplified when the people of the 26 Counties rejected both the Nice and Lisbon treaties and yet were forced to vote on them again.

Rather than accepting and acting on the will of the people in the first Lisbon referendum, the then head of the 26-County Administration Brian Cowen slavishly apologised to his political masters in Brussels and immediately promised to force people back into the polling booth until they did what was required of them.

In fact when the people of Holland and France rejected the proposed EU Constitution they too were ignored and it



• Beginning the fight back for our country: Protest outside Leinster House, February 28.

was simply renamed as a treaty in order to avoid a second referendum in either country. Now in the midst of a social and economic crisis, caused by the economic and monetary policies driven largely in the interests of France and Germany, working people in Ireland and across Europe are being sacrificed on the altar of finance capitalism.

It is time to shout stop! Writing in the *Irish Times* on March 2, John Waters pointed out: "This referendum should therefore be a ballot on what has happened, not just going back to 2008, but back to 2002

and the introduction of the euro; and even to 1992 and our ratification of the Maastricht Treaty."

It is not possible for the debate to become "bogged down" in "peripheral issues". The way things are, virtually nothing is peripheral. We are in a time of political as well as economic crisis as Tom McGurk makes plain in the *Sunday Business Post* on March 4: "The democratic process which began in 1789, when the French Revolution signalled the end of centuries of feudalism, is now in crisis."

Working on the dictum of

not letting a good crisis go to waste the possibility of bringing about the kind of radical political and economic change that the situation demands. We should not allow ourselves to be coned or intimidated into voting for something which would be to the detriment of not only this but future generations.

David McWilliams goes right to the heart of the issue when he says in the *Sunday Business Post*: "The German fiscal union envisages penalising the weak country precisely at the moment it is weakest." In fact according to McWilliams, the whole thinking behind the Austerity Treaty is based on a lie: "Egregiously the Germans and the French are wilfully misdiagnosing the illness to suit their own ends."

And that is why the language we use is also important. Austerity Treaty is factual and tells us exactly what this treaty is about.

As the political editor of the *Sunday Business Post* Pat Leahy puts it: "The tag of the 'austerity treaty' is potent." So now is the time to organise and fight back and as the statement from the President of Republican Sinn Féin says:

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

Begin the fight back for our country and vote No".

**Boycott**  
**Septic Tank & Water**  
**Charges**  
**& the**  
**Unjust**  
**Household TAX**

Republican SINN FÉIN Poblachtach  
Organise Today / Strike Back Tomorrow



**Wear an  
Easter Lily**

**Honour Ireland's**

**Dead**

Easter Lilies now available to  
Republican Sinn Féin Cumainn  
€40.00 per 1,000  
from Peig King,  
29 All Saint's Park,  
Raheny, Dublin 5

**APPLICATION FOR SPEAKERS**  
at County Easter Commemorations should be sent  
as soon as possible to:  
An Rúnaí, Coiste Cuimhneacháin Náisiúnta  
223 Sráid Pharnell, BÁC 1

# Shell to Sea spokesperson sentenced to prison

ON February 21, Shell to Sea spokesperson Terence Conway was handed two three-month prison sentences for protesting against Shell's Corrib Gas Project. He is currently on bail pending an appeal in the circuit court.

Throughout the week local residents were protesting on the roads while many of their supporters were in court in Belmullet, which so far has resulted in twelve people being convicted of 33 charges resulting in fines totalling €5,825.

Two more people have to face the courts with 21 charges between them. One person was given a two-month prison sentence suspended for 12 months in exchange for signing a bond to keep the peace. In all 19 protestors faced 80 charges between them for "civil disobedience".

The last case to be heard on February 20 resulted in a conviction and fine, despite what looked like very clear video footage refuting the charge. There were numerous contradictions in Garda

in the circuit court.

During this case, Terence Conway spoke and gave evidence about the injustices faced by the community in

"What we have been subjected to by the actions of Shell and the State is worthy of a dictatorship. The police are working as an arm of the oil companies."

When the Judge responded that "This is a law-abiding country and there is justice for all in the country," about 25 local residents and supporters walked out of the courtroom in protest.

On February 22 a stenographer was disallowed from making an audio recording of the court proceedings, despite this being common practice. When asked for a reason by the defence council, the Judge ruled that he did not want it falling into 'the wrong hands'.

On February 20 local residents blocked Shell's haulage route between Bellanaboy refinery and the compound in Glengad while many of their supporters were up in court.

Related Link:  
<http://shelltosea.com>



• Gardaí clearing the way for Shell's convoy

evidence, one in particular which caused major concern about Garda conduct of the case. The case will be appealed

Erriis, including a clip of footage from the well-known incident at McGrath's pier.

Terence Conway stated that

## Seeing the land for the trees

HIDDEN beneath the proposed sell off of public forest trees is the loss of sovereign land which the trees are growing upon. Do not be fooled by politician's weasel words, while our public assets are being gutted, gift wrapped and prepared for delivery into the hands of private investors.

These lucky purchasers may include the bondholders who received €3.1 billion of Irish people's money on March 31, 2012. The very fabric of Irish Society is being destroyed to make this possible. This money that they lost and then be used to buy the very same public assets the politicians claim they have no choice but to sell. This is to pay the debts incurred by the gambling of our unregulated banks. This was encouraged by the same political mindset which is now proposing to sell our public assets. These same parasitic private investors also

value of what they are selling and giving 90 years harvesting rights as well? It also means this public land is of no use to the people of Ireland especially when it is fenced off by the new private owners for full

and the land will remain in private hands to remind the Irish people of this dark period in Ireland's history. Who will explain to our children and grandchildren as to how such a travesty was allowed to happen in a so-called democracy or should we refer to it in the future as the great de-mockery.

It is not too late to avert this impending crime against the people of Ireland.

Assert your rightful ownership, sign the petition, contact your TD, local media, walk your forests on the March 4.

Éicse Firinne Dúira / The Woodland League, Dedicated to Restoring the Relationship Between People and Their Native Woodlands.

Visit our website for more information at:  
[www.woodlandleague.org](http://www.woodlandleague.org)



The Woodland League

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

fund political parties for their mutual gain.

They do not know the true

exploitation.

Ninety years is a long time, Politicians will come and go,

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

• is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible

• is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.



We need your support. Our website address is:

<http://irishfreedom.net>

## All-Ireland anti-fracking campaign backed

A NEW organisation set up to campaign against fracking is backed by advisers in the areas of economics, law, science, public health and policy development according to a report on February 17.

Good Energies Alliance Ireland (GEAI) will cover the entire country and will also promote ways in which the wise use of energy can be supported from sustainable sources and practices.

Fracking, which involves using water to fracture rocks to drill for shale gas, is causing concern over the potential environmental and health considerations related to the activity.

Bringing together the many community groups around the country, GEAI says its plan is to use information and creative communication to raise awareness of the process of

fracking.

It will lobby nationally and internationally for a ban on hydraulic fracturing until independent scientific studies verify that it can be undertaken sustainably and will not result in environmental, social or economic harm.

One company, Tamboran, which has applied for a license to drill in Leitrim hopes to drill for up to 2.2 trillion cubic feet of gas over 30 years.

Widespread unregulated fracking in the USA has caused environmental damage in many states, while France has banned the practice.

## Gearrscéalta

### RUC misconduct figures published

IT was reported on February 13 that in the last three years 83 members of the RUC/PSNI were convicted of offences at internal hearings, but only 18 were dismissed or required to resign from the police service.

The rest were allowed to stay but faced sanctions such as a reduction in rank, a fine or a reprimand. Another 22 members chose to resign rather than face proceedings.

The range of offences included theft, drugs, assault, and attempting to pervert the course of justice, as well as drink-driving, sex offences, dishonesty and assault. These cover a similarly wide range of misconduct among the population at large, for which members of the public face the due process of law.

Currently there are 25 members suspended from duty, and they have been paid a total of nearly £700,000 while they await the outcome of their disciplinary investigations. In one particularly disturbing case, an RUC man suspended for more than seven years may have received some £275,000 in pay while off duty.

The figures were obtained from the RUC/PSNI's Professional Standards Department as the result of a Freedom of Information request by the *Belfast Telegraph*.

### 'Peace' barriers increased from 22 to 48

A REPORT from the Peace Monitoring Report in the Occupied Six Counties in February 2012 said that fourteen years after the Stormont Agreement, the Six-County state remains "a very divided society".

The report states that: 'peace walls have increased from 22 when the agreement was signed, to a current total of 48 walls; 'paramilitarism' remains an active threat and Six-County society is still very divided in terms of schools and housing'.

The author of the report, Dr Paul Nolan said 'violence' had declined but had not gone away.

"There is increased cooperation at the political level but there is also an increase in the number of interface barriers.

"We have seen interesting experiments in shared housing and shared education but 92.5% of school enrolments are still in schools that are perceived to be for one community only and 90% of social housing is for single identity communities," he said.

"At times, Northern Ireland (*sic*) seems to be moving forward; at other times it seems in danger of lurching back into the past."

### Supergrass system 'will continue'

THE British Director of Public Prosecutions in the Six-Counties said that so-called supergrass trials will continue.

The system was widely criticised after the acquittals of 13 men, nine of whom were charged with the murder of UDA leader Tommy English. The trial lasted 21 weeks.

UVF members Robert and Ian Stewart had given evidence against the men in exchange for lesser sentences.

The men - including former north Belfast UVF commander Mark Haddock - walked free from court on February 23, cleared of involvement in the loyalist feud murder and a litany of other charges. Of the four accused of lesser offences, only one was convicted for possessing a sledgehammer.

In delivering his verdicts, trial judge Justice John Gillen branded the star witnesses [Stewart brothers] "ruthless criminals and unflinching terrorists" and said their evidence was "infected with lies".

He added: "The evidence before me has been too weak and unreliable, based as it was on the flawed and unreliable Stewart testimony."

"The supporting evidence falls far short of restoring the necessary credibility to satisfy me beyond reasonable doubt as to the guilt of any of the accused on these charges."

Chief Constable Matt Baggott told the Policing Board on February 29 that he was 'fully behind the use of supergrasses' and defended the use of 'assisting offenders'.

### Results of Dublin raffle

FEBRUARY Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 578; 2nd prize ticket no 276; 3rd prize 367; 4th prize 034; 5th prize 711; 6th prize 164; 7th prize 683; 8th prize 425.

SAOIRSE Aptil edition  
published 5/4/2012



## Gearrscéalta

### Seán Keenan remembered in Derry

**THE annual Republican Sinn Féin commemoration for Seán Keenan took place on March 4 in Derry at his memorial near Free Derry Corner.**

Chairing the commemoration Michael McGonigle said that had Seán still been alive he knew very well how he would have reacted to the naming of Derry as 'UK City of Culture', to applause from the crowd.

Flowers were laid by Seán's daughters Róisín and Noreen and wreaths were laid by Cait Trainor on behalf of the Republican Movement and by Mary Ward on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Nuala Moore and the Proclamation was read by Vice-President Fergal Moore.

Michael then called on Kevin Trainor to give the oration. Kevin gave a very passionate oration that was very well received by the audience during the course of which he said that Seán had come out of jail after the forties and fifties campaigns to find things at a very low ebb but Seán remained staunch and helped build things up again.

Referring to Derry being named 'UK City of Culture' Kevin said that it was an insult to the Irish people the same way it would be an insult to Latvia should one of their cities be named a Russian City of Culture. Moving on, Kevin then spoke of the necessity of Irish Freedom saying that the Irish people were perfectly able to run their own affairs and provide jobs for ourselves. He finished with a rousing "We want our country back!"

The crowd then moved off behind a lone piper to the Bloody Sunday Memorial where a wreath was laid by Nuala Moore. On returning to the Seán Keenan monument the National Anthem was played and the crowd dispersed.

### Section of Act 'repugnant to constitution'

**A RULING by the 26-County Supreme Court that a section of the Offences Against the State Act was unconstitutional has serious implications for many Republicans who were arrested and charged, (and indeed for the Gardaí that arrested and searched their homes) and whose cases are pending in the special non-jury court.**

Five Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice Susan Denham, ruled on February 23 that section 29 (1) of the Offences Against the State Act of 1939, as inserted by section 5 of the Criminal Law Act of 1976, was "repugnant" to the 26-County Constitution on foot of a warrant not issued by an independent person. "Article 40.5 of the Constitution expressly provides that one's home is inviolable and shall not be forcibly entered except in accordance with the law," according to Chief Justice Susan Denham.

The section has been routinely used in the past by Gardaí to search the homes of people they deem "suspects".

"A member of the Garda Síochána who is part of an investigating team is not independent on matters related to the investigation," Susan Denham said on behalf of the court. "The person authorising a search warrant is required to be able to assess the conflicting interests of the State and the person whose home is to be searched," the judge said.

The Supreme Court ruling was given in the case of an Algerian man, Ali Charaf Damache (45), John Colwyn House, High Street, Waterford. He was arrested as a suspect in an alleged conspiracy to murder Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks over his drawing of the prophet Muhammad.

### Ex-Brit soldiers jailed for beating Irishman

**IT was reported on February 19 that two ex-British soldiers were jailed having been convicted of a savage street attack on an Irishman in England. At the time of the assault the two men were serving members of the British army.**

Bolton Crown Court heard how after brutally beating 24-year-old Stephen Mahon the British soldiers congratulated each other as they walked off leaving Stephen in agony on the ground.

Stephen Mahon managed to get up and stagger away but the soldiers followed him and launched another attack on him, kicking him as he lay injured on the street. Stephen Mahon was targeted in the totally unprovoked attack because the assailants heard his Irish accent. He told the court that his nationality was the only reason he was assaulted.

Simon Pierce (19) and Philip Arrowsmith (20) pleaded guilty to attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent last year.

Simon Pierce already had a conviction for breaking Christopher Turner's jaw in a racist attack. Christopher Turner's face was so horrifically smashed that surgeons had to insert a metal plate in his mouth.

Pierce wasn't jailed for that attack because the trial judge was told a prison sentence would ruin his promising British army career. He also assaulted his parents, smashed his father's window with a concrete block, and head-butted a policeman.



## Harassment of Republican Sinn Féin National Treasurer

**ON February 14 one of the joint National Treasurers of Republican Sinn Féin, Diarmuid Mac Dubhghlais, was arrested at his home in Dublin and held by 26-County police for two days. He was released without charge on February 16.**

He tells of his experiences with the Special Branch:

"On December 8, 2011 while I was out driving I was forced off the road by the political police. At least 10 armed police were involved and none wore uniforms or indeed identified themselves.

"I was dragged from the car, handcuffed and thrown to the ground. I was searched as was my car. Nothing [illegal] was found so I was released. The police refused to give me any reason for this incident and refused to show ID. I have taken advice legal advice on how to proceed with a complaint and claim damages for the damage done to my car.

political police and I was arrested under the Offences Against the State Act and taken to Finglas Garda barracks. The police continued to search my house in my absence for several hours, with no independent person

"During interrogation I was accused of having explosives in my possession on December 8. This is of course a lie.

"I was held in the police station for 48-hours and for the first 30 hours I was refused a phone call and contact with my family, neither was I given access to any food. The light on the cell was left on all night – the police refused to switch it off when I asked. I was refused any bedding and in fact they put the air conditioning on for the whole night, denying me any sleep on my first night. Presumably this was to disorientate me.

"The police moved many items from my house, mostly of a personal nature including almost €1,000 of my money (my mortgage payment).

"No inventory of items taken has yet been given to either myself or my solicitor. I was released without charge at 11.30am on the February 16."



• **Diarmuid Mac Dubhghlais pictured at a protest against the Queen of England's visit to the 26 Counties in May 2011. He was arrested and charged for the 'crime' of carrying the National Flag. The charges were later dropped.**

"A week later on February 14 my house was raided by the present.

## Oppose unjust taxation!

**ON Wednesday February 29, 2012, members of Republican Sinn Féin gathered on O'Connell Street, Dublin, to participate in the protest against the Septic Tank tax, which was organised by the people of West Galway.**

Buses arrived from all over the West, from Limerick to Donegal, full to capacity with people intent on showing their opposition towards this and other unjust taxes being forced upon the people by the political establishment.

A platform was provided for speakers outside Leinster House. Among the speakers was Republican Sinn Féin County Councillor for Galway Tomás Ó Curraoin who had this to say:

"First of all I would like to compliment all the people involved in this and in particular Padraic Ó Conghaile who started this as a non-political organisation. It is equal and civil rights for all the citizens of Ireland. It's a very sad day that we have to stand outside of Leinster House to try and protect our own in such hard times.

"We forecasted back in 1973 that going into the EEC would bring exactly what we have today,

and I know today is about the water and the septic tank charges but we have to look at the whole bigger picture in rural Ireland.

"From the turf-cutting, to the cattle in the fields, to the sheep on the mountains, to our seas that were sold away as the first sacrifice in 1973. What for? What did we get out of it? Some people got something out of it.

"We won't pay any septic tank charges. I will be asking all the people of rural Ireland not to pay the septic tank charges. I will also be asking them not to pay the household charges and I will also be asking them not to accept Irish Water that is going to take over the running of our water distribution in case people are not aware of it.

"We were told at a county council meeting in Galway last Friday that this is what would happen, that no longer would the local authorities such as councils have any control over the water.



• **Republican Sinn Féin banners at the protest.**

"The polluted water that they had a fancy name for in my own county of Galway a few years ago when the kids were sick in hospital; they called it cryptosporidium. But yet the clear point of it and I will make it very clear to you what it was POISON – that is what it was.

"I would like to point out about the legislation that is made across the road and the corruption that goes on inside of it. A lot of good people went into that house with the intentions of turning it around. There are a lot of good people who are in it now who

spoke in our favour today but lads, the devil is inside of that house.

"Whatever you do, any of you in there, think every morning before you go into it because they will try and pollute you, they will try and corrupt you and they will try and bring you on their side.

"Be on the side of the people, the majority who are suffering because of the greed of the minority that were flying around in helicopters during the Celtic Tiger and brought us to where we are today. Go raibh mile maith agaibh."

## Calls for clarification on pension rule changes

**LOBBY group Older and Bolder called on the 26-County Administration on January 23, 2012 to clarify changes in the rules for the State contributory pensions, and to 'launch a public information campaign on the implications of the changes'.**

The organisation's director, Patricia Conboy, called on the 26-County Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton to provide those affected by the changes with "clarity, transparency, and adequate time to prepare and plan".

She said the Minister was now "flagging the possibility" of changing the way in which entitlement to the State contributory pension was calculated, moving from a mix of

total number of years and yearly averages of contributions to total number of years solely.

"What is not clear is what any of the above means for parents who take time out of the labour force to care for children; people who become ill for example with cancer and take leave to undergo chemotherapy; carers of sick/older relatives; people who work/travel abroad for a period of time."

The State pension



(contributory) is paid to people from the age of 66 who have enough social insurance contributions. It is not means-tested. Under changes already announced in the budget and due to come into force in September, those with the minimum 10 contributions per year will see their pension drop from €115.20 to €92 a week. The new "total contributions" plan under review by the Minister would see this minimum payment for those with

10 years of contributions fall further to €76 a week.

The five-year working life requirement is being doubled to 10 under separate measures announced as far back as 1997.

Eamon Timmins from the charity Age Action also called for clarity following comments by the Minister that she was examining the possibility of bringing forward changes which had been originally planned for 2020.

The 2010 National Pensions Framework stated that the Government would adopt a "total contributions approach" from 2020 when calculating a person's PRSI contribution. This would replace the "average contributions" system currently used.

# For The Record

**SUN. FEBRUARY 5:** Up to 100 people attended a demonstration in Enniskillen against plans to extract gas from shale rock on the Cavan/Fermanagh border, commonly known as fracking.

**TUES. FEBRUARY 7:** Republicans claim they are in possession of a mobile phone, the property of a female RUC/PSNI member, from which they accessed personal information on the member and several of her colleagues.

**THURS. FEBRUARY 9:** A Republican from Derry was remanded back into custody on Thursday, after he pleaded guilty to attacking the city's Strand Road RUC/PSNI Station with a car bomb on 3 August, 2010. Philip O'Donnell (43) from Baldrick Crescent, pleaded guilty to causing an explosion likely to endanger life. He pleaded guilty to hijacking the taxi which contained the 200lb device, falsely imprisoning the taxi driver. He also pleaded guilty to two further charges of attempted hijacking in the two days before the attack.

A Derry man, Andrew Allen, was shot dead in a house in Buncrana, Co Donegal.

Masked gunmen fired shots into two Ladbroke's shops in Derry

The 36-County police have incurred more than €14.5 million in additional costs such as overtime and subsistence payments in policing the Shell oil refinery site at Bellanaboy, Co Mayo, since 2006. The figure did not include the basic salaries paid to gardai who had policed the site.

**FRI. FEBRUARY 10:** Spain's new government announced it would cut employees' maximum severance pay from 45 days to 33 days' salary for each year of employment. Employment Minister Fatima Banez said the goal was to stem unemployment.

Brian Shivers, found guilty last month of the death of two British soldiers at Massereene Army base in Co Antrim in March 2009 must serve at least 25 years in jail.

**SAT. FEBRUARY 11:** More than 100,000 people demonstrated in Lisbon's Palace Square against the harsh austerity measures in place. The protest came amid growing concerns among international lenders that Portugal will require more bailout funds.

Two men, one aged 45-year-old and another aged 32-year-old were arrested in the Watergrasshill area of Cork following the discovery of a firearm.

**MON. FEBRUARY 13:** Dairy company Dale Farm was fined £2,500 for pollution offences in Co Tyrone. The firm pleaded guilty to breaching a Pollution Prevention and Control Permit at Dunganon Magistrates Court. Dale Farm was fined a total of £2,500 plus costs for discharging a higher than allowed amount of effluent into the Lissan River at its site in Dunmanbridge.

A report revealed around two-thirds of prisoners in the Occupied Six Counties are unable to write or do sums properly. The report by CJINI and the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) said that more than 60% of prisoners are below the minimum required level in literacy and numeracy skills.

A Swiss tycoon and a Belgian baron were convicted by an Italian court and sentenced to 16 years in for negligence that led to more than 2,000 asbestos-related deaths in the biggest trial of its kind. Former Swiss owner Stephan Schmidheiny, 64, and Belgian shareholder and former executive Jean Louis Marie Ghislain De Cartier De Marchienne, 90, were accused of intentionally omitting to put in place measures to prevent asbestos damage at Swiss firm Eternit's Italian plants.

An estimated 100,000 people protested the austerity measures outside the Greek parliament in Athens.

Israel blamed Iran and the Lebanese Hizbullah for the February 12 car-bombing in India and an attempted strike in Georgia, vowing a "determined response".

A man who was detained in Coalisland, Co Tyrone on February 11 was charged with possession of explosives with intent to endanger life. It follows a series of searches in the south Armagh and east Tyrone area over the Easter weekend of 2011.

Shell and its partners in the Corrib natural gas field plan to spend €800 million between now and 2014. Work on the final phase of the development, a 5km tunnel to link the pipes from the field to the

gas terminal at Bellanaboy – where it will tie in to the national network – is under way.

Well known Irish actor David Kelly died in Dublin.

**TUES. FEBRUARY 14:** Two petrol bombs were thrown at police and fire crews in Derry, there were no reports of any injuries. Stones were also thrown during the incident at Rossville Street in the city at 10.30pm. One vehicle received minor scorch damage as a result of the attack.

Colin Duffy, Lurgan gave his first interview since he was acquitted last month of the murder of two British soldiers at Massereene in 2009 to the *Irish News*.

Eamon Cassidy was remanded in custody charged with possession of a 100lb bomb in Derry on March 27, 2011. The bomb was in a car abandoned in Bishop Street, Derry opposite the courthouse.

**WED. FEBRUARY 15:** Brian Shivers, who was jailed for the murder of two soldiers at Massereene military base in Co Antrim, lodged papers to appeal the verdict. His legal team claim he was wrongly punished and want an urgent hearing due to his severe medical condition.

TUV leader Jim Allister accused the Stormont Assembly Commission of "sanitising" Stormont of any Unionist emblems. He was speaking specifically about a table on which the Act of Union was signed on in 1800, which is currently being held in storage.

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness spent €302,563 on his bid to become President of the 26 Counties in 2011. The figure includes money used on publicity, election posters, office and stationary, transport, market research, campaign workers and other election materials.

Three men were arrested after a van smashed into an RUC car before crossing the border and colliding with two Garda vehicles. The RUC/PSNI said it followed an incident in the Carranbane Walk area of Shantallow in Derry at around 9.30am.

An extra 600 people claimed unemployment benefits in January bringing the jobless figure for the Occupied Six Counties to 61,500.

Traders in Armagh say the collapse of three local firms - with 250 jobs lost in just days - is a real confidence-blow to the city. The imminent closure of the HCL Services call-centre in the city is the latest blow for an area which has taken an economic battering of late. HCL has announced a 90-day consultation period on proposals to close its contact centre in Armagh and to reduce employment in its Belfast contact centre. The proposals involve up to 425 people being put at risk of redundancy, including 170 in Armagh. The news comes on the back of 50 jobs being shed at Armagh haulage firm Noel Zwecker International Transport. Meanwhile floor manufacturer Unicorn Mouldings, based in nearby Markethill, is losing 36 jobs.

Abu Qatada, a Jordanian cleric alleged to be one of Europe's top al Qaeda officials, was freed from a British jail after an EU court ruled his detention illegal. He remains under surveillance while Britain seeks his deportation. The Jordanian preacher known as Abu Qatada must wear an electronic tag to allow the police to keep track of him, spend 22 hours a day at his family home and is banned from using the Internet and mobile phones.

Iran unveiled on State TV its first domestically-made nuclear fuel for its Tehran reactor and said that it has added 3,000 more centrifuges to its uranium enrichment effort, in a defiant response to Western sanctions against its nuclear programme.

Over 300 prisoners died when fire swept through a jail in Honduras.

The Parades Commission ruled that a parade will now be allowed to take place through Whitecross village in south Armagh as part of a parade organised on the anniversary of the Kingsmills shootings in which 10 men were shot dead.

**WED. FEBRUARY 16:** Private waste collection company Greyhound has collected the bins of households in Dublin city who failed to make the upfront payments – but left warning letters which said that unregistered bins will not be collected in future unless at least half of the €100 service charge is paid in advance.

**THURS. FEBRUARY 17:** A man who broke into a house in Dublin 30 years ago following the death of its owner and began living there has won his case against the State, which was seeking possession of the premises. By a majority decision, the court ruled that the Chief State Solicitor cannot pursue a legal claim requiring Grogan to give up possession of the premises.

Work was disrupted at the Corrib gas project in Co Mayo when up to 70 protestors staged a blockade.

The GAA received €61.4m from Stormont to redevelop the Casement Park stadium in Belfast.

**SAT. FEBRUARY 18:** A man was arrested for questioning following a suspicious blaze at commercial premises in Waringstown, Co Down. Considerable damage was caused to the Terrace



• More than 3,000 people took to the streets in Castlebar, Co Mayo on February 24 in protest against the 25-County Administration's plans to increase the pupil-teacher ratio. The march was organised by the Save Our Small Schools campaign group.

View premises during the blaze.

A recruitment drive was launched in the Occupied Six Counties to replace prison warders due to take either early retirement or the early retirement package on offer.

A former bread delivery man sued over injuries allegedly suffered during an incident in which Gardai used a stun grenade and allegedly assaulted him while capturing two armed bank robbers. Séamus O'Neill (63), Annagassan, Co Louth, claimed Gardai beat him and handcuffed him when they dragged him from the van, believing him to be one of the robbers.

A listed 19th century bank building in Trevor Hill, Newry was damaged by fire. The bank is in a Grade B1 listed building. Built as a bank in 1826, it was the first branch of the Bank of Ireland to be established in Ulster.

**SUN. FEBRUARY 19:** Burmese monk Shin Gambira, one of the leaders of anti-government protests in 2007, is to face fresh legal action. He is accused of staying in a monastery that had been sealed by the authorities and of breaking into two others. Gambira had been released as part of an amnesty last month, but continued his criticism of the civilian, military-backed government.

It is estimated that the EU presidency next year will cost the 26 Counties up to €70m to host.

**WED. FEBRUARY 22:** Journalist Marie Colvin was killed by shellfire in Homs while covering the current uprising in Syria. In an interview CNN's Anderson Cooper just hours before her death, she finished with words, "the Syrian army is shelling a city of cold, starving civilians". Also killed was French photographer Remy Ochiik.

This week Florence City Council voted to name a street after Bobby Sands who died on hunger strike in 1981 fighting for political status. Thirty-three city councillors out of 34 voted in favour, with one abstention.

**THURS. FEBRUARY 23:** As part of Israeli Apartheid Week 2012, the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign hosted the Irish Première screening of the new acclaimed film *Roadmap to Apartheid*, followed by a Q&A session with Huwaida Arraf and Adam Shapiro two of the founders of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM).

The Supreme Court in Dublin ruled that section 29 (1) of the Offences Against the State Act of 1939, as inserted by section 5 of the Criminal Law Act of 1976, was "repugnant" to the [26-County] Constitution as it had permitted a search contrary to the Constitution on foot of a warrant not issued by an independent person. It means that a Garda who signed the search warrant cannot participate in the search of the home/premises. The ruling has serious implications for many Republicans who were arrested and charged and whose cases are pending in the Special non-jury Court.

**FRI. FEBRUARY 24:** More than 3,000 people took to the streets in Castlebar, Co Mayo in protest against the 25-County Administration's plans to increase the pupil-teacher ratio. The Save Our Small Schools campaign group, who organised the rally, is calling on the Administration to reverse this decision, saying that it will force hundreds of small schools to close. The protesters picketed the Taoiseach's constituency office and handed in a petition and letter.

**TUES. FEBRUARY 28:** The judge in the Stephen Carroll murder trial rejected a bid by the defence to throw out the evidence of a prosecution witness, known only as Witness M. While the judge agreed that the RUC had breached their code of practice over the evidence of Witness M, he ruled that the RUC "had not acted in bad faith" and their decision not to hold an identity parade "was not irrational". Witness M claims he saw Brendan McConville, one of the accused, in the area just prior to the shooting of Constable Carroll in March 2009 in Co Armagh. John Paul Wootton is also charged with the

shooting of Constable Carroll.

26-County Taoiseach Enda Kenny announced that a referendum would be held on the European Fiscal Treaty.

Some 141,813 householders had registered for the property tax to date.

**WED. FEBRUARY 29:** Lawyers for Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton called for the trial to be stopped due to lack of evidence. Defence barrister Brendan Kelly QC told the judge it would be "unsafe and unsatisfactory" to continue with the case.

Deputy leader of the Fianna Fail party in the 26 Counties, Eamon Ó Cuiv, resigned in a row over Fianna Fail's support for the European Fiscal Treaty. He was asked to resign by leader Michael Martin.

Greyhound, the company tasked with providing a bin collection in Dublin has said it wants taxpayers to take over the almost €3m cost of subsidising waiver customers. The company said it cannot afford to continue collecting bins from households which have not paid up.

Up to 1,000 people attended a rally in Dublin to highlight the impact of austerity measures on rural communities. Campaigners were protesting against septic tank measures, the household charge, health service cuts, changes in pupil-teacher ratios and the privatisation of State assets. The demonstration, organised by Rural Ireland Against Charges, saw dozens of community groups from counties Donegal, Tipperary, Galway, Limerick and Kerry take to streets of the capital.

**THUR. MARCH 1:** The inquest into the murders of John McKeane and his nephew Kevin McKeane will be delayed for another year. John McKeane and Kevin McKeane were shot when a UVF gunman burst into their butcher shop in Moy, Co Tyrone on January 2, 1992. Kevin died instantly and John died three months later as a result of his injuries.

Prosecution lawyers in the Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton trial say there is strong circumstantial evidence against the two men. Justice Girvan, sitting without a jury in the Diplock court, reserved ruling on the defence application until March 5.

Around 140,000 Dublin city residents will see their bin collection charges increase by more than 16% in three months under new plans by private waste firm Greyhound to raise its "per-lift" charges.

**FRI. MARCH 2:** A man has been charged in connection with the stabbing of another man in Newcastle, Co Down. The 20-year-old victim was attacked in the Burrendale Park Road area. He was stabbed multiple times.

A man robbed a takeaway restaurant in Spencer Road, Derry armed with what has been described as a hammer or pickaxe type weapon.

At least 150 people are reported to have been killed and hundreds injured following huge explosions at an arms dump in Congo's capital Brazzaville.

Personal details of up to 87 police officers have allegedly been passed to prisoners in Maghaberry Prison by a jailed ex-RUC member, Craigavon court was told when the man was accused of accused of collecting information which could be used by terrorists. Kyle Martin Jones, 27, is accused of handing over the lists during the last three months. The former RUC officer from Ballyclare, had been on remand on robbery charges.

**SAT. MARCH 3:** The Director of public prosecutions in the Six Occupied Counties Barra McGorry, said about half the files on serious crimes compiled by the PSNI don't have enough information. It is believed that up to 3,000 files are in question. More than 60,000 files are sent to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) by the police each year.

**SUN. MARCH 4:** The rate of unemployment is: 23.3% in Spain, almost 21% in Greece, 15% in Portugal, also 15% in Ireland and almost 7.5% in Germany. It means close to 17 million people were out of work in the first month of 2012.

**MON. MARCH 5:** A review of the murder of Sam Marshall and the attempted murder of two more Republicans in Lurgan in 1990 by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) found several new pieces of information indicating the fact that there was at least eight undercover soldiers were deployed near where the men were fired on...two undercover soldiers followed the men on foot and were only 50 to 100 yards away from the men but they said they did not see the attack in which 49 shots were fired at the three men.

Over 13,000 children are on waiting lists across the 26 Counties for orthodontic treatment and a further 7,000 are waiting to be assessed.

Vladimir Putin was elected President of Russia.

President Barack Obama will receive Israeli prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the Oval office – it is Obama's ninth meeting with him in three years. Obama addressed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and made no secret of his backing for Israel.



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

## REPORT FINDS COLLUSION IN LOYALIST KILLINGS

### A Belfast Chronology

**Sunday, February 5, 2012.** The Relatives for Justice Group published a report into the murder of five nationalists in Belfast twenty years ago. The 70-page report was presented to families of those murdered on the anniversary of the Seán Graham's bookmakers by the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF). Mark Sykes from RFJ, who was shot in the attack, said he new report not only highlighted the extent of collusion but it also seeks justice for the dead.

Relatives of those murdered in Seán Graham's bookmakers 20 years ago gathered to mark the anniversary and remember the three men and two youths who lost their lives in the loyalist attack. Over 300 people attended as a new memorial stone was unveiled.

**Thursday, February 9, 2012.** Louis McGettigan from west Belfast, a nationalist fitter working in Short Brothers, who failed to act over a sectarian text message, was awarded more than £11,000 in damages.

The families of Margaret McElean (18) and Thomas Donaghy (16), who died when the UFF sprayed their car with bullets, while on their way to work at Abbey Meat Packers in February 1974, spoke out about their concerns at the findings of a Historical Enquiries Team (HET) report into their murders. Their concerns hinge on the reports' findings about the time at which the RUC were alerted to a car acting suspiciously close to the factory.

**Friday, February 10, 2012.** A security alert in west Belfast turned out to be an elaborate hoax. British army bomb experts were

called to the scene at Ross Road to examine a suspicious object. A number of homes were evacuated and the area was sealed off for a time.

**Saturday, February 11, 2012.** A new play written by former Republican Prisoner, Sam Millar entitled *Brothers in Arms* was staged at the Waterfront in Belfast. Immediately after the play, Belfast journalist Brian Rowan chaired a debate with Provisional Councillor Jim McVeigh, Ciarán Cunningham (Republican Network For Unity [RNU]), Peter Sheridan (former RUC) and the playwright, Sam Millar.

**Sunday, February 12, 2012.** Sinn Féin Poblachtach held a public meeting in Andersonstown, West Belfast to highlight the on going protest by Republican prisoners in Maghaberry jail for political status.

Members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach from Craigavon and Lurgan were searched and a member had her car searched by members of the RUC after the public meeting.

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012.** A man was arrested on suspicion of an attempted carjacking in Belfast on January 21. The 26-year-old man was taken into custody for questioning about the incident on the Grosvenor Road area of west Belfast.

Westfield Holdings sold their interest in Castlecourt Shopping Centre in Belfast along with two other sites in Britain. Westfield raised £159m from the sale of their interest in the three sites which also include shopping



• On February 5 relatives of those murdered in Seán Graham's bookmakers 20 years ago attended the unveiling of a new memorial stone.

centres in Guildford and Tunbridge Wells in England. A specific price for Castlecourt has not been made public and the new owners are Hermes Real Estate.

**Friday, February 17, 2012.** Alliance MLA Anna Lo was the target of an attempted armed carjacking in south Belfast.

**Saturday, February 18, 2012.** A woman in west Belfast had her car hijacked by two men in the Springfield road area. The pair approached the woman as she was getting out of her car and demanded the keys to the vehicle. They then drove off and the car was later found abandoned and on fire in the Ballygomartin road area.

Four teenagers who were arrested after two women were pulled from a car during a hijacking in the Slievegallon Drive area in the early hours were released on police bail.

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012.** A west Belfast father was struck on the face with a hammer in the latest of a number of

carjackings in Belfast. There have been more than 20 carjackings in the Belfast area since January.

Two men aged 31 and 45 arrested on suspicion of Republican activity were released unconditionally.

**Saturday February 24, 2012.** A woman and a number of children escaped injury after shots were fired at a house in the Mill Race area of west Belfast.

**Saturday, February 25, 2012.** A 23-year-old from west Belfast was sentenced to five years after DNA matching Seán Megaw's was found in a house in the Summer Hill Drive area of Twinbrook. He was accused of having a gun used in a Republican punishment shooting.

Three RUC members were injured in a car crash during a pursuit in Belfast. Their car collided with another during the pursuit of a car which had been hijacked at knife-point in South Belfast.

The unemployment rate in west Belfast has risen by 4.6 per cent in January with 230 extra people now claiming unemployment benefit. West Belfast has now the second highest level of unemployment in the Six Counties after Foyle.

Shots were fired into a house in Mill Road, west Belfast. A child was cut with broken glass as the bullet went through the front window.

The RUC/PSNI is seeking the dismissal of a damages case brought by one of the men acquitted of an attack in Belfast 20 years ago. Danny Pettigrew, one of the Ballymurphy Seven, is claiming compensation for wrongful arrest and malicious

prosecution. He was cleared of all charges connected to a bomb attack on a RUC and military patrol in the city in August 1991. However, lawyers for the Chief Constable have applied to have the civil action thrown out due to the delay in bringing it.

**Sunday February 26, 2012.** A woman was charged with possession of a firearm in suspicious circumstances after a gun was found during a search of a house in Norglen Parade on Saturday.

**Monday, February 27, 2012.** An interface barrier at Limestone

Road and Newington Street which divided north Belfast for 20 years is set to open from 7am to 4pm Monday to Friday on a three-month trial.

**Thursday, March 1, 2012.** A 32-year-old man was shot dead in central Belfast. Named locally as Christopher Macken he was shot on College Square North.

A man was arrested in Co Antrim for questioning in connection with 1975 bombing at the Mountainview Tavern on the Shankill Road. Five people died in the bombing and over 60 were injured.

### 1981 hunger strikers remembered

ON March 1, 2012, the anniversary of the start of Bobby Sands hunger strike in 1981, a spokesperson for the McKelvey/Steele Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast drew attention to the fact that men are still fighting for political status today in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim, over 30 years after Bobby Sands and nine of his comrades gave their lives:

"On March 1, 31 years ago Bobby Sands began the 1981 hunger strikes following a long line of Irish patriots who used them as a last resort in a struggle against the British Crown's disregard for basic human rights as well as the treatment of Irish political prisoners in British-controlled jails.

"This last resort of pure selfless sacrifice in the face of staunch bigotry and hatred of an oppressive state and imperialist government, still can bring great emotion and pride to every Irish man and woman throughout the world.

"This is why the 10 men of 1981 and all those that died on hunger strike before them will never be forgotten and will always be in our hearts.

"It is with sorrow that we note that Irish men and women today are enduring the same harsh and brutal system of the British prison regime and in Maghaberry jail they are on a no-wash protest to restore political status.

"Do not forget these men or political internees Martin Corey and Marion Price. Please support the POWs."

## Republican Sinn Féin members stopped 35 times by RUC

**February 1.** RUC/PSNI were patrolling in the Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area harassing local residents. They gave chase to a member of Republican Sinn Féin and in the process nearly ran over a young child. The British police patrolled the area for most of the day.

**February 2.** The RUC/PSNI were in Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area again giving chase to the same Republican Sinn Féin member.

**February 12.** After Republican Sinn Féin held a public meeting in Belfast, the RUC/PSNI followed them and stopped members from Lurgan, searched them and the car in which they were travelling.

**February 13.** A Republican Sinn Féin member from the Lurgan area stopped and searched.

**February 14.** On returning from a social evening a Republican Sinn Féin member from Drumbeg, was pulled from his car by the Tactical Support Group (TSG). They searched him and his vehicle in an ordeal which lasted about 30 minutes.

A Republican Sinn Féin member was stopped and searched on his way home from collecting items for his son's wedding.

**February 15.** A young nephew of a Republican Sinn Féin member was stopped and searched after leaving the Drumbeg area.

The TSG was spotted in the Drumbeg estate looking at Republican Sinn Féin members' vehicles in the early hours of the morning.

**February 16.** The same young man, as above, was stopped and searched under section 21.

**February 17.** A Lurgan member of Republican Sinn Féin, on a daily occurrence is being harassed by the TSG. They drive up and down his driveway, constantly putting the full beam on, parking for a few minutes, then driving away.

**February 18.** A member of the Thomas Harte Cumann was told to leave his home after the RUC/PSNI claimed his landlord got an anonymous phone call to say that he is a Republican. The deadline for him to leave is March



• A white-line in support of the Maghaberry POWs took place outside Lurgan RUC barracks on February 25.

8. He is currently seeking legal advice.

A young resident of the Meadowbrook area was left badly shaken after a brutal assault at the hands of the RUC/PSNI. He explained the ordeal in his own words:

"At 11.20am, two cop cars drove around the church in the centre of Lurgan twice. I was standing outside a take-away and my mate was calling a taxi. I was singing and they got out and came over to me and asked me for ID. Once they realised my name they

arrested me thinking I was my brother, who is a follower of Republican Sinn Féin.

"I was thrown to the ground and put into handcuffs and I blacked out. I woke up in a cell in Lurgan [police] station with a bloodied nose, bruising all over my face and two black eyes.

"Before I was allowed to leave the station, they (the RUC/PSNI) were asking me questions about did I know of any suspicious activity or persons in the Drumbeg and Meadowbrook areas. I replied

NO and then was allowed to go home.

"One thing that they said to my mum when she called was that I was only been done for disorderly behaviour, but they have charged me with assaulting two peelers, resisting arrest and disorderly behaviour. I don't know how these bullying scumbags get away with this!"

**February 20.** Heavily-armed members of the RUC/PSNI dragged two Thomas Harte Cumann members from their car under Section 21. They tried to take a mobile phone from one of members, intimidating him by flicking the safety of his machine gun.

**February 21.** A member of Republican Sinn Féin received a caution for apparently giving the RUC/PSNI the fingers!

**February 22.** Heavily-armed RUC/PSNI raided a house in the Lurgan area.

Two members of the Thomas Harte Cumann were stopped, searched and asked about their movements before being reported

to the PPS.

**February 23.** Young nationalists, on their way to work were stopped and searched under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The youngsters were from the Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area.

**February 24.** A member of the Thomas Harte Cumann was stopped and searched twice in the same day.

**February 25.** There was a white-line picket for Republican POWs outside Lurgan RUC/PSNI station. Thomas Harte Cumann would like to thank all who showed their support on the day.

**February 26.** Local residents from the Drumbeg/Meadowbrook area were stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act as they were going to play golf.

In the last month on approximately 35 occasions members of the Thomas Harte Cumann have been stopped and searched, insulted and physically and verbally abused by the British colonial police -- this must stop.

## Increase in attacks against the elderly condemned

IN A statement on March 1, 2012 the PRO of the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down condemned attacks "against the most vulnerable in our society".

"The latest incident of burglaries and attacks on pensioners in the Newry/South Down area on February 27 is nothing short of huggery against the most

vulnerable in our society.

"Two elderly brothers, both in their 80s, were robbed and beaten by an iron-bar wielding gang of five thugs in their home in Lurgan area

few miles outside Newry.

"There has been an increase in these attacks against the elderly of late and we in Republican Sinn Féin wish to categorically denounce these vermin who prey on defenceless people to rob them of their worldly goods and few bob that they possess.

"We must point out that the

lack of success of the British backed police in apprehending these gangs who prey on the most vulnerable is nothing short of a disgrace.

"Those involved in these criminal acts are usually on the pay roll of the RUC/PSNI and therefore convictions are very rare. The nationalist/Republican community

see through the British backed police and have no faith whatsoever in them.

"We in the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry wish to put on record our disgust at those who wreak havoc on the elderly and offer our sympathy to the two elderly brothers in Lurgan area who

have been the latest victims in this upsurge in attacks on pensioners in this area.

"We would also take this opportunity to ask the public to forward any names to us or to any member of the Republican Movement who they believe are in anyway involved in these dastardly crimes against the community."

# ACLU backs the secrecy of interviews at Boston College

ON February 29 it was reported that the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLU) decided to support two journalists who are fighting the release of oral history interviews they conducted for the Belfast Project at Boston College, USA.

The ACLU filed legal arguments on February 29 with the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit opposing release of the interviews, saying the journalists had a right to argue on their behalf and that the release of the information would jeopardise their integrity.

The ACLU also argued that the journalists and their subjects would be labelled informers and subjected to violence in the Occupied Six Counties in

Ireland, pointing out the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) rules forbidding disclosure of information.

"The forced turnover of interview materials will convert the interviewees and their interviewers into informants," the ACLU said in legal arguments.

In December, a US District Court judge ordered Boston College (BC) to turn over the documents to the federal



government, which had subpoenaed them on behalf of British authorities investigating crimes in the Occupied Six Counties. England and the

United States have a treaty that requires each of them to furnish materials that would aid in criminal inquiries.

British officials are looking

into the killing of Jean McConville, a Belfast mother of 10 who disappeared in 1972 and whose body was recovered in 2003. The IRA has admitted to killing her and claimed she was an informer.

The Belfast Project journalists, Anthony McIntyre and Ed Moloney, guaranteed their sources anonymity until death. British officials were specifically interested in the interviews with former IRA member Dolours Price.

US District Court Judge William G. Young agreed to order BC to turn over materials related to the Price interview. He later ordered that other interviews be released as well.

BC said that it would not appeal the ruling related to the Price interview, but that it opposed release of the remaining interviews.

The US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit has agreed to review the decision, specifically Young's refusal to let the two journalists argue against the release of the information.

Ed Moloney has said that he moved forward with his own legal action because BC had not addressed the effects that release of the information could have on the political scene in Ireland and the safety of Anthony McIntyre, who lives in Ireland.

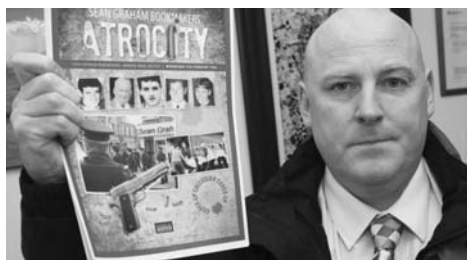
## British Crown Force collusion – inquiry sought

ON February 5, 2012, the Relatives for Justice group published a report into the murder of five nationalists in Belfast twenty years ago. The 70-page report called for an independent inquiry into murders carried out by the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF).

The report was presented to the families of those murdered by the UFF at Seán Graham's bookmakers on February 5, 1992 on the anniversary of the attack and called on British

Prime Minister David Cameron to commission an independent inquiry into the Belfast murders.

The report details British Crown Force collusion in the murders of the five nationalist



• Mark Sykes from Relatives for Justice with a copy of the report February 8, 2012. Mark was injured in the attack.

victims – Jack Duffin (66); Willie McManus (54); Christy Doherty (52); Peter Magee (18) and James Kennedy (15). Seven others were wounded in the attack.

Mark Sykes from RFJ, who was shot in the attack, which claimed the life of his 18-year-old brother-in-law Peter Magee, said the new report not only highlighted the extent of

collusion but it also seeks justice for the dead.

"We...want information from him [David Cameron] around the weapons coming into the country because British military intelligence knew about them through Brian Nelson [a British agent working in the UFF]."

Mark Sykes said the collusion has always been suspected, with eye-witnesses claiming an Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) jeep stationed opposite the bookmakers which moved away only minutes before the murders took place allowing the killers to drive in.

In September 2010 an investigation by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) revealed

UDA informer William Stobie had handed the Browning pistol used in the attack over to RUC officers, only for them to return it to the loyalist group. The Browning pistol and an AK-47 used in the Sean Graham's attack were both part of a consignment imported from South Africa in 1987 by UDA double agent Brian Nelson that was not stopped by his British army handlers.

Relatives of all five victims, as well as friends and supporters, attended a memorial Mass at St Malachy's church before children of some of the murdered men unveiled a new memorial to them at the scene of the shootings on the lower Ormeau Road, Belfast.

## Loughinisland families begin legal challenge

RELATIVES of those who died in the Heights Bar shooting in Loughinisland, Co Down in 1994 are seeking to overturn the finding that there was no evidence of collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

Six nationalist men were shot dead when the UVF sprayed the Heights bar in Loughinisland with gunfire on June 18, 1994. No one has been convicted of the murders - 16 people arrested for questioning in connection with the attack, all were released.

Families of the victims began legal action to overturn the police ombudsman report into the murders. The relatives are challenging the report's conclusions that there was no

evidence of collusion between the UVF gang responsible and the RUC.

Lawyers and the families believe the RUC investigation was compromised because a number of those directly involved in the shooting were police informers. However, before being able to challenge the report, they are contesting a decision to refuse legal aid.

A judge has granted permission to seek a judicial review of the funding denial.

## HET investigation 'whitewash'

THE family of Manus Deery, the Derry teenager shot dead by the British Army 40 years ago dismissed a report into his killing as a "whitewash".

The British Army maintain that a soldier in a lookout post on Derry's walls fired at what appeared to be a gunman about 200 metres away, missed him and the ricochet fatally injured the teenager in the Bogside in 1972. His family have always disputed the Army's version and on February 17, 2012 they criticised the Historical Enquiries Team report into the teenager's death.

Manus Deery's sister Helen said she wanted the case re-

opened.

"With the information which they were given it is near impossible to come back with the same report that I now have," she said. "Letters with different dates, they didn't even get my mother's name right the second time round."

"They got it wrong the first time round and I made them take note of that and they came back the second time with her name still wrong. It's a whitewash."

## IMEACHTAÍ

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

9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF IRAQ.  
BUS TO SHANNON AIRPORT. SUNDAY, MARCH 11  
Leaving Heuston Station at 10.30am.  
email: info@pana.ie  
Tel: 087-2611597  
\*\*\*\*\*

WHO FEARS TO SPEAK OF EASTER WEEK?  
SEMINAR: CENTENARY 1916-2016  
IRELAND INSTITUTE, PEARSE STREET, DUBLIN  
APRIL 21, 2012, 12 noon-5pm  
The seminar will be the first of many events that Republican Sinn Féin will host in the run-up to the Centenary of the 1916 Rising.  
Speakers to date include the historian Ruan O'Donnell and President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

## TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

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

Kerry: 087-097 0835

Dublin: 01-8729747 or e-mail rsfdublin@gmail.com

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

Wexford: Mick at 0876150484; mick@rsfwexford.com

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

Longford: 087-2240061 or 086-3384017

Westmeath: 086 124 3265;

email: rsfwmeath@gmail.com

Enniscorthy: 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com

Newry: Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann:  
rsfnwry@aol.com

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

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 0926420

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Griofa: Tomás,  
087 2933 782; Seán at 091 525 977, text: 0871496885;  
rsfgaillimh@live.ie

Leitrim: Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454

London: Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann,  
0044-7926357676; londoncumann@gmail.com

Glasgow: Francis Hughes Cumann,  
rsfglasgow@yahoo.com, web: rsfglasgow.webs.com

Dumbarton: John Torley/Séamus McElwaine Cumann  
dumbartonrsf@live.co.uk

RSF Germany/Austria: www.irish-solidarity.net  
irish-solidarity@gmx.net, 0664 170 02 92

RSF Italy: rsf-roma@email.it



# Meeting calls for restoration of political status

**REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin held a public meeting in Andersonstown, West Belfast on February 12, 2012 to highlight the ongoing protest by Republican prisoners in Maghaberry jail for political status.**

Assembling at the Busy Bee, over 60 people held banners and placards calling for political status for the Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail and the release of Martin Corey.

Geraldine Taylor, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin, chaired the meeting and called for people to increase the pressure on the British government and on David Ford to restore political status to the prisoners.

Diarmuid Mac Dubhghlais, National Treasurer, then addressed the meeting:

"Standing at this very spot over 30 years ago demanding political status for Republican prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh some of the people here today remember the terrible struggle being waged in the jails – some of you were not even born and others just children of varying ages.

"They were hard times; times we thought we would never see again in our lifetime. But alas we have, and are witnessing it again at first hand, so here we stand today demanding political status once more for the Republican

POWs, this time in Roe House, Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim. The wheel has come the full circle; the more things change the more they stay the same.

"The difference this time is that a large percentage of the men who were in the H-Blocks at that time have turned their backs on the men who are currently fighting the fight that they fought 30 years ago – we thought their fight would ensure that no such circumstances would ever again arise.

"But we were wrong and today the men in Maghaberry are suffering the same terrible conditions to win the conditions they eventually won. They are on a dirty protest, smearing their excrement on the walls of the cells they are locked down for up to 23 hours a day. No running water or toilets in the cells, the men have a bucket of water left into them in the morning. They have to eat their meals in those filthy cells and sit in them for most of the day. People have been jailed for keeping their animals in such conditions, yet the Stormont administration, (who thought they would never



• **Members of Republican Sinn Féin were stopped and aggressively searched by the RUC/PSNI outside the Ulster Office on the Falls Road following the public meeting on February 12.**

get their hands on the justice and security Department) are happy to let men endure those living conditions only a few miles down the road.

"A few weeks ago we saw the true face of the so-called justice and security department in Stormont headed up by David Ford and backed up by Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness etc, when Damien McKenna, a protesting POW, was refused parole to attend his father's funeral. Damien's father died suddenly and the refusal to grant him parole was mean and

despicable.

"The demand of the POWs is simple – implement the August 2010 Agreement. The demands within the Agreement are also simple: 1) an end to the degrading brutal forced strip searching, 2) and end to controlled movement and 3) their right to free association which was always the position with political prisoners.

"It is not much of an ask to be treated with the dignity and respect that is their due. The actual act of forcibly stripping someone of their clothes is a

savage act which fuels the power trip of the entire apparatus of the British Establishment involved in the prison system, from the top of the British government right down the various steps in the chain to the screws who perform the act. Sick minds and hearts at work there, just like 30 years ago when physical, emotional and psychological abuse was, as it is now, the order of the day.

"This time however the 'foreign foe' is joined by the 'native traitor' to keep the POWs in subjugation. But our presence here today tells them they are all failing miserably and will continue to fail because the men will not give up their right to political status and will never be subjugated.

"British occupation, and their resistance to it, has those men in jail. Without the occupation they would be home with their families. Because the British have been here for so long people don't seem to look at their presence here as 'occupiers'; but they are in occupation, in 1920 they took by force and ever since have held by force, the six north-eastern counties of Ireland. Well, that occupation will be resisted and as we know resistance can take many forms. We will continue to work our own strategy of resistance until we see

the back of the British government and all her baggage gone from Ireland forever.

"From here today we send solidarity greeting to the Republican POWs in Roe House, Maghaberry. To the two political hostages Martin Corey and Marian Price we send special greetings. Good luck to Martin in his upcoming judicial review next month.

"David Ford has no need to go to Portlaoise prison in Co Laois to look for answers to end the protest in Maghaberry. He has the answer himself in the 2012 Agreement, implement it. The POWs don't want to be in the position they are in, they don't want to live (if one could call it living) in such filthy conditions in constant conflict with the prison regime – that was why the worked on the Agreement as a means of a way forward.

"I call on all of you to redouble your efforts to put pressure on clergy, politicians, governments and anyone you think can force the British government to implement the August 2012 Agreement.

"We demand political status for the Republican prisoners, and we demand it now, we, and the prisoners, will not give up until it is granted."

## Independent Councillor condemns internment of Republican POWs

**ON February 7 Independent Councillor for Newry & Mourne Davy Hyland, spoke out against the "internment and brutalisation" of Republican prisoners currently being held in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.**

Referring in particular to Marian Price, Martin Corey and Gerry McGeough, currently being held in Maghaberry, he said that Republicans were "being unjustly held captive" and that "some Republican prisoners are not receiving the adequate medical treatment they require."

"Marian Price was granted a pardon due to ill-health following a lengthy hunger strike and subsequent force

feeding during the 1970s. Today she now finds herself being held in solitary confinement in an all-male prison.

"Martin Corey, is currently interned after his licence was also revoked by the British secretary of state. Martin Corey was released from Long Kesh in 1992 after spending 19 years in prison. In 2010 he was arrested, imprisoned and charged without trial."

Davy Hyland said the

reasons for Gerry McGeough's incarceration was "ridiculous" as they relate to charges dating back to the eighties and said it is clear that Gerry McGeough is not receiving adequate medical treatment.

"It's clear that Republican ex-prisoners have a sword hanging over their heads and if they speak out against British occupation or if they don't toe the line they will find themselves being returned to prison."

He cited Colin Duffy's case as a "perfect example" of this practice, claiming that Colin Duffy "found himself arrested, charged and imprisoned" in Maghaberry for almost three



• **Cllr Davy Hyland**

years on remand chiefly because of his "strong Republican beliefs" and his vocal condemnation of the current establishment. Davy Hyland believes this to be a "clear case of internment."

Davy Hyland highlighted the on-going protest in the prison against "controlled movement and forced strip searches" and said that the recent images of Republican prisoners sporting long beards and long hair had brought "the reality and seriousness of the situation home to many people. It's an image we thought we would never see again. Ten men gave their lives in 1981 so that today's Republican prisoners would not have to suffer the same treatment they endured."

Hyland criticised the politicians in Stormont for their inaction: "Some Stormont politicians claim to be concerned about such cases, yet

they don't seem to be doing anything about it, except issuing the odd vague statement. Despite the fact that some of them were once held captive by the British state, they clearly have short memories. They are the ones who gave David Ford the job of Justice Minister, they put him in the position, so they have a lot to answer for.

Cllr Hyland concluded by saying "As an elected representative, I personally call for an end to the torture and brutality of republican prisoners and for the full implementation of the August 2010 agreement which would bring this crisis to an end."

## POA call for 'rethink' on strip-searching

**THE prison officers' union in the Occupied Six Counties called on February 23, 2012, for a rethink on the routine use of full body searches in jails in the Six Counties.**

Finlay Spratt of the Prison Officers Association (POA) believes the practice can never be dispensed with completely, but is angry at the lack of progress on introducing new technology.

The POA chairman described the justice minister's failure to introduce state-of-the-art search equipment as "completely unacceptable" – claiming the delays were causing unnecessary tensions within our prisons.

"There's no excuse for not introducing the type of search equipment used in airports," he said. "If these new machines are

good enough to stop people bringing things on to airplanes with hundreds of people on board then they should be adequate for prison establishments."

The Prison Service in the Occupied Six Counties is currently undergoing a radical overhaul following recommendations made by a review panel.

A spokeswoman for the Prison Service in the Six Counties said "alternative technologies" to body searches were being explored including the possibility of low-dose X-ray technology.

## Detention of Marian Price 'internment'

**ON February 17 Marian Price was moved from Maghaberry prison to at Hydebank outside Belfast.**

Monsignor Raymond Murray, the former Armagh women's prison chaplain, said British secretary of state Owen Paterson's decision to revoke Marian Price's license had echoes of the past for nationalists.

"This is a form of internment," said Monsignor Murray. "I am just shocked that the secretary of state wouldn't be aware of how seriously nationalist people look on internment. We thought it had all ended and here it is coming under a form of revocation, revoking a license.

"He would have to explain to us and explain the process of law as regards Marian Price. In any way has she broken the

law? That would have to be provided but it is not provided by shoving her into prison on a pretence in an unjust way."

On February 26 Suzanne Breen reported in the *Sunday World* newspaper that ex-Republican women prisoners were to mount a protest in support of Marian Price.

Marian Price was moved from the top-security Maghaberry jail, where she had been held for nine months in solitary confinement, to Hydebank female prison due to a deterioration in her health.

Marian Price, who is suffering a range of health problems, was on hunger strike in Brixton jail in the 1970s and was forced-fed for over 200

days along with her sister Dolours.

Female Republicans previously held in both Maghaberry and the old Armagh jail – along with non-political nationalist women – will mounted a protest in Belfast before handing a letter into Stormont Justice Minister David Ford.

Ex-INLA prisoner, Gina McElroy said that Marian Price "is being detained without charge so she doesn't even have a release date."

Last year Marian Price was charged with holding a statement for a masked "Real IRA" man at an Easter commemoration in Derry and with allegedly providing a mobile phone "for terrorist use".

She was granted bail by the courts on both charges but Secretary of State Owen

Paterson withdrew her licence. Marian Price's lawyers claimed he had no right to do so as she'd been granted the royal prerogative of mercy when freed from jail – weighing five stone and suffering from tuberculosis – in 1980. The British government variously claim this pardon has been lost or shredded.

On Saturday February 25 a demonstration was held in Guildhall Square in Derry to highlight the ongoing internment and torture of Marian Price.

Former MP Bernadette Devlin-McAliskey and Monsignor Raymond Murray will address a meeting in St Paul's GAC, 98 Shaws Road, west Belfast on International Women's Day March 8 at 7.30pm against Marian Price's continued detention.

# Clonmult Martyrs commemorated in Cork

## THE 91st Anniversary Clonmult Martyrs commemoration took place in Midleton on Sunday, February 19.

The commemoration assembled at 2.30pm outside the Courthouse and proceeded to St. John the Baptist Churchyard where the proceedings were chaired by Donal Varian. After welcoming everyone Donal asked Tony Horgan to lay a wreath on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin on the grave of Volunteer Deasy and a decade of the Rosary was recited.

The Commemoration then continued to the Republican Plot, Holy Rosary Churchyard. Where Donal said a few brief words before asking the following to lay wreaths. Donal Dennehy laid a wreath on behalf of the families of the Clonmult Martyrs on the Republican Plot. Veteran Republican Kerry John Mangan laid a wreath on the grave of Commandant Diarmuid Hurley OC, who was killed by Crown Forces three months after his comrades. Mary Ward, Republican Sinn Féin, laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement.

Donal then spoke about the sacrifice the Clonmult Boys, the men and women of 1916 and the generations since have made.

He then introduced Mary Ward of Republican Sinn Féin to give the oration. She said:

"The strongest common bond uniting mankind is love of liberty and a willingness to sacrifice anything to achieve it. From man's earliest record to the present time the names that glow forth from the yellowed pages of history are not the names of rulers who controlled men's lives, not the great orators and poets who stirred men's hearts but the simple honest men of every race.

"Throughout history's pages there is no story so sorrowful yet so grand as Ireland's long struggle for freedom. Indeed no country has laboured so long and diligently, has suffered so much and failed so often and yet had the strength, the courage and the character to try again. The dying words of Robert Emmet 'When my country takes her place among the nations of the world, then, not till then, let my epitaph be written'. The glorious words of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien 'God save Ireland' were spoken before a hostile tribunal for a cause which they knew in their day at least was doomed to failure. They failed but they inspired other to follow in their example. And so it was the Fenians inspired the men and women of 1916 and they in turn inspired the men and women of the 1919-1922 period.

"During the 1919-1922 period the IRA were well aware that they faced the might of the British Empire, a far more superior and equipped enemy, so they changed and adapted their tactics. They perfected the art of guerrilla warfare; a method which was later employed by freedom fighters the world over from Kenya to Algeria. When the men from East Cork went to the farmhouse in Clonmult, they had witnessed the

cruelty of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, they had attended the funerals of Tomás Mac Curtain murdered in front of his pregnant wife and children and of Terence Mac Swiney following a long hunger strike in Brixton prison. They had witnessed the burning of Cork city, yet they pledged to fight for the freedom of Ireland, to uphold the Republic proclaimed in arms at Easter week and ratified by the Irish people in open ballot in 1918.

"In January 1921 the active service unit of the fourth battalion of the first Cork brigade took possession of a disused farmhouse in a secluded position overlooking the village of Clonmult. Commandant O'Hurley decided to ambush a military train at Cobh junction on Tuesday Feb 22nd 1921. He set out to make the necessary arrangement accompanied by Vice-Commandant Joseph Ahern and Captain Patrick Whelan.

"On Sunday, February 20 Michael Desmond and John Joe Joyce left the farmhouse to go to a nearby spring when they noticed the house was surrounded by British forces. They both died as they fought to return to the house, but not before they had warned those inside of the situation. A sortie from the farmhouse was attempted in the hope that assistance could be organised from the local company in Conan. With the farmhouse burning around them, an attempt was made to escape, but many of the volunteers were killed in a hail of bullets from the Black-and-Tan forces who had come to re-enforce the British regulars. Of the prisoners taken, two were later executed, five others had their sentences commuted and one, Captain Higgins, who had been shot through the mouth, had his life spared by the advent of the truce in July.

"The Ireland of today is a product of a counter-revolution, which succeeded in over-throwing the 32-County Republic of 1916 and the all-Ireland Dáil Éireann of 1919. The forced partition of Ireland in 1922 was brought about by the threat of an immediate and terrible war by England and by the collaboration of erstwhile Irish Republicans. The more recent Stormont agreement of 1998 updated and secured English rule in the Six Counties, again with the collaboration of former Republicans. In helping to bring all of this about these lost souls, we are told, had been infiltrated by English agents. There is scarcely a doubt about this but they were already infiltrated from deep within by an overweening pride and arrogance, which has been the downfall of many before. No Irish patriot died for a new Stormont or a new style English crown police force. But some are so conceited in their self-importance that they think they can ignore this truth.

"There is also a more ominous, more menacing and longer-term objective behind this



• The parade marching through Midleton on February 19.



• Mary Ward addressing those present the Republican Plot.



un- • The colour party at the Republican Plot.

holy alliance of English imperialism and Irish collaboration, it is to extinguish forever Irish Republican resistance to English rule in our country, but there are still faithful republicans in Ireland, north and South. "There is so much in the Ireland of today which is an affront to the noble ideals of our patriot dead. The dishonesty, the lies, the deceit, the mercenary and shameless selfishness and greed in public life are the very anti-thesis of the generous and honourable ideals of our patriot dead. The contrast is obvious and unmistakable.

"Not only have we the unjust and undemocratic partition of our country, we also have an ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots. This has not happened by any accident or misfortune. This is the result of deliberate and premeditated policies implemented under the cover of a clever smoke screen provided by well-paid and unscrupulous spin doctors.

"The education system has been fundamentally re-shaped to train workers for the multinational enterprises which are now more

"The travesty of democracy, which we witness daily in our country, is a well-managed spectacle of mockery and deception. From the local councils and shady deals to the mock theatre of Leinster House and Stormont, to the mandarins of Westminster and the European Union, and the invincible looking power of the United States and Britain backed by the muscle and might of international capitalism, the ordinary, decent, hardworking people of Ireland in town and country are being exploited, and the weakest and most vulnerable, the old, the ill, the incapacitated, the disadvantaged many young people who come from our schools barely literate are the most exploited of all. We have ever-rising levels of crime, some of it quite vicious and ruthless.

"Both states fail to protect their citizens from exploitation by trans-national capital and manipulative commercial interest, from drug pushers and alcohol producers, as well as from British spies and agents. Politicians get into power backed by the wealthy groups and individuals and then they are the prisoners of these people. Two examples of this are the compliant hire of Shannon airport to the US administration and the revelations that Irish hospitals have to pay twice what they pay in Spain for essential drugs manufactured by companies in Cork.

"In a democratic system, power rests with the people; in Ireland today there is collusion and a conspiracy among the wealthy, the politicians and sections of the media to accumulate and share the spoils at the expense of ordinary people.

"Yet the ordinary people have to pay for the bank bail-out and the excesses of these gangsters who are actually being paid up to €200,000 by NAMA, eight times more than the average industrial wage.

"The priorities in public life in Ireland are the priorities of rampant capitalism and this is facilitated and made possible by politicians whose only interest is power for powers sake. Meanwhile we have a plethora of tribunals, enquiring into all kinds of misconduct and costing millions of euro each year. A lot of fraud and corruption has been unearthed, but nobody ever seems to be prosecuted for misdeeds. Ads since shame and embarrassment are in short supply; these tribunals serve now as expensive and protective shock-absorbers, where wrong doing can be reluctantly exposed while even more corruptive practices proceed apace.

"We have lost our manufacturing base, our fishing rights, mineral rights and financial independence to the EU and the infamous Troika. No the Ireland of today is not a pretty sight. English imperialism is alive and well and holds six of our counties in direct occupation. This same power infiltrates the other 26 counties and dictates its terms to them. In the whole country, there is a basic affliction which is a lack of principle, standards, value and

morality. Both states are in hook to English imperialism, neo liberal capitalism and its free market and culture of greed.

"The great and almost daunting, challenge to us Irish Republicans is to confront and change all of this. In the 1790's Wolfe Tone and his comrades faced a similar challenge. They rose to the occasion in every sense of the word. They formulated their plans and they confronted those who were the exploiters of the Irish people, foreign and domestic.

"The hallmark of their approach was that they sought no personal gain for themselves, their rallying cry was liberty, equality and fraternity and they gave generous and unstinting service. Then, they made their appeal to the broad mass of the Irish people, Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter, and they organised their generation. They were truly revolutionary and their message struck a chord with the common people. The broad mass of the people always retain and cherish a yearning for freedom based on justice.

"We are not alone in the task we seek to accomplish. We have many active supporters who are not present here today. We have our Republican prisoners, who are also a source of inspiration to us as they keep their lonely vigil for Ireland, and to whom we send greetings from this historic spot. We have many friends and sympathisers throughout Ireland and we have active supporters abroad. All share with us our vision of a New Ireland – ÉIRE NUA, a New Democracy of four provinces with regional, local and community self-government. For us the model is neither Boston nor Berlin. For us the task is to restore the historic Irish nation on the basis of liberty, equality and fraternity, and to put the people of Ireland in charge of their own destinies.

"We will continue to work regardless of the defections of recent years and regardless of the sinister efforts by certain elements in the Establishment and in the media to denigrate our work and to smear our good name.

"In the Six Occupied Counties, the nightmare of the nationalist people continues. In some areas it is particularly acute and communities live in continual fear of attack. The Stormont Agreement has not brought reassurance to the Unionist people either. And neither Westminster nor Leinster House can bring peace with justice, because both of these institutions operate to a different agenda. As Wolfe Tone said of the Ascendancy of his time "They see Ireland only in their rent rolls, their places, their patronage and their pensions".

"The ÉIRE NUA programme for a four province federal Ireland represents a modern progressive project based on the original ideas of Tone. It is the surest guarantee of a secure place in Ireland for all our people.

"I will conclude with the words of General Liam Lynch 'We have declared for a Republic, We will have no other law.'



# The importance of the 1916 Proclamation

AS we approach the year 2016, the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising which took place in Dublin in 1916, it behoves us to look closely at what exactly we commemorate when we gather at gravesides every Easter.

The main and most important part of the commemoration should be the reading of the Proclamation, since it bequeaths to us our nationality, identity and ownership of our country, all 32 counties. This is stated very clearly in the first paragraph with a clear message as to how liberation of our occupied country will be achieved.

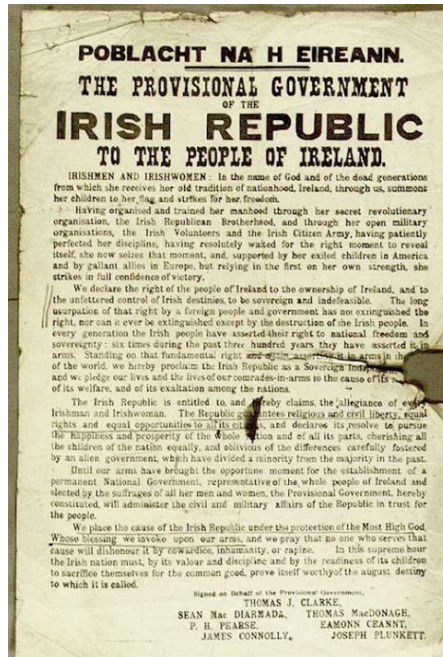
The paragraph begins: **IRISHMEN** and **IRISHWOMEN**: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and **STRIKES FOR HER FREEDOM**.

These last four words constitute a “declaration of

war” in any language.

There follows a list of those organisations who have pledged their allegiance to armed struggle for freedom, namely, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and these coupled with support from America and allies in Europe, prepared for a war of liberation. The war was commenced in full confidence of victory.

The Proclamation continues with the words “until our arms” have brought about the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland, the Provisional Government “hereby constituted” would administer the civil and



military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

This is a very important statement as it defines Irish Republicans as those who support armed struggle and the 32-County Provisional Government set up in 1916.

The Proclamation closes with the words: “We place the cause of the Irish Republican under the protection of the Most High God, whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity or rapine.”

“In this supreme hour the Irish Nation must, by its valour and discipline, and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.”

This declaration of a WAR OF LIBERATION was then signed on behalf of the Provisional Government by:

Thomas J Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada, PH Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas McDonagh, Éamonn Ceannt and Joseph Plunkett.

These seven leaders of Óglaigh na hÉireann knew as they signed this document that they were signing their own death warrants, and so it came to pass. All seven were taken out and executed by a firing squad from the blood-thirst British forces of occupation.

Republican Sinn Féin stands over the Proclamation of 1916. We pledge to work for its complete implementation using whatever means necessary for the removal of the murderous British forces who continue their reign of terror today in the Six Occupied Counties of our country.

SARAH MURPHY  
PRO, Republican Sinn Féin  
South Armagh

## 1916 Easter Commemorations 2012

### ANTRIM

Easter Sunday, Belfast, Republican Plot, Milltown Cemetery, assemble 11.30am at cemetery gates.

### ARMAGH

Holy Saturday, Lurgan, commemoration, assemble at the top of Kilwilkie at 3pm for march to the Republican Plot, St.Colman's Cemetery.

Easter Sunday, Armagh city, assemble 2.45pm at the gates of Sandyhill Cemetery.

Holy Saturday, wreath-laying ceremonies at Ballymacnab and Keady.

Holy Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony, Republican Plot in Camloch.

### CARLOW

Easter Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony at the Republican Plot, Carlow cemetery at 3.30pm.

### CAVAN/

### FERMANAGH

Details in April SAOIRSE.

### CLARE

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremonies at Kilmurry McMahon and Doonbeg.

### CORK

Easter Sunday, assemble at Wilton Roundabout, 2pm. Parade to Republican Plot, St Finbarr's Cemetery.

### DERRY

Cúchulainn Memorial, City Cemetery, Derry City, Easter Sunday, assemble at 12 noon.

Wreath-laying ceremonies at the following on Easter Sunday morning: The Loup Cemetery, 9am, at the grave of Brigadier Seán Larkin; and the grave of Tommy Toner in Dungiven, 10.15am at the graves of Vols Kealy, O'Carolan and Kilmartin and hunger

striker Kevin Lynch.

### DONEGAL

Holy Saturday, Doneyloup, Castlefin 7.30pm. Clady Bridge, 11.30am.

Drumboe Easter Sunday, assemble Johnson's Corner 2.30pm.

### DOWN

Easter Sunday, Newry, assemble 10am, gates of St Mary's Cemetery for march to Republican Plot.

### DUBLIN

Easter Sunday, commemoration at Deansgrange Cemetery, 1pm.

Easter Monday, Assemble Garden of Remembrance, 1.45pm for march to GPO, O'Connell Street, Dublin.

### GALWAY

Good Friday, wreath-laying ceremony at the Workhouse Tuam, 5pm.

Holy Saturday, wreath laying ceremony Kilcummin cemetery Oughterard, 7pm.

Assemble at Cathedral for parade to Liam Mellows Memorial, Eyre Square, Galway city, Easter Sunday, 11am.

Republican Plot, Donaghpatrick, Headford, Easter Sunday, assemble Queally's Cross, Cahirlistrane, 3pm.

### GLASGOW

Easter Sunday commemoration and function. Details from SAOIRSE sellers.

### KERRY

Holy Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony, Republican Plot, Castleisland Cemetery, 2pm.

Easter Sunday, Cahersiveen, assemble 2.30pm at the Monument, The Square.

Tralee, Easter Sunday, assemble at Denny Street at 2pm for parade to Republican Plot, Rath Cemetery.

Killamey, wreath-laying ceremony at Republican Monument.

Easter Monday, Republican Plot, Listowel, wreath-laying ceremony, assemble at graveyard gates, 12 noon.



### KILDARE

Easter Sunday, commemoration at the grave of Martin O'Brien, St Corban's Cemetery, Naas, 12 noon.

Easter Monday, Wreaths will also be laid throughout county.

### KILKENNY

Holy Saturday: wreath-laying ceremony at Rathciarín, Mooncoin.

### LAOIS

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

### LEITRIM

See April SAOIRSE.

### LIMERICK

Easter Monday, Republican Plot, Mount St Lawrence Cemetery.

### LONDON

Easter Monday, commemoration, Hendon Cemetery, Holder's Hill Road, Hendon, 12.30am. Assemble at entrance at 12.15pm.

### LONGFORD

Easter Sunday, commemoration, Ballymacormack, outside Longford town, 3pm.

### LOUTH

Dundalk, Easter Sunday, assemble at gates of St Patrick's Cemetery, 2.30pm for wreath-laying ceremony at the Republican Plot.

### MAYO

Kil Kelly, Easter Monday, 12 noon, assemble at Church gate and parade to East Mayo Brigade Memorial on main Sligo-Galway Road.

### MEATH

Easter Sunday. Wreath-laying ceremonies at grave of Séamus Fox, Drumree, 12 noon; at grave of Niall Fagan, Summerhill, 1pm; at Ballinlough Cemetery, Kells, 2pm.

Easter Monday, wreath-laying ceremony at grave of Vol George McDermott, Ardracken, 2pm

### MONAGHAN

Easter Sunday, Commemoration, Urblashanny Cemetery, Scotstown, at grave of Vol Séamus McElwaine, 2pm.

### NEW YORK

Easter Sunday, commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising at the Heritage Lounge 960 Mc Lean Ave., Yonkers NY, 10.30am. Prior to the commemoration a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the graveside of Joe Stynes in Woodlawn Cemetery at Webster Avenue & E. 233rd St. in the Bronx, NY at 10am. Tickets \$25.00

(children under 14 free).

### OFFALY

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremonies throughout the county.

### ROSCOMMON

Ballinlough, Easter Sunday, 12 noon, parade to IRA Memorial.

Elphin, parade to County Roscommon Memorial after 11.30 Mass.

Easter Sunday, County Commemoration 3pm, see April SAOIRSE.

### SLIGO

Sligo Town, Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremony, Republican Plot, Sligo Cemetery.

### TIPPERARY

Easter Sunday, Commemoration, Hunger Strike Memorial, Banba Square, Nenagh, 10am.

### TYRONE

Holy Saturday, Carrickmore at the grave of Frank Ward, 5pm.

### WATERFORD

Holy Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony at Statue on Quay, Waterford city, 12 noon.

### WESTMEATH

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremonies throughout the county. See SAOIRSE sellers and local papers.

### WEXFORD

Republican Plot, St Ibar's Cemetery, Crosstown, Easter Sunday, assemble at Crescent Quay, Wexford at 3pm. Mass for all who died for Ireland, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rowe Street, 11.15am.

### WICKLOW

Holy Saturday, 3pm, wreath-laying Hollywood Cemetery, West Wicklow. The 1916 Proclamation is a declaration of war

## Khader Adnan ends hunger strike

PALESTINIAN prisoner Khader Adnan ended his 66-day hunger strike on February 21 after Israel agreed to release him in mid-April provided that no “significant” new evidence is found against him. No guarantees.

Under a “deal” struck by the Israeli authorities and signed by one of his lawyers, Khader Adnan stands to be freed three weeks earlier than planned after conducting the longest ever hunger strike by a Palestinian prisoner. This means the detention period will end on April 17 instead of May 8.

Khader Adnan’s case had triggered protest demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza, and token hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. It had also prompted mounting international concern.

On February 15, 2012, Geraldine McNamara, National PRO, Republican Sinn Féin again condemned the Israeli administration for refusing to act in the case of Khader Adnan, then in his 60th day of hunger strike. She likened Khader Adnan to Bobby Sands and said that “Too many stood idly by then and we should be ashamed that no international body has succeeded in calling on Israel to end this tragic situation.”

Khader Adnan’s hunger strike focused fresh attention on the practice of administrative detention under which Palestinians are held without charge or trial and on the basis of secret evidence which can be shown to a military court but not to the defendant or his lawyers.

The Israeli human rights group B’Tselem said on February 21 that 309 Palestinians were currently held under the procedure, which it said violates the rights to liberty and due process. Furthermore, in December 2011, over 60 percent of those held had their orders extended at least once, according to the rights group.

Richard Falk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Palestinian human rights, said on February 22: “It should be noted that on matters of principle, Israel gave not an inch: even in relation to Mr Adnan, he will remain in captivity and will be subject to the “legal” possibility that his period of imprisonment could be extended indefinitely; beyond this, Israeli authorities conceded no intention whatsoever to review the cases of the 309 other Palestinians who are presently being held under the administrative detention procedure.

“These include one prisoner held for more than five years, and 17 others for periods of two to four years. Israel did not even agree to a review of their excessive use of administrative procedure, an approach that, at best, is supposed to be reserved for true and credible emergency situations.

“...administrative detention is seemingly used to harass and intimidate militant opponents of an oppressive occupation - an occupation that has continued for 45 years, and is aggravated by continuously appropriating Palestinian land and water for the benefit of settlement expansion, while disrupting and cleansing long-term Palestinian residency.” (<http://www.accuracy.org/>).

## Palestinian protesters target UN chief Ban Ki-moon

DOZENS of Palestinians staged a protest as the convoy of visiting UN chief Ban Ki-Moon crossed into Gaza from Israel on February 2, 2012.

Many were relatives of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails - who are currently said to number about 4,000 - and said they were angry at Ban Ki-Moon’s refusal to meet them to discuss the prisoners’ situation. The protesters formed a human chain in an attempt to hold up his convoy.

## Red Cross attempts entry to Baba Amr for third time

THE International Red Cross is to attempt to deliver aid to the devastated Baba Amr district of the Syrian city of Homs for a third day on March 4.

A spokesperson said the Red Cross would resume negotiations with officials who barred its convoy on March 3.

The seven-lorry Red Cross aid convoy spent a second night in Homs after being blocked from entering Baba Amr on Saturday, despite having been initially given permission from the government.

“We really don’t know how many people are still in there. It’s all a bit of a mystery to us.” Seán Maguire said the ICRC had been “disappointed” not to be able to enter Baba Amr for two days running.

Syrian state television broadcast pictures from inside Baba Amr that show massive destruction, with no power and little food, water and medical supplies.

In an address to the UN General Assembly on Friday, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the international community had failed in its duty, and inaction had encouraged Syria’s leaders in their repression of civilians. He said it was time for the international community to speak with one voice.

The bodies of veteran war reporter Marie Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik arrived in Paris from Syria on March 4, ten days after they were killed in a rocket attack in the rebel Baba Amr neighbourhood of the besieged city of Homs. French reporter Edith Bouvier of *Le Figaro* newspaper and a *Sunday Times* photographer Paul Conroy were wounded in the same attack.

Paul Conroy was smuggled out of Syria into Lebanon on February 28. He told the BBC that what was happening in Baba Amr was “systematic slaughter”. He described the scenes in Homs from his hospital bed in the UK. “I’ve done a fair few wars, I’ve never seen anything on this level,” he said

On March 3, Nick Meo reported from Guvecci on the Turkish-Syria border:

“The last defenders of the free Syrian village of Ain al-Beida were huddling from a biting wind in a Turkish border town. They were still covered with mud from their desperate escape over the

# WORLD NEWS



• **Rebel Syrian soldiers from Lattakia on the northern coast forced to flee March 2 after heavy bombing and a renewed onslaught by government forces.**

mountains. The previous day, the unit of 50 ragged fighters were driven out of their village by 500 Syrian soldiers backed with tanks. Afterwards, President Bashar al-Assad’s forces burnt the buildings and planted landmines.

Many other villages in Idlib province, in the north along the Turkish border, got the same treatment last week. While the world’s attention was focused on the horror being inflicted on Homs, President Assad expanded his scorched-earth policy northwards in an apparent bid to destroy the rebel movement altogether.

Humanitarian conditions in Idlib province have worsened in the past few weeks. Food is in short supply - with many people surviving off dry bread - and power cuts are frequent. There are few doctors because, say the rebels, the regime has targeted them so that fighters and demonstrators cannot receive treatment.

What was clear...was that some of the main rebel enclaves in northern Syria have been overrun, in an area which had been spoken of as a possible rebel stronghold where the Free Syrian Army (FSA) could be trained and equipped.

“It is very dangerous now,” said Wasim Sabbagh, 35, a spokesman with the Free Syrian Army. “The Assad forces are everywhere.”

Up to 4,000 people have been trapped [in Homs] for days without access to food, water or medical supplies, yet an aid convoy from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was denied access for a second day yesterday.

## ‘State of women’s jails shames Britain’

BRITAIN should be “aghast and ashamed” at the way it is treating some of the most disturbed women in its jails where levels of self-mutilation remain shockingly high, the chief inspector of prisons said last night.

Nick Hardwick said in the *Independent*, March 1 that he had been kept awake at night by scenes he had seen at Styal women’s prison and said too little had done since a groundbreaking report sparked by the deaths of six women at the jail between 2002 and 2003. He cited the example of one private prison near London which recorded more than seven cases of self-harm a day, and the case of one woman who had harmed herself 93 times in one month.

On February 11, Clive Chatterton, who spent 37 years working in prisons and was governor of Styal’s women’s prison in Cheshire before retiring three months ago, said that urgent reform is needed and called for the government to vigorously pursue alternatives to jail for disturbed women. He called a “warts-and-all review of the aims and intent of the use of custody”; an immediate end to short sentences; more women to be transferred to secure mental health units where they can receive the right care; and alternatives to prison that could be funded by the “huge” savings that would be derived from not jailing the third of women currently imprisoned for minor offences and added that he had “never come across such a concentration of damaged, fragile and complex-needs individuals”.

## British faces revolt over ‘secret justice’ expansion

THE British government is facing widespread revolt over plans to expand “secret justice” laws to ensure controversial court cases and inquests can be held behind closed doors.

Under the plans “closed material” will be allowed to be heard in secret in civil courts if it is deemed to have the potential to “damage the public interest”.

Security services support the significant extension as they feel in the past they have been unable to defend themselves properly in open court for fear of disclosing sensitive intelligence.

Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke is anxious to prevent a recurrence of the multi-million-pound compensation payments to 15 former inmates at Guantánamo Bay in 2011 and will defend the Government’s Green Paper proposals when he faces Parliament’s joint committee on human rights next week.

## International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier

THE Leonard Peltier Defence Offence Committee recently called on supporters worldwide to protest against the injustice suffered by Indigenous activist Leonard Peltier.

Supporters gathered on February 4, 2012, at every federal court house and US embassy or consulate worldwide to demand the freedom of a man wrongfully convicted and illegally imprisoned for 36 years.

Solidarity Message [edited] February 4, 2012

“Greetings to the Peoples of Mother Earth who know injustice when they see it, stand against oppression where they find it, and defend the human rights of all Peoples!

“An innocent man, American Indian Leonard Peltier was wrongfully convicted in 1977 by the United States government. He has served 36 years in prison despite proof of his innocence.

“In the early 1970s, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) supported the corrupt Sioux Tribal Chairman Dick Wilson (on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota) by providing arms and information to Wilson’s vigilantes. Anyone who opposed Wilson or who sought to advance Indigenous rights was targeted for abuse or worse. “During a three-year period, reservation residents were terrorized. Hundreds of people were seriously injured and over 60 people were murdered.

“The American Indian Movement (AIM) is committed to uniting all Native Peoples in an effort to uplift their communities and promote cultural pride and sovereignty. In 1975, frightened Pine Ridge residents called upon AIM for protection. Leonard Peltier was one of the AIM members who answered the call.

“On June 26, 1975, FBI agents drove onto private property (where AIM members were known to be camped), allegedly in pursuit of a man accused of stealing a pair of boots. “For unknown reasons, a shoot out began. When the skirmish ended, the two FBI agents were dead. A young Native American named Joe Stuntz also lay dead, shot through the head by a sniper bullet.

“In a case developed by the FBI, Leonard Peltier was targeted for prosecution along with two other men. At trial, Leonard Peltier was not permitted to adequately defend himself. “His actions being no different than those of his co-defendants - who were tried separately and found not guilty by reason of self-defense - Leonard Peltier was nevertheless convicted and sentenced to two life terms. The US government had succeeded in preventing critical evidence from being heard by the jury, presenting false evidence, and otherwise manipulating the trial to cause the conviction.

“The US courts have acknowledged that Leonard Peltier was convicted on the basis of fabricated and suppressed evidence, as well as coerced testimony, but refuse to grant him a new trial. He has been repeatedly denied parole as well despite his being a model prisoner and having met the criteria for release. Peltier is 67 years of age and in poor health. And still he waits for justice.

“Today, we gather to tell President Obama - on constitutional and overriding human rights and compassionate grounds - to Free Peltier Now! Act now Mr. Obama to right this wrong. Free Leonard Peltier. It’s time. Thank you, friends and supporters, for gathering in solidarity with Leonard Peltier. International Headquarters of the Leonard Peltier Defence Offence Committee, Fargo, North Dakota, USA.

“Send cards and letters to: Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Coleman I, US Penitentiary, PO Box 1033, Coleman, FL 3352.”

## Cuban ex-President Fidel Castro launches memoirs

FORMER Cuban President Fidel Castro launched his memoirs in early February.

The book *Guerrilla of Time* relates his childhood and his rise to power in the Cuban Revolution. Fidel Castro, 85, said it was every Cuban’s duty to fight until the last moment, for Cuba, the planet, and humanity. Communist Party newspaper *Granma* said the launch at the Havana Convention Centre lasted more than six hours

At the event, Fidel Castro spoke about current affairs, praising Latin American students for “standing up for their right to free education”. Fidel Castro handed over the presidency to his brother Raul in 2006, and has kept a low profile since.

## IUF condemns Turkish government

TRADE union rights in Turkey have long been a cause of concern for the global trade union movement.

As a result of legislation imposed by the military regime in 1980, workers in Turkey have been denied their basic rights to freely organise in trade unions, to bargain collectively and to take strike action. Despite government commitments to uphold international labour standards, workers’ rights remain legally restricted and ruthlessly repressed by employers and by the government.

The IUF and its affiliates in Turkey are deeply concerned by the government’s draft law that imposes a three percent national sector membership threshold for a trade union to meet before that union can legally engage in collective bargaining with any employer in the sector. The draft law denies to workers the fundamental right to organise and bargain and would cause many unions to be stripped of their collective agreements.

The IUF and its member organisations call on the Turkish government to immediately revise the draft law to bring it into compliance with ILO Conventions and international labour standards. The IUF will continue to support union action, in Turkey and abroad, to ensure that trade union rights are fully respected in Turkey and accessible to all Turkish workers.

For further information see <http://cms.iuf.org/>



# WHAT THEY SAID

The hunger strike was called off five days later on October 3, 1981, and on October 6 the [British] secretary of state announced changes in the prison regime.

All prisoners would in future be entitled to wear their own clothes; 50 per cent of lost remission would be restored for conforming prisoners and free association would be permitted within the H-Blocks.

— Irish Times, January 2, 2012, *State Papers, Eamonn Phoenix*.

Bhí, cinnte, easaontas áirithe ar an cheist [Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann a bheith i gCathair Doire 2013]. Tá Doire le bheith mar “UK City of Culture” an bliain seo chugainn. Bhí dream ann nach raibh sásta an Fleadh bheith ceangailte leis. Ba chraobhacha faoin dtuath, ná sa chathair, iad seo.

Chonachtas, leis, go raibh Sinn Féin [Sealadach] ag tabhairt tacaíochta don bhFleadh. Mar sin, bhí dream áirithe ann nár mhíste leo bob a bhualadh ar Shinn Féin [Sealadach].

— Gaelscéal, Eanáir 25, 2012, *nuairis ó Anton Mac Caba*.

Tuigtear do Gaelscéal gur chuir iarrachtaí an BBC “Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann a rá olc ar chuid mhór Gaeilgeoirí.

“Is féidir leo ainmneacha ar gach ceann den domhan a rá ach ní féidir ainmneach Gaeilge “a rá, té sé naircach,” a dúirt foinse amháin linn.

— Anton Mac Caba.

On Monday [January 23] in Trinity College Dublin former German vice-chancellor Joschka Fischer: “Unless political power in Europe is Europeanised, with the current confederation evolving into a federation, the Euro zone – and the EU as a whole – will disintegrate,” he wrote recently.

— Irish Times, January 28, 2012, *Worldview by Patrick Smyth*.

At Davos [World Economic Forum in Switzerland] Chancellor Merkel, however, was suggesting again it would be negligent to agree further rescue efforts – such as doubling the bailout fund – without first agreeing fiscal reforms to win back market trust.

You jump first, she appears to be saying, we will perhaps follow – a choreography that may suit her domestically but could prove difficult here.

— Patrick Smyth.

But both the [German] Ambassador and Fischer stressed that the crisis, imported from the US and rooted in failures to regulate, was caused by the Euro.

— Irish Times, Patrick Smyth. And what about the German banks who shovelled out the money to the Irish

banks who in turn shovelled it out to their customers?

Derry winning the bid to host the fleadh was another underpinning of the peace process, according to Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú, head of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

— Irish Times, January 30, 2012, *Gerry Moriarty, Northern Editor*. Is that the real reason for associating Comhaltas and the All-Ireland Fleadh with Derry as the “UK” City of Culture in 2013.

Why not have it in Derry in any other year? In 2014, 2015 or 2016, the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916?

Army training: Irish (sic) troops will participate in a training exercise in May as part of a new German-led EU battle-group that also includes Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia and Macedonia.

— Irish Times, February 13, 2012. *The new European Army in the making*.

“Then are the two key years [2012 and 2013] to reposition Northern Ireland (sic) globally,” he [Alan Clarke, head of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board] said. They hope that a series of events with tourism potential – including the *Titanic* anniversary (100 years), the *Irish Open* golf tournament and Derry becoming the *UK City of Culture 2013* – will make up for the years of conflict when the North suffered from visitor drought.

— Irish Times *Weekend Review*, February 18, 2012, *Gerry Moriarty, Northern Editor*.

Next year, Derry is the UK City of Culture, the *All-Ireland Fleadh Ceoil* will be held for the first time north of the Border, and Belfast is expected to attract 25,000 international visitors to the *World Police and Fire Games*.

— Gerry Moriarty.

Marion Price was imprisoned (aged 19) in the 1970s for her role in an IRA bombing in London, but released in 1980. Now back in jail over dissident activity, she is embroiled in a complex legal battle for her release.

— Irish Times *Weekend review*, February 18, 2012, *article by Eamonn McCann*.

Lawyers for Price, who is 57, say she was pardoned rather than released on licence and that Paterson [British Secretary for the Six Counties] exceeded his authority in sending her back to prison.

Paterson’s barristers contest this, but have told a panel of parole commissioners that “extensive searches” have failed to locate a copy of the document on which she was released.

— Eamonn McCann *article headed “Marion Price and the Lost Document*.

A prominent Republican has been moved from Maghaberry Prison to a women’s facility at Hydebank Wood, near Belfast, the Northern Ireland (sic) Prison Service confirmed yesterday.

Marion McGlinchey, née Price, was returned to custody last May.

— Irish Times, February 18, 2012, *article by Una Bradley*.

Earlier this week, a priest described her renewed detention as “internment”. Former prison chaplain Monsignor Raymond Murray made the comments at a meeting Derry on Thursday night.



• Twelve people were killed in Kabul, Afghanistan on February 24 during protests against the desecration of copies of the Koran at a US army base (see quote on right).

— Irish Times, Una Bradley.

He [Msgr Murray] said: “I am just shocked that the Secretary of State wouldn’t be aware of how seriously nationalist people look on internment.”

“We thought it had all ended and here it is coming under a form of revocation, revoking a licence... In any way has she broken the law [of England]?”

— Irish Times, Una Bradley.

A major stadium for Gaelic games in the North, second only to Croke Park, is a significant step closer to reality after the GAA secured a £61.4 million (£77.1 million) investment from the Stormont Executive.

The redevelopment of the existing Casement Park ground, in the heart of west Belfast, into a seated 40,000-capacity stadium has been in the pipeline since 2002, when a GAA strategic review recommended each province of Ireland boast a state-of-the-art arena, but progress has been stop-start.

— Irish Times, February 18, 2012.

The funds from the Northern Ireland Executive were formally accepted after a meeting of the GAA’s Ulster Council on Thursday night, following a meeting of the national management committee the previous meeting at Croke Park.

— Irish Times, February 18, 2012.

It is easy to demonise Obama or Eamon Gilmore, however preposterously, as campaigning atheists, and the media as propagandists for a godless future. Much harder, though, to take on the pluralist case for mutual respect, tolerance and a neutral state.

— Irish Times, February 18, 2012 *editorial*.

There is in the charges being made a deliberate and different conflation of three quite misleading and distinct agendas – atheism, secularism and pluralism. To the latter only, this paper pleads guilty as charged.

— Irish Times, February 18.

Germany’s Minister for European Affairs has confirmed that European Union negotiators sought to design the eurozone fiscal compact in such a way to avoid a referendum in Ireland (sic).

— Irish Times, February 23, 2012, *Denis Staunton report*.

When asked if the fiscal compact agreed in Brussels last month had been designed in such a way that it would not need a referendum in Ireland (sic), Mr [Michael] Link

replied: “Exactly.”

— Irish Times, February 23, 2012, *report of a press conference in Dublin the previous day*.

The German minister’s comments appear to contradict the Taoiseach’s denial in the [26-County] Dáil this month of a report in this newspaper that parts of the pact were explicitly drafted to give the government a chance to avoid a referendum.

— Irish Times, February 23.

The fact that the republic [26-County] had entered into a profound economic crisis had “halted the gallop of people who thought North-South relations were a one-way street with an inevitable outcome”.

He was speaking in Dublin at a Cooperation Ireland student journalism conference, of which the *Irish Times* is a sponsor.

— Irish Times, February 25, 2012, *Paul Cullen, Political Staff on statements by Michael Mac Dowell, former 26-County Attorney-General*.

Northern Ireland (sic) was “a taker not a giver” in terms of its fiscal dependence on the rest of the ‘UK’. Its annual deficit was £9 billion (£10.6 billion) a year, equivalent to £5,000 a person.

— Irish Times *report quoting Jim Fitzpatrick, business and economics editor of BBC Northern Ireland at the same conference*.

“The biggest beneficiaries were at the top, including lawyers earning more than £1 million a year in fees from the public purse and police officers who retired on generous redundancy packages but were reemployed by the [RUC/PSNI] as consultants.”

— Jim Fitzpatrick.

One in 10 people in the North was on disability living allowance, 30 per cent of the population was economically inactive and median pay was 42 per cent higher than in the rest of the ‘UK’, he said.

— Jim Fitzpatrick.

A Supreme Court ruling on a key piece of anti-terrorist legislation has thrown into doubt the future prosecution of dozens of suspected dissident Republican terrorists, according to Gardaí and lawyers dealing with such cases.

Five Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice Susan Denham, ruled on Thursday that a section of the Offences Against the State Act was “repugnant to the [1937] Constitution”.

— Irish Times, February 25, 2012, *Diarmuid Mac Dermott reporting*.

The section has been routinely used in the past by

Gardaí to search the homes of suspects in terrorist cases.

Now the Supreme Court ruling means many cases pending before the non-jury Special Criminal Court could be in doubt.

— Irish Times, Diarmuid Mac Dermott.

The Supreme Court rules that Section 29 (1) of the Offences Against the State Act of 1939, as inserted by Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act of 1976, was “repugnant to the Constitution”.

— Irish Times, Diarmuid Mac Dermott.

Kabul — Twelve people were killed yesterday in the bloodiest day yet in protests that have raged across Afghanistan over the desecration of copies of the Muslim holy book [the Koran] at a NATO military base.

Riot police and soldiers are on high alert braced for more violence. US President Barack Obama had sent a letter to Mr Karzai [Afghan president] apologising for the unintentional burning of the Koran at NATO’s main Bagram air base, north of Kabul...

— Irish Times, February 25, 2012.

The British defence lawyer Gareth Peirce, in her foreword [to *Setting the truth free: the Story of the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign* by Julieann Campbell], describes the scale and apparent hopelessness of their cause: “The engines of the British state pumped out an immediate false narrative... There was no one, absolutely no one, to turn to.”

— Irish Times *Weekend Review*, February 25, 2012, *review of book by Dr Tom Clonan, Security Analyst of the Irish Times*. Clonan does not hesitate to say that the British army “murdered 14 boys and men” and that they “tried to murder many more than that day and shot 14 other bystanders”.

The Bloody Sunday families persevered, however. Finally, through grit, ingenuity and determination, they publicly and unequivocally reclaimed the truth about their loved ones’ innocence.

— Tom Clonan.

Despite their fabled maroon berets and winged-parachute cap badges, they were unequal to what Peirce describes as the “sustained, demanding moral integrity and stamina of the families. The families were the soul, the heart, the iron and the steel. They are all our inspiration.”

— Tom Clonan *review*. The book is published by Liberties Press, runs to 219 pages and costs €16.99.

Remarks made by President [of the 26 Counties] Michael D Higgins during a visit to London during the week have caused alarm in the Government, the *Irish Times* has learned.

The primary concern among Cabinet Ministers relates to the President’s comments about the possibility of summoning the Council of State if the Government proceeds to ratify the fiscal compact treaty by legislation rather than referendum.

— Irish Times, February 25 and 26, 2012, *Stephen Collins, Political Editor*.

There were also some raised eyebrows in the Labour Party at the President expressing opposition to privatisation in the week that

the Government decided to sell off stakes in State companies worth €3 billion.

— Irish Times, February 25 and 26.

The President added that he was concerned that the concept of a shared union [the “Common Market”] under the EU’s founding treaties had been lost.

— Irish Times.

Capitalism not only won the Cold War, but has driven home its peace-time advantage with stunning efficiency.

How has it come to pass that the people of Europe have casually accepted the appalling injustice whereby the European Central bank lends money to banks at 1 per cent interest, and those same banks then invest their “new” money in government bonds at a return of 5 or 6 per cent, essentially driving truckloads of cash away from the ECB with impunity?

— Sunday Business Post, February 26, 2012, *letter to the Editor from Declan Doyle, Kilkenny*.

“I believe this is an unjust law and I am advising people not to pay it. It is unjust and wrong.”

“It is not benefiting the ordinary people. Words must flow and the people’s voices must be heard.”

“It’s a duty for all priests to stand with their people and show solidarity. I was ordained to serve my community and we must stand by the people and send a strong message to Government,” he said.

— DonegalDaily.com March 1, 2012.

The well-known cleric told the Shaun Doherty Show says the Government will simply not be able to take the estimated 1.2 million people who said they will not pay the charge to court.

... he said he considers the charge is nothing more than a theft of the Irish people.

“In my opinion this money is just being collected to pay the IMF and that is wrong.”

“It is an injustice – robbery and theft of the people – to give something to someone else that does not belong to you.”

“Nobody will use bully-boy tactics to shut me up including the Government.”

It’s a free country and everyone has the right to freedom of speech,” he said.

— DonegalDaily.com March 1, 2012.

In a report circulated yesterday in the German parliament, the [European] Commission reveals that, in December, it demanded a revised asset sale programme after dismissing the [Dublin] government’s original plan as “not sufficiently ambitious”.

— Irish Times, March 1, 2012, *Derek Scally in Berlin, and Mary Minihan reporting*.

This is the second time sensitive information about the Irish (sic) economy has been released to a committee of the Bundestag [German parliament].

It follows the disclosure in Germany last November of budget details, including changes to VAT, in advance of their formal announcement by the Government.

— Irish Times, March 1.

The disclosure of the latest document, which has been seen by the *Irish Times*, came at an awkward moment, a day after the decision to hold a

## Brave Frank Stagg

Who dares to speak of H-Block crimes  
And the fight still fought in current times?

How men and women were tortured by screws  
Attempting to criminalise the faithful few.

Who dares to speak of Brave Frank Stagg  
Starved to death for Erin's sake?  
Far from home he took the fight  
To save Ireland from her plight.

Stagg's name lives on to guide us true  
As the gall still criminalise the faithful few.  
Our men and women still behind the wire  
Sham Diplock courts and trial by fire.

Unbroken our volunteers still stand  
To complete the task still at hand.  
Unbroken is their line in history's role  
Unbroken as the noble Gaelic Soul.

Who dares to speak of Maghaberry's walls?  
Who dares to call for an Empire's fall?

Who dares to speak in present tense  
Of men and women still behind the fence?

Dedicated to the memory of Vol. Frank Stagg, Co. Mayo  
"Nuair a thigeann ár lá aithiofaidh sinn iad go mór."

MICHEAL O'CUIR  
(Written by a prisoner in an American jail.)

## Freedom And Justice For all

A chara  
I received an article recently from a contact, it goes as follows.

"It is hard not to hope beyond hope that reconciliation between Palestinians will happen. As Palestinians, we hold out on that hope even against our better judgment merely because there is no other option if we want to move forward towards independence.

"So we listen warily to our leaders as their words drip sugar and honey, knowing all too well that just beneath that candy-coat there are agendas, power



struggles and an policy to maintain the status quo. And while past couple of weeks our hopes rose once again, mostly because we allowed them to. The leaders met in Cairo and in Doha and we believed intentions were genuine. There was talk of a new government, fresh elections and new faces for an old struggle. We were elated.

"Today, our hopes have plummeted once again. And while responsibility can be cast on both sides – Hamas and Fatah to be exact – it seems that Hamas should shoulder the lion's share of blame. We all know that agreements are signed between leaders and we all know that Khaled Meshaal is the leader of Hamas, supposedly both inside Palestine and outside its borders. Apparently, however, Meshaal was not privy to the love of power his Gaza posse has nurtured for so many years. He has since found out."

This brought to mind the

cause of Ireland's struggle for freedom. How many times were we so close only for our leaders to taste the sugar and honey? Countless times, the false leaders got the taste of power and forgot the rights of their people.

What we need both in Ireland and internationally is the **ÉIRE NUA** document to be incremented for the freedom of all our brothers and sisters living on planet Earth.

MICHAEL ROONEY  
Mayo

## Negative Role of Alcohol

A chara,

A report paints a grim picture of the increasingly negative role played by alcohol in Irish society, which has major implications for policy makers, especially in the areas of health, justice and social

policy. This practice of alcohol is going to be prevalent this summer with the Free State team playing in the Euros. Each game will be blasted with advertisements' from alcohol companies. Each game will be seen with dread by the health service workers who's workload will increase and society in general who will have to put up with the drunken yobs roaming the streets.

Many people would like to see a total ban on advertising of alcohol products and the complete ban of alcohol sponsorship of sports events. As tobacco advertising is banned, there can be no reason why alcohol should be treated any differently.

Although alcohol brings benefits to this country in terms of

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

Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SAOIRSE.  
Postal address: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

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

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

## Síle Heneghan

**SÍLE Heneghan died on February 5 at the age of 102. She was born in Tontaleva, Leenane, about six miles into Co Mayo from that town.**

Síle's earliest recollection was of British troops and Black-and-Tans raiding her parent's home after "wanted" Volunteers had escaped out the back.

Síle worked in Thurles in the early 1940s and joined Cumann na mBan. A local Volunteer, Paddy O'Connell was then a Republican prisoner serving 20 years penal servitude in England.

In the mid 1950s she emigrated to Boston and joined many Irish-American organisations.

She also wrote to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail and developed a correspondence with Dan Hoban

of Newport.

In 1983 she came home, settling in Galway city and was supportive of every Republican activity since then, locally and nationally. She spent the latter years of her life in the Blackrock Nursing Home where the staff and her family organised a wonderful party for her on her 100 birthday.

Síle was laid to rest in the graveyard in Leenane facing the beautiful Killary Harbour after a celebratory Mass with visiting French priests and the local parish priest.

The Tricolour and Cumann na mBan flags draped her coffin. A Guard of Honour comprised of

Cumann na mBan and Sinn Féin Poblachtach accompanied the coffin as it was carried by family and friends and members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach across the road to the cemetery.

Her friend of many years Dan Hoban gave the oration who first sympathised with Síle's family. He continued: "We are here to lay Síle to rest but we are also here to celebrate a life dedicated to the Irish Republican cause, because Síle Heneghan gave a lifetime in Cumann na mBan to the fight for the freedom of her country.

"As we lay her here to rest we know that throughout her life and right up to the final moment she was loyal to the Republican cause and she had only one belief and that belief was that Ireland would be liberated and free one day from the centre to the sea.

"Síle Heneghan was nine

years old when the men of Easter week, Pearse and Connolly, MacBride, her own county man, and all those who were shot by the firing squad on Easter week, and she had a great memory of that and she remembered every bit of it.

"In 1956 she emigrated to Boston. She wasn't too long there when she linked up with another great Mayo man, a man who left this country in 1938, George Harrison who said when he got into America that he would never set foot in Ireland again until she was free, who worked tirelessly over all the years until his death at the age of 99 for the Republican cause.

Síle linked up with him and another Tipperary man who had fought with Seán Treacy, Dan Breen and a man called Michael Flannery whose name was a

household one in America.

"My first contact with Síle Heneghan was in 1972 when I was in Portlaoise prison. When she came home on holiday she visited me in Portlaoise prison. She took a silver bracelet out of her pocket and she handed it across through the mesh to me. That bracelet had my name and Political Prisoner engraved on it and I have it to this day and I will always treasure it.

"Síle said to me: 'There has come a generation of young Irish men who are greater than any generation before and I think they will do the job'.

"But alas it wasn't to happen because Síle lived through the death of Bobby Sands and all his comrades. She carried her black flag at the processions as each hunger striker died. She visited Wolfe Tone's grave every year for the commemoration in

Bodenstown and she remained loyal right throughout. She saw the death of Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan and she was very saddened as she had seen all this before. She had seen the hunger strike of McNeela and Darcy, a Galway man and a Mayo man. Síle was in digs with Seán McNeela's sisters in Tipperary and they were in Cumann na mBan together.

"That was Síle Heneghan, true to the bitter end. A great person, a great soldier and a great Republican. Síle, you were a true servant to the Republican Movement, to everything that was good in this country of ours. When we were there and thought we had no hope you gave us inspiration.

"Ar dheis De go raibh do anam dílis agus imeacht na n-aingeal go mbeidh to i gconai. Slan leat, a Shile agus Dia leat."

## Brian Mór Ó Baoighill

**ON February 18, 2012 Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta/The National Irish Freedom Committee (NIFC) in the United States reported the death of Brian Mór Ó Baoighill.**

The statement said: "Brian was, first and foremost, a true Irish Republican, an unrepentant Fenian who gave so much of his time and energy to the cause of Irish freedom and unity.

"Amongst his many other attributes Brian was a renowned Celtic artist, a prolific satirical cartoonist, a historian and a fountain of knowledge and wisdom. He broke bread with practically every notable Irish-American personality of this past half century and played a prominent role in every historic event involving the New York Irish-American community.

"He was our friend and fellow traveller who now takes his rightful place in the ranks of our departed Fenian stalwarts. He leaves us with fond memories, but, also with a void that will never be filled. Farewell dear friend.

"Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh

anam uasal — Ní bheidh a leithéid ann go deo arís."

On February 21, the President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton, said:

"Irish Republicans were saddened to hear the news of the death of Brian Mór Ó Baoighill, in New York. Brian was a life-long Irish Republican activist and a man steeped in the history and revolutionary Fenian tradition of Irish America.

"Brian's unique gifts as an artist were given selflessly to aid the cause of a free Ireland. His paintings were used to highlight the plight of the Hunger Strikers in 1981 as well as every other facet of the ongoing struggle against British rule in Ireland. Famously in December 1983 he was responsible for an electronic sign in New York's Time Square sending out Christmas greetings to Republican prisoners. Brian took great pride in the fact the British



• **Brian Mór Ó Baoighill**

Ambassador was questioned over the sign. Brian used his artwork as a weapon against imperialism and in defence of the men and women of no property. Among his last works were cartoons in opposition to the visit by the Queen of England to the 26 Counties in May of last year.

"In June of last year he wrote an open letter to the Lord Mayor of Belfast to protest at one of his poster artworks, commemorating Theobald Wolfe Tone and the 1798 Rising, being hung in Belfast City Hall. Brian saw this as merely an attempt to distract from the fact that Belfast and the rest of the Six Counties were still occupied by British forces. In his own inimitable style Brian finished his letter by declaring: "When the Belfast City Hall is

located in a united Ireland, not the United Kingdom, I would be honoured to see my artwork displayed. Until then, I request that it be taken down. Moving the picture of the Queen of England from one wall to another does not in any way make Belfast part of a United Ireland. I object to my artwork being used to pretend otherwise."

"Brian's involvement in the cause of Ireland stretches out over five decades; he was a founder member of Irish Northern Aid (NORAI) in 1972 and worked with the *Irish People* newspaper for almost 20 years. In 1986 he rejected the attempts of a reformist leadership to hijack Republican Movement and was among the founders of Cumann na Saoirse of which he remained an officer up to his death.

"Brian had a deep understanding and knowledge of Irish history and was a living link with previous generations of Irish Republicans who fanned the flames of revolutionary Republicanism such as Michael Flannery, Joe Stynes and George Harrison. Brian very much followed in their footsteps and ensured that the torch was passed to a new generation. Brian Mór was a friend, comrade and mentor

to succeeding generations of activists in the cause of Irish Freedom in the US and Ireland over many years and was always willing to give freely of his time and experience.

"Brian leaves behind a gap in the ranks but his legacy of unflinching loyalty and tireless commitment to ideal of the All-Ireland Republic of Easter Week is an inspiration to his friends and comrades on both sides of the Atlantic. In the words of Thomas Davis: "The rudder of our ship was he, our castle's corner stone."

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis."

Brian Mór was buried in New Jersey on February 24. At the graveside Pat Williams of the National Irish Freedom Committee read a statement from the Irish Republican Movement in Ireland.

The eulogy was delivered by his colleague in Radio Free Éireann, John McDonagh who paid tribute to the life and legacy of his friend.

"Bernie has left behind a treasure trove of artwork, cartoons and writing. He has laid the foundation for future generations to follow – and we will be forever in his debt.

"Although a born and bred

New Yorker, Bernie never forgot his family ties to Donegal, and at the *Irish People* newspaper, found the perfect place to blend his Fenian passion with his artistic skills.

"One of our finest moments was standing in the middle of Times Square on December 16, 1983, watching the electronic sign board send Christmas Greetings to Irish Prisoners of War. Our second finest moment was enjoying the stir it made. I'll never forget sitting in the Blarney Stone with him, as we watched Bill Butell, anchor of Channel 7 news in NY, say "IRA hijacks sign in Times Square. More at 11."

"One of Bernie's greatest gifts was his ability to blend history with current events.

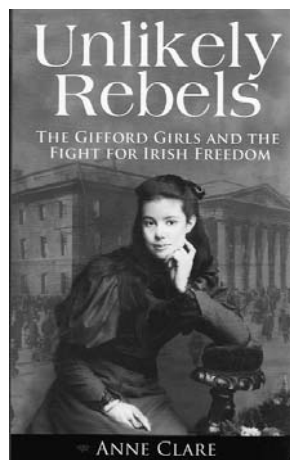
"Bernie's worth will not be measured in dollars, but in his actions – giving his talent to further ideals he fervently believed in; mentoring younger artists; sharing his wisdom with those wise enough to listen.

"I think he would find these words by Edna St. Vincent Millay fitting:

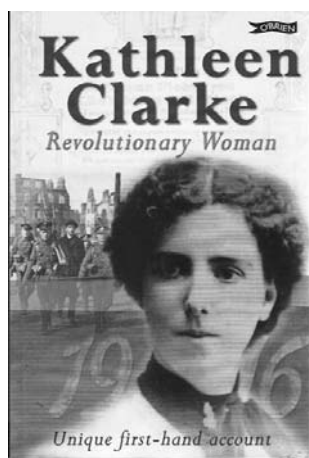
*My candle burns at both ends  
It will not last the night;  
But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends –  
It gives a lovely light."*



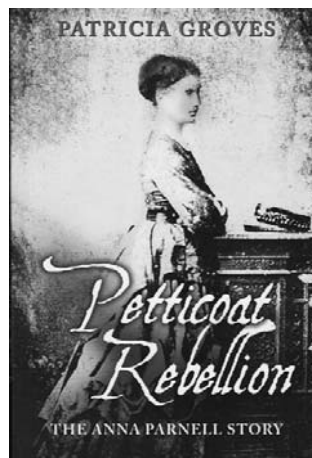
# Irish Freedom Press



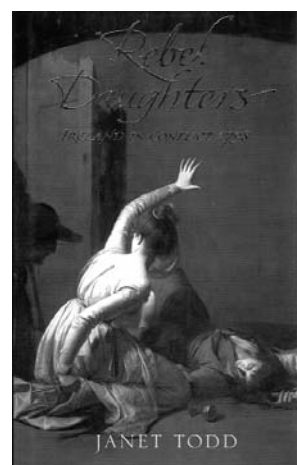
• *Unlikely Rebels: The Gifford Girls and the fight for Irish freedom.* Anne Clare €15.



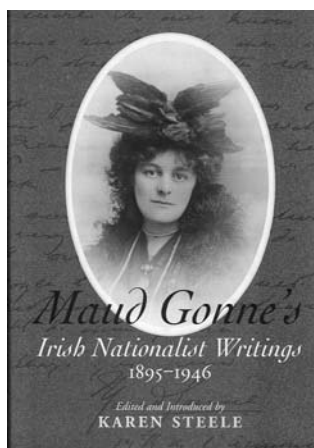
• *Revolutionary Women.* Kathleen Clarke. €12.



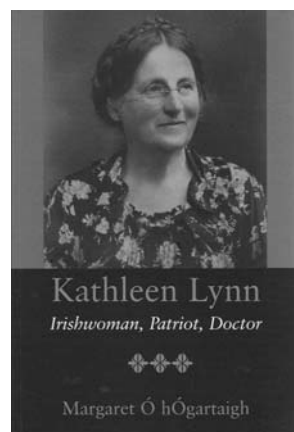
• *Petticoat Rebellion. The Anna Parnell story.* €12.



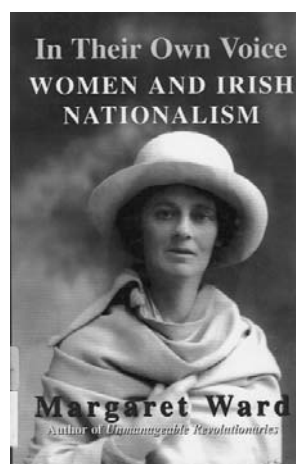
• *Rebel Daughters. Ireland in Conflict 1798.* Janet Todd. Special price €5.



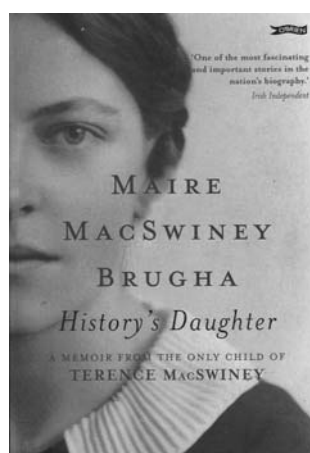
• *Maud Gonne's Irish Nationalist Writings 1895-1946.* Edited and introduced by Karen Steele. Special price



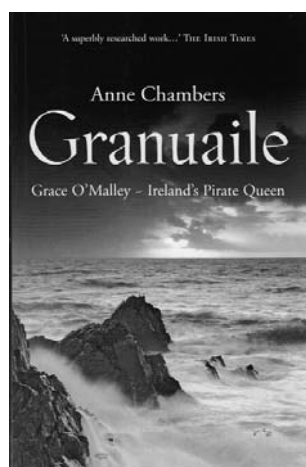
• *Kathleen Lynn. Irishwoman, Patriot and Doctor.* Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh. €20.



• *In Their own Voice: Women and Irish Nationalism.* Margaret Ward. €12. Second-hand.



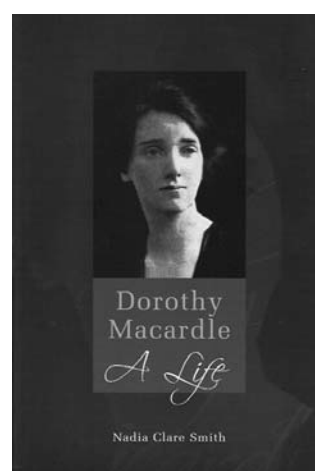
• *History's Daughter. A memoir from the only child of Terence McSwiney.* Maire MacSwiney Brugh. €15.



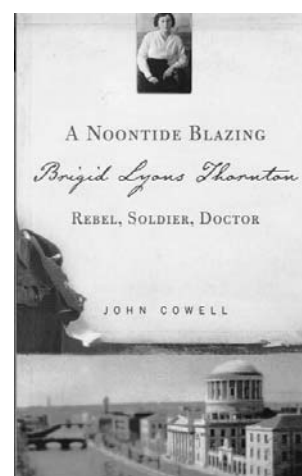
• *Granuaile, Grace O'Malley - Ireland's Pirate Queen.* Anne Chambers. €12.



• *Female Activists. Irish Women and Change 1900-1960,* Editors: Mary Cullen and Maria Luddy. €15.



• *Dorothy Macardle, A Life.* Nadia Clare Smith. €15.



• *A Noontide Blazing. Brigid Lyons Thornton, Rebel, Soldier, Doctor.* John Cowell. €14.99.

• **Post and packing extra. Send orders with cheques or postal orders only to Irish Freedom Press, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.**

# CAMPAIGN IN SIX COUNTIES HALTED

## 50 Years Ago

THIS month we carry the entire press release from the IRPB re the halting of the 1956-62 campaign, dated February 26, 1962: 'To prepare a more favourable situation'. (The last paragraph is the most important. It was quoted in Westminster, Stormont and Leinster House.)

The following statement was released for publication by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau at 19.40 hours on February 26, 1962:

### To the People of Ireland

THE Leadership of the Resistance Movement has ordered the termination of the Campaign of Resistance to British Occupation launched on December 12, 1956. Instructions issued to Volunteers of the Active Service Units and of local Units in the occupied area have now been carried out. All arms and other material have been dumped and all full-time active service Volunteers have been withdrawn.

The decision to end the Resistance Campaign has been taken in view of the general situation. Foremost among the factors motivating this course of action has been the attitude of the general public whose minds have been deliberately distracted from the supreme issue facing the Irish people – the unity and freedom of Ireland. Other and lesser issues have been urged successfully upon them and the sacrifices which would win freedom in the political, cultural, social and economic spheres are now stated to be necessary to bolster up the partition system of government forced on the Irish people by Britain forty years ago.

### SECONDARY ISSUES

This calculated emphasis on secondary issues by those whose political future is bound up in the *status quo* and who control all the mass media of propaganda is now leading towards possible commitment of the people of the 26 Counties in future wars. The Resistance Movement stands firmly against any such course of action while Ireland is unfree and will use all its resources towards restoring in full to the Irish people their sense of national values.

For over five years Irish freedom-fighters have fought against foreign occupation, native collaboration and the overwhelming weight of hostile propaganda. Supported loyally by the Republican people of the Six Occupied Counties they have faced fantastic odds. 5,000 British regular troops, 5,000 territorials, 12,500 B-Specials, 2,000 RUC, 1,500 specially-trained Commandos and sundry security guard forces totalling close on 30,000 armed men bar the road to freedom. Their considerable resources have included armoured vehicles, heavily fortified strong-points and the most modern war equipment.

### TORTURE AND TERROR

Terroristic tactics against the civilian population, draconian laws, imprisonment without charge and trial, torture-mills to force "confessions" from prisoners, long and savage penal servitude sentences, the shooting down of unarmed people at road-blocks and threats of even sterner measures including floggings and hanging have all been employed to maintain British rule in the Six Counties.

## Jim Costello

DURING February the last of the Costello brothers of Dunmore, Co Galway passed on. Jim Costello was in his ninetieth year and with his brothers Tom and Mick he had given service to the Republican Movement from the 1940s.

ΔΗ ΤΕΙΡΕΑΝΝΑΔΟΣ ΔΟΝΤΙΟΥΣΤΕ

**The UNITED IRISHMAN**

ΔΙΕ. ΧΙΥ. ΚΕΝΔΙΟ 3. ΜΑΡΤΙΑ (ΜΑΡΤΙΟΣ) 1962 46. (13 ΚΕΝΤΥ)

# CAMPAIGN IN SIX COUNTIES HALTED

'To Prepare A More Favourable Situation'

—Resistance—

The following statement was released for publication by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau at 19.40 hours on February 26, 1962:

**To the People of Ireland**

THE Leadership of the Resistance Movement has ordered the termination of the Campaign of Resistance to British Occupation launched on December 12, 1956. Instructions issued to Volunteers of the Active Service Units and of local Units in the occupied area have now been carried out. All arms and other material have been dumped and all full-time active service Volunteers have been withdrawn.

The decision to end the Resistance Campaign has been taken in view of the general situation. Foremost among the factors motivating this course of action has been the attitude of the general public whose minds have been deliberately distracted from the supreme issue facing the Irish people – the unity and freedom of Ireland. Other and lesser issues have been urged successfully upon them and the sacrifices which would win freedom in the political, cultural, social and economic spheres are now stated to be necessary to bolster up the partition system of government forced on the Irish people by Britain forty years ago.

**SECONDARY ISSUES**

This calculated emphasis on secondary issues by those whose political future is bound up in the *status quo* and who control all the mass media of propaganda is now leading towards possible commitment of the people of the 26 Counties in future wars. The Resistance Movement stands firmly against any such course of action while Ireland is unfree and will use all its resources towards restoring in full to the Irish people their sense of national values.

For over five years Irish freedom-fighters have fought against foreign occupation, native collaboration and the overwhelming weight of hostile propaganda. Supported loyally by the Republican people of the Six Occupied Counties they have faced fantastic odds. 5,000 British regular troops, 5,000 territorials, 12,500 B-Specials, 2,000 RUC, 1,500 specially-trained Commandos and sundry security guard forces totalling close on 30,000 armed men bar the road to freedom. Their considerable resources have included armoured vehicles, heavily fortified strong-points and the most modern war equipment.

**TORTURE AND TERROR**

Terroristic tactics against the civilian population, draconian laws, imprisonment without charge and trial, torture-mills to force "confessions" from prisoners, long and savage penal servitude sentences, the shooting down of unarmed people at road-blocks and threats of even sterner measures including floggings and hanging have all been employed to maintain British rule in the Six Counties.

**MILITARY TARGETS**

When repeated warnings by the Resistance to cease bearing arms against their own people were disregarded, the RUC and B-Special Constabulary were listed as legitimate military targets. The international provisions governing belligerent status including the wearing of means of identification, the carrying of arms openly and being under the control of responsible officers have been observed by the Resistance Movement but in no case has the enemy recognised the status of the men fighting for their country other than as criminal.

During the five-year Campaign over 600 operations against enemy patrols, strong-points, communications, transport and civil administration have been carried out at enormous cost to the enemy. Casualties inflicted total six killed and 28 wounded. (This includes British soldiers, B-Specials, RUC and Commandos). In addition four members of the Crown Forces – apart from British military, naval and air force personnel for whom figures are not readily available – were killed other than by Resistance action.

In the same period the Resistance suffered two killed in action and seven killed accidentally. Also a Sinn Féin organiser was murdered by British Crown Forces near

**Roll of Honour**

**Died for Ireland 1956-62**

Volunteer Seán Sabhat, Limerick, January 1, 1957.  
Volunteer Fearghal Ó hAnluain, Monaghan, January 1, 1957.  
Volunteer Paul Smith, Armagh, November 11, 1957.  
Volunteer Oliver Craven, Down, November 11, 1957.  
Volunteer Patrick Parle, Wexford, November 11, 1957.  
Volunteer George Keegan, Wexford, November 11, 1957.  
Michael Watters, Louth, November 11, 1957.  
Volunteer Patrick McManus, Fermanagh, July 15, 1958.  
James Crossan, Cavan, August 24, 1958.  
Volunteer John Duffy, Derry, May 10, 1960.

**TRIBUTE TO SUPPORTERS**

No aid from any foreign source has been received by the Resistance Movement. Irish exiles from many countries have been more than generous in their support of the Campaign while some returned to participate actively in the fight. The leadership of the Resistance Movement wishes to pay a long overdue public tribute to all the loyal Irish people of every class and creed who gave support – whether in the form of billets, transport, intelligence, funds, munitions or even encouragement – and to all who had the moral courage to speak out in private or in public in defence of the men fighting for Ireland. In future an even greater volume of support will be needed so that the Cause dear to the hearts and minds of all who have actively contributed to the Resistance Campaign of 1956-62 will ultimately triumph.

**ETERNAL HOSTILITY**

The Irish Resistance Movement remains intact and is in a position to continue its Campaign in the occupied area indefinitely. It realises, however, that the situation obtaining in the earlier stages of the Campaign has altered radically and is convinced that the time has come to conserve its resources, to augment them, and to prepare a more favourable situation. The policy of not taking aggressive action within the 26-County area remains unaltered and the Resistance takes its stand against any attempt to foment sectarian strife which is alien to the spirit of Irish Republicanism.

The Irish Resistance Movement renews its pledge of eternal hostility to the British Forces of Occupation in Ireland. It calls on the Irish people for increased support and looks forward with confidence – in cooperation with the other branches of the Republican Movement – to a period of consolidation, expansion and preparation for the final and victorious phase of the struggle for the full freedom of Ireland.

Signed  
J. McGarrity  
Secretary  
Irish Republican Publicity Bureau  
February 26, 1962.

His death saddened his comrades and friends and left a gap in the ranks in North Galway. A true Republican, he remained faithful to the All-Ireland Republic throughout his long life.

Regardless of the vicissitudes down the decades Jim and his brothers stood ready at all times to be called on and gave service without stint. He will be missed.

Prominent Republicans attending the obsequies in

Dunmore included An Comhairleoir Tomás Ó Curraoin, former chairperson of Galway County Council Frank Glynn, Brendan and Maureen Madden, Tony Wallace, Dan Hoban and Ruairi and Patsy Ó Brádaigh.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his sister Phil, his sister-in-law Bridie, his nephews, nieces and extended family.

Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam usal.



# Fenian Notes

## From our Washington Correspondent

**D**EFEAT should not be taken lightly and certainly not welcomed. It should be a wake-up call, but not when the defeated surrendered and see it as a plus.

Defeat does not mean you are beaten, if you are committed to what you aspire. That is the difference between true Irish Republicans and the sham Republicans who let ego be a substitute for commitment.

The truth must be told that the so-called Irish Lobby has been defeated and has surrendered to the enemy and it is a one-way surrender that was not demanded but offered and in return the defeated get nothing to show for their efforts.

The Irish Lobby (IL) spear-headed by the Irish National Caucus, Ancient Order of Hibernians and others, saw the chance to get a foot in the door to power and acceptance in the establishment and they took it and the price was their political souls and any honour they may once have had.

They broke their word to the Republican Movement (RM) in a gradual process, and became green unionists. Irish American leaders let their growing personal egos get in the way of true commitment. They wasted a once-great effort and bowed to the master of greed.

Let it not forget that the Irish-American Community when they decided they wanted to help in the campaign to oust the British from Ireland sought out the Republican Movement's endorsement of their efforts. That endorsement gave them credibility.

The Dublin government was not going to endorse a campaign to rid Ireland of the British. Britain's presence was the assurance that the Free State would remain. Dublin might give lip-service, but it was never for real. They supported Northern Unionism which also guaranteed the Free State status quo.

### REPUBLICAN IRELAND

A Republican Ireland of 32 Counties was never meant to mean the 26

swallows up the Six, it was for a New Ireland (ÉIRE NUA). Unionism and Britain were the Free State's guarantee of its existence. People lose sight of that.

When the American Irish wanted to be part of the effort to drive Britain from Ireland, they accepted that that involvement meant the Republican Movement called the shots on the direction of the campaign. The Americans accepted that premise and welcomed it.

The RM set the stage and the Americans acted it out. It had always been like that. What goes on in the United States is to supplement what goes on in Ireland. The Irish Lobby was supposed to be the voice of Irish Republicanism in the States. We were all supposed to be on the same page.

Without the quest for Irish unity and Independence precipitated by a British declaration of intent to withdraw, there is no reason for the Irish Lobby. The acceptance of the "peace" process is a total utter unconditional surrender and there is no way to sugar-coat it. What happened?

Surrender is one of two things: (1) it is to realise the other side is so strong you do not want to waste resources, so you live to fight another day for the same goal and you never accept defeat and the second is simple, pure unadulterated cowardice. The IL are cowards.

The cause of Irish freedom is now brushed aside in favour of a seat at the big table of US domestic politics. To get in, you accept the "peace" process and it's sealing of defeat. The collective cause of replaced by the individual ego.

The IL leaders would rather preach peace at any price than stick to the mission they once embraced. Recent discovered documents show that in 1973, 104 Congressmen endorsed the Tip O'Neill, Joe Moakley and Floyd Spence sponsored-letter asking colleagues to sign onto a peace plan that sets the blueprint for a New Ireland.

When Tip O'Neill later joined with Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Daniel



Moynihan and others in a Free State-endorsed campaign against the IRA, he never retracted the endorsement of the ÉIRE NUA plan. People forget that.

The "peace" process was not a plan but a surrender. ÉIRE NUA was a system of government that showed the future for all the Irish people. The peace at any price could have been had way back in 1972 by the nationalists accepting unionism. They have known done that through the "peace" process.

**T**HE Irish Lobby is now irrelevant. Once it turned its back on Irish Republicanism, it lost credibility, because it accepted Partition and British rule. And no one wants to hear the foolish term "stepping-stone". The only stepping-stone is for the British to announce they are leaving.

The Irish Lobby likes to point to its so-called political victories which are a cover for eventual failure. The victories are all meaningless.

The first was when they accepted human rights as the driving-force rather than the primacy of unity and freedom. They did this under President Carter. The British were convicted of human rights violations but the United States did not come down on them and impose sanctions.

Then there was the gun ban to the RUC. That was a token for fools. Ronald Reagan signed off on the ban but ignored it and gave the RUC all the weapons needed. Remember he also condemned the hunger strikers, praising Thatcher's treatment of them.

The MacBride Principles got a lot of publicity and were a major diversion from unity and freedom and it turns out that behind the scenes the British welcomed the diversion.

The IL thought they were really on top of their game when they got a commitment from presidential candidate Bill Clinton to get involved in the Six Counties. Clinton got to play the stage Paddy and the fools lined up

behind him.

What did Clinton do for the Irish? He turned them into unionists because he was. Clinton appointed George Mitchell to work out a plan and it turned out to be an acceptance of "peace" and the Union. He had worked this out with the British and Free State ahead of time.

### LAPSED REPUBLICANS

He gave a visa to Gerry Adams and other lapsed Republicans to come to the States and tell the IL it was alright and they would assume power in a temporary Stormont. It was all a lie. They were through and just wanted money and political power and it did not matter what government they served.

The Irish Americans were rewarded with access to the White House for a drink with the president and a big Paddy's Day party and to look like they did something. They were in fact neutered. It was all about "peace".

This year shows what it is really all about. President Obama has postponed the Paddy's Day party so he can give a big state dinner for the British. What an insult.

The White House is supporting the British government's effort to get the IRA papers from Boston College when the participants were promised confidentially.

The British want to open up to prosecutions of IRA people when there was supposed to have been an amnesty. It is all lies, but the insult to the IL is well deserved for their act of cowardice in accepting peace at any price and breaking their word to true Republicans to accept nothing less than a British withdrawal.

Now the IL has no leverage and neither do their cousins the Provos. They gave that up when they surrendered unilaterally. They operate from a position of weakness.

The True Republican Movement gave birth to the Irish Lobby and was its sponsor and they were the harbinger of legitimacy, where the Six and 26-County governments are the harbingers of Partition.

**P**EOPLE lose sight of the simple fact that the British created the 26 at the same time they created the Six and they have been in operation for 90 years. Time does not obscure legitimacy, it only highlight traitors.

Irish unity and freedom is a sacred trust and Partition is a diabolical fraud.

To quote a legal phrase, anything that comes from Partition is "fruit of the poisonous tree". The Free State and Stormont are the twin towers of Partition and the Provos, and the Irish Lobby are its poison.

Everything the IL condemned from the outset of its Irish Republican campaign has now been adopted. It was like a mass defection to the enemy.

The greatest American general and military tactics expert during the American Revolution let his ego get the best of him, so he switched sides and joined the British. We have many examples of General Benedict Arnold today who let their egos take over and they too joined the British.

In the long run, commitment and dedication will win out and the egos will once again switch sides and they will be led a person who is the most adept at seeing which way the wind blows and riding the force of it.

True Republicans and their supporters in the States need only to hold firm to the idea of a New Ireland and it has to prevail. There is the way to go forward if change of the tiresome old status quo takes hold.

When those who sold out realise they sold out for nothing, they will look for leadership which has been there all the time. They could avoid that by reading the solution now. Those who take the time to study ÉIRE NUA realise it can work and is flexible.

The Irish Lobby thinks it has done something by endorsing "peace" without the justice of unity and freedom but they need to take a hard look and see that they have been beaten by themselves by turning their back on the commitment they made to the Republican Movement.

They justify their defeat by pointing to the [non]leadership of Gerry Adams who sits in the 26-County parliament and Martin McGuinness who sits in the Six-County parliament as the Queen's Deputy First Minister. They have all lost their way, intentionally.

Adams and company like the pieces of silver they are paid by the Crown and Leinster House just as Benedict Arnold took British coin 236 years ago. Let them all enjoy the fruits of defeat for as long as they can. That is what beaten men do.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

## Frank Quinn

### REPUBLICANS in Longford and indeed throughout Ireland were saddened to hear of the death on February 15 of Frank Quinn of Ballinalee, Co Longford.

Frank was born in New York of Longford parents in 1927. Three months later the family returned home to Soran, Ballinalee where his father Tom Quinn had been very active against the Black-and-Tans and later against the Free State.

Tom was again active and served time in Sligo jail in 1934 and in Arbour Hill in 1935. He spent a period as OC Longford Battalion, IRA in the late 1930s, following on Mick Ferguson and before Barney Casey was appointed. When Frank asked why he joined the Republican Movement in 1951 he said he "inherited it in the blood".

In between periods spent in London for work Frank took part in the election of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh to an All-Ireland Parliament in 1957 and the election the Sinn Féin TD received when he returned to



• Frank Quinn

Longford-Westmeath in 1959.

He took part in all the activities of the Movement whether he was in London or Longford.

In 1969 and again in 1986 Frank remained faithful without hesitation. In the early summer of 1970 he was in the front row

of a crowded meeting in Kilburn when Seán Mac Stiofáin and Ó Brádaigh attended on an organising mission.

Frank lived at Esker, Ballinalee with his brother Peter, another staunch Republican, who returned from America.

Throughout the years Frank Quinn remained active in the Republican cause and was to be seen at meetings and public events almost to the end.

At his funeral on February 17 Frank was escorted to the graveside by a Republican Sinn Féin guard of honour. Proceedings at the graveside were chaired by Seán who spoke movingly of Frank's life and service.

The oration was delivered by Dan Hoban, Mayo who paid tribute to Frank's long career.

Frank Quinn gave almost 60 years of service to the All-Ireland Republic. The staff of SAOIRSE extends deepest sympathy to his family, comrades and friends. Leaba i measc na bhFínníní go raibh sé.

## Comhbhrón

**BIRMINGHAM.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the Birmingham family, Ballykett, Kilrush, Co Clare. Domhnall Birmingham died on January 28, 2012, late of Ennis and Ballykett, Kilrush. From Tom McCarthy, West Clare Republican Sinn Féin.

**COSTELLO.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jim Costello who died in February. From Galway Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach HENEGHAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Heneghan family on the death of lifelong Republican Sile. From the Republican Movement, Newry/South Down and the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down.

**LYGATE.** Matt Lygate died on January 10. Matt from Glasgow, was a good friend of Ireland and never found wanting when asked for help for the POWs. Matt and Republican ex POW, James Sweeney from Donegal, led protests in Peterhead Jail in the 1970s. Will be remembered always nationally and internationally. From his many friends in Scotland.

**O BAOIGHILL.** The Ard Comhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, extends deepest sympathy to the family, comrades and friends of Frank Quinn, Co Longford who died on February 15. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam usal. **QUINN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the friends, family, and comrades of Frank Quinn, Longford who died in February. From Comhairle Chonnacht; Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair; the Kevin Coen Cumann, Roscommon and the

family, comrades and friends of Bhrian Mór Ó Baoighill, who died on February 18. Go raibh saumhneas síoraí dá anam usal.

**O BAOIGHILL.** Brian Mór "Bernie" was a great man. He was a true friend, an unwavering Republican and a mentor to many. His shoes will never be filled. He is greatly missed by many. My deepest condolences to Brian's partner, Joan Messina and his family. Jane Enright, Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta, New York City.

**O BAOIGHILL.** Faoi Bhrian Mhór Ó Baoighill. Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a nam usal. Ní bheidh a leithéid anseo go deo arís. Miceál Ó Coidealbha.

**O BAOIGHILL.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the friends, family, and comrades of the late Brian Mór Ó Baoighill of New York who died recently. From the James Connolly Association, Australia.

**QUINN.** The Ard Comhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, extends deepest sympathy to the family, comrades and friends of Frank Quinn, Co Longford who died on February 15. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam usal. **QUINN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the friends, family, and comrades of Frank Quinn, Longford who died in February. From Comhairle Chonnacht; Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair; the Kevin Coen Cumann, Roscommon and the

Casey/McCreesh Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Longford.

## I gCuimhne

**O'NEILL** – 6th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of my father vol. Liam O'Neill who died on April 6, 2006. Always remembered by his wife, son Gerard and family. Also in memory of his son Vol Danny O'Neill, 2nd battalion Belfast Brigade, IRA who died January 7, 1972.

*Is mise Éire. Danny, a son of mine from the very start, strong and clever and sure of heart. From my family he was born a son of Éireann in a statelet wrong. In '69 once again a program against our people came, my children stood against their might. Young people like Danny prepared to fight. Stand together we will be strong. In an army of comrades to right this wrong. It was at this time a socialist a soldier we knew, highly respected and trusted through. Danny worked both day and night to remove the British and help his peoples plight. On active service once again he engaged the British to end their hated reign. Mortally injured that January day. Oh how I feel the pain. Saoirse. Never forgotten. The O'Neill family.*

## Blueshirts — they haven't gone away you know

THE European Central Bank said they would like to see a change of government in Ireland. (The Yanks call it Regime Change like in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya).

Immediately the International Monetary Fund arrived and told us that we were broke and needed a bailout. When Brian Lenihan (unfortunately no relation of Brian Boru) pointed out that he had been crafty enough to borrow enough money to keep the ship afloat they got angry and

made him an offer he couldn't refuse. Badly shaken and much stirred he signed away our independence on the dotted line.

Then Olli (Big Bird) Rehn said we needed to pay exorbitant interest rates on the money which couldn't be reduced.

Enda "Blue Shirt" Kenny rushed to see the Chancellor (as would have his predecessor O'Duffy when old Adolf Hitler held the coveted post).

Kenny came back telling us we needed a

change of government and he was prepared to follow the German line.

Gerry Adams came down from Belfast just in case we hadn't already got the message that the wake for our economy was taking place and it was hoped we would subsequently disappear.

EVERYONE voted and then we got Enda Kenny for Gauleiter (I mean Chief) or Taoiseach.

Well so far so good. Just as Enda got elected and prepared to take his seat Olli "Big Bird" Rehn

decided that maybe interest rates could be reduced.

So what was all the fuss about?

I've got a suggestion for Kenny and the other grovellers — I mean negotiators. Why don't they remind the Germans what they did to Frank Ryan and the lads in the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War.

Ask them how much the Irish lads who died on the Somme are worth. Ask them what compensation they will pay for the

60,000 Irishmen who fought them between 1939 and 1945. Ask them what they want to pay for bombing Belfast and Dublin.

In other words ask for War Reparations (remember they just finished paying the French and Brits those First World War reparations last year?).

Now I think that would leave them still owing us some money after all their bond-holders are burned. Not to mention an apology for mistaking us for Jews. Sorry, shouldn't have said that. It was the Nazis killed

the Jews. The Germans were on holiday at the time (or so some would have us believe).

Maybe I should just leave all this to the financial experts like Gerry and Enda and Éamon and everyone else who would rather forget the past than face up to reality.

The reality, of course, is that the big powers in Europe are on the move again and we are in the way.

— Mac Cool

## Open letter to Provisionals from O'Hara, Devine families

THE following letter from the O'Hara and Devine families appeared in the *Derry Journal* on February 10.

“OPEN Letter to Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison Jim Gibney, Martin McGuinness, Tom Hartley, and Bik McFarlane.

We welcome the fact that Danny Morrison has broken his silence and has given some insight into the events of the first week of July 1981 concerning the hunger strike in Long Kesh. In that light we would like to ask a few questions in the hope of getting answers that may finally put to rest the events surrounding the tragic deaths of our loved ones.

Danny has stated that he relayed the contents of an offer to the PIRA prison OC, Bik McFarlane, on July 5 1981.

Richard O'Rawe, the prison PRO, has said that Bik sent him down a comm detailing what was on offer, and that he said to Bik "Tá go leor ann." (There is enough there). This has been verified to some of our families by two ex-Blanketmen who had

been there on the wing and heard the words.

Also, Bik himself, in a press interview in 2009, finally admitted he had had a conversation with Richard, and that he thought the Brit offer was "amazing." In light of this, we must assume that Bik made his and Richard's views known to their outside leadership.

What we would like to know is:

Q1. Why was this not accepted?

Q2. Who, on the outside overrode Bik's authority?

Q3. Why was the Hunger Strike allowed to continue, on direction from the outside (not the POWs)?

Q4. Mrs McDonnell asked Gerry Adams to save her son's life to end to the Hunger Strike by ordering the POWs off it. Mr Adams' reply was that he did not have the authority to do this. Who had the authority (Brendan McLaughlin was ordered off it



• **Peggy O'Hara, Derry, mother of hunger strike martyr Patsy.**

due to his medical condition)?

Q6. Why was the IRSP (who were joint participants in the Hunger Strike) not informed about the offer through Mountain Climber?

Q7. The British sent you their offer (to be released upon the ending of the Hunger Strike) in the form of dictated statements on the 6th and 20th of July. Why were these statements never shown to the POWs?

Q8. Who took the decision



• **Michael and Louise Devine, pictured as children at their father's funeral.**

to withhold the statements from the hunger strikers and the prison leadership?

Q9. On the 29th of July, Gerry Adams told the mother and father of Kieran Doherty, and the hunger strikers, that "there was no deal on the table, no movement of any sort" despite him being at the centre of on-going communications /

ignorance of what the British were offering.

In Danny Morrison's recent letter he spoke of the 'families' pain'. Danny can't even hope to imagine the pain felt by some of our families. We, the undersigned, believe that the

Hunger Strike was prolonged when an honourable settlement was available, a settlement that would have saved the lives of six brave men.

We called for an independent inquiry three years ago, asking all those involved in this matter to attend. Only Richard O'Rawe and the late Dr Garrett Fitzgerald said they would attend.

We once again call for on Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison, Jim Gibney, Martin McGuinness, Tom Hartley, and Bik McFarlane to attend. The least we deserve is a reason why they won't attend, and failing that, they could provide answers to.

Is sinne  
Peggy and Tony O'Hara;  
Michael and Louise Devine."

### Join Republican Sinn Féin

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin  
Ba Mhaith Liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm .....

Seoladh .....

Tel: .....

Email .....

Send to: Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.  
Tel: 01-872 9747. Fax: 01-872 9757  
or  
229 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6FB  
Tel: 028 9031 9004  
Email: saoirse@iol.ie

www.rsf.ie

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland



Don't sell out to Stormont  
or Leinster House . . .

Buy SAOIRSE  
every month!

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR

Ireland . . . . . €30.00  
Britain . . . . . Stg £30.00  
Rest of Europe . . . . . €35.00  
World (airmail) . . . . . €35.00

Ainm .....

Seoladh .....

ISSN 0791 - 0002

SAOIRSE - Irish Freedom  
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: 872 9747; Facs: 872 9757  
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie

SAOIRSE  
PO Box 1241  
Laurence Harbor  
New Jersey 08879