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No lasting settlement

THE process of normalising British rule in Ireland is now in full swing. The British and 26-county political establishments aided and abetted by their many cheerleaders in the media are busy selling the big lie to the Irish people and people internationally that British rule and the partition of Ireland are now acceptable and a normal part of the Irish political landscape.

Last year Bertie Ahern declared that the 'constitutional question' had been settled, which is a nonsense so long as Irish national independence and the essential unity of the Irish nation is denied.

The St Andrew's proposals and the 1998 Stormont Agreement all follow on previous agreements, the 1938 Anglo-Irish Trade Agreement, 1925 Boundary Agreement and the 1921 Treaty, none of which supercede the 1920 Westminster Government of Ireland Act, which partitioned Ireland. All of these were agreements but none constitute a settlement.

There can be no final settlement short of British government disengagement from Ireland.

This anti-national agenda is one based on denial of the facts of Irish history, denial that the Irish nation even exists. This is clearly illustrated in the use of language, describing the 26-Counties as Ireland, referring to the Six-Counties as 'Ulster' or 'Northern Ireland' as if it were another country. References to the 'island of Ireland' imply that more than one country exists within these shores. All of this is intended to

condition people to think of and view Ireland in purely partitionist terms.

The invitation to address both houses of the British parliament at Westminster issued by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the 26-County premier Bertie Ahern on April 26, for the first time since 1922 coupled with Ahern's planned attendance at the re-opening of the Stormont Assembly, an obstacle to Irish unity and freedom, on May 8, mark a further escalation of the this policy of normalisation.

Whilst Section 31 censorship is no longer on the statute books in the 26 Counties, it is clear that a policy of denying broadcast or print space to those who oppose British rule in Ireland remains in operation. Commentator and author Joe Tiernan referred to such a policy being applied to Republican Sinn Féin during the recent Six-County Stormont elections.

The mainstream media constantly repeat the lie that no alternative to the Stormont Agreement and St Andrews proposals exists, at the same time refusing to allow any discussion of proposals such as ÉIRE NUA, which represent a

coherent and credible alternative to continued English rule and the failed partitionist set-up.

Those who have signed up to the Stormont Agreement and the St Andrew's proposals want us all to believe that the Irish history ends in 2007, that the existence of the Six-County state is no longer the question but rather how it will be governed under British rule.

As the Provisionals paid lip service to the 1916 Rising this Easter, journalist Éamonn McCann in the *Sunday Business Post* on April 8 said: "In endorsing the 'principle' of consent [the establishment cover-up term for the Unionist veto] contained in the [1998 Stormont] Agreement, accepting that Northern Ireland (*sic*) will, as of right, remain part of the United Kingdom until such time as a majority within the Six Counties decide otherwise."

"[Provisional] Sinn Féin had ditched the idea that lay at the heart of its own tradition and that had provided the justification in political morality for the campaign, indeed the existence, of the IRA."

Accepting this he said: "This makes an abstraction, if not a nonsense of the ringing words that will be read out by [Provisional] Sinn Féin representatives at Easter Rising commemorations North and South this afternoon: 'We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be



• *Republican colour party leading marchers through the town of Roslea, Co Fermanagh on Easter Monday in defiance of the British ban on Republican marches.*

sovereign and indefeatable."

The anti-national agenda extends beyond the political sphere into language, culture and even sport, reflected in the scant media coverage of the recent Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis held in Westport, Co Mayo and the GAA Congress held in Kilkenny City.

The political climate for Irish Republicans has seldom been more difficult, however as Irish history teaches us whilst English rule in Ireland remains it will be met with resistance. There always has been and remains a section of the Irish people who will never

accept British police, British courts or British laws in Ireland. The task of Republican Sinn Féin is to provide organisation and leadership so

that a mass movement of the Irish people can be built capable of ending the centuries long English occupation and creating a New Ireland.

CABHAIR
Irish Republican
Prisoners Dependents
Fund
**ANNUAL
TESTIMONIAL
DINNER
& REPUBLICAN
REUNION**

Royal Dublin Hotel,
O'Connell Street,
Dublin
Saturday, May 19, 2007
Dinner €30
Music: Freewheelers



Honorees:
Liam de Guid
(Munster)
Kitty Hawkins
(Leinster)
Brendan McLaughlin
(Ulster)
Seán Scott (Connacht)



Wolfe Tone Commemoration,
Bodenstown, 2.30pm, Sunday, June 10,
Sallins, Co Kildare
Buses: Aston Quay, Dublin 12.45pm Ticket: €10

Gearrsc alta

Little progress in nurses' dispute

DESPITE spending more than six hours inside Government Buildings at talks on April 28, reconvened by the National Implementation Body (NIB), there was little progress made in the nurses' dispute. The NIB will be in touch with both sides and further talks are expected on May 1, just as the industrial action enters its fifth week.

It is understood that the Health Service Executive Employers Agency (HSEEA) has offered a target date of March 31, 2008, for the first phase of a reduced working week for nurses. The unions have been demanding a date for the introduction of a 35-hour working week, down from 39 hours.

It is believed the HSEEA has offered to cut working time for nurses by at least an hour next year. The reduced working week, offered late on April 27, would be subject to nurses agreeing that any workplace changes be self-financing. Any changes in working time would also have to be independently validated.

The Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU) which also represents nurses at the talks despite not being party to the dispute, is believed to have told the NIB that a 35-hour week must represent an improvement in nurses' conditions. The union insisted any change in working hours must not adversely affect their working conditions and rosters. Pay has also been discussed, with an upgrade offered for about 50 nurses who have social care workers reporting to them who earn more than them. It is understood the Health Service Executive is still arguing it cannot afford to pay the 10.6% sought by the 40,000 nurses.

A poll in the *Irish Times* on April 30 found that 58% of voters support the nurses.

Republican parades not 'criminal acts'

ON April 22 Richard Walsh, RSF Ard Chomhairle member and PRO of Comhairle Uladh (Ulster Executive) said that it had been reported in the *Belfast News Letter* of April 21, the Provos commented that "the vast, vast majority of Republicans (sic) attended legally arranged [Provo] parades over Easter".

He said: "Clearly the 'laws' the Provos are referring to are the dictates of the English government.

"Republican Sinn F  in rejects the Provo description of Republican Commemorations as 'criminal acts'. Furthermore, the actions of those who not only applied to the British Crown Forces for permission to march, but also used these platforms to pressurise Nationalists into embracing their total collaboration with English rule in Ireland, amounts to nothing less than the desecration of the graves of Ireland's Patriot Dead.

"Do the Provos agree with Fermanagh DUP councillor Bert Johnston that those involved in Republican parades such as that in Roslea should feel the full rigour of alien laws? And where does Michelle Gildernew – who was so vociferous on Radio Ulster's *Talk Back* programme during the election campaign – stand on this issue and the arrests and charging of three people accused of Republican activity in Lurgan last week?

"True Republicans will never apply to enemy forces for the right to honour our patriot dead, and will continue to commemorate all those who gave their lives in the Cause of Irish Freedom with dignity and respect. The Provos, on the other hand, should have the honesty and decency to stay away from the graves of those who died serving the All-Ireland Republic and fighting British Occupation."

Plasterers in Clare picket non-union sites

MEMBERS of the Clare Plasters Union (CPU) placed a day-long picket on the Cois na hAbhna traditional music venue on the Gort Road, Ennis on April 19 because of the alleged use of non-union labour by sub-contractors working on the project.

Paddy Kenneally, Republican Sinn F  in member and secretary of the Clare Plasterers Union said that: "There are non-union plasterers here and we have a problem with that. They are mostly Eastern European and we believe they are being paid poor wages and are not in compliance with the registered agreement. We approached them last week to join the union but they ignored us".

Also in Clare members of the Operative Plasterers and Allied Trades Society of Ireland (OPATSI) staged a protest at the main gate of St Flannan's College, Ennis during the third week of April over the alleged employment of non-union workers and pension entitlements for workers.

"Not one local plasterer is employed on this project which is one of the largest contracts ever issued in Clare. The work being carried out is normally

Continued harassment of Republicans

GER Brommell was arrested on December 17, 2001 and brought before the Special non-jury court in Dublin, remanded in custody on IRA membership charges, released on bail in January 2002 and told to surrender his passport to Henry Street Garda Station in Limerick.

Ger's passport was due for renewal in 2007. He and his wife Siobh  n and family applied for a new passport in Cork on April 2007 as they were going on a holiday.

They were refused a passport as the gard  i in Limerick had a block on his passport since 2002 relating to the charges of membership even though Ger was found not guilty in the special on May 8, 2003 by Judges Butler, Matthews and Hammell. Ger has made two attempts to have his passport cleared by the gard  i at Henry Street but so far to no avail.

If the Special Branch think they will destroy true Republicanism in Limerick they are mistaken. We are a risen people and will continue to honour our dead and organise the living.

DUBLIN

Continuous and aggressive harassment of Republicans continues also in Dublin. One

youth has been followed and stopped on a regular basis – twice in the space of 30 minutes.

He was stopped while parked, while driving and while leaving work. The harassment has now extended to his family. Family members are harassed and followed and had their home raided.

Others in Dublin report the same aggressive 'in-your-face' questioning and the theft of mobile phones by the gard  i continues also. Theft is nothing new to members of the Special Branch. Two years ago they stole money (  1,000) belonging to Republican Sinn Fein and nothing was ever seen of it since – one wonders where it went. Items taken from homes during raids are often not returned, again the question must be asked what happens to these items?

Also in Dublin on April 10, 2007, after the Shamrock Rover V Bohemian's match, Gard  i from Kevin Street



• *Special Branch harass young Republicans at the Deansgrange Easter commemoration in Dublin on Easter Sunday.*

accosted a group of young males in and around the Temple Bar area of Dublin. One of the young lads got separated from the group and the gard  i beat him so badly that he ended up in hospital. He had black eyes and cuts on his face and his head from the kicking he received. He was told that if he complained he would be charged with riotous behaviour.

This type of intimidation

goes on every day in the streets of Dublin. Young men in particular are afraid to open their mouths as if a case goes to court the word of the gard  i is automatically taken over the word of anyone else.

The judiciary are complicit in this cover up of abuse by the gard  i by not investigating properly the circumstances surrounding charges against many young men.

TB vaccination — HSE forced to act

AFTER an inexplicable and inexcusable 35-year lapse, parents throughout Cork city and county will have a sigh of relief that inoculation of newborn babies against TB is to be re-introduced next October.

While the BCG vaccine is routinely available in every other county, that's not the case in the 26 counties second most populous area outside Dublin.

However, the Health Service Executive (HSE) has been forced into action by the revelation that 10 people in Cork city, including nine pre-school children, were confirmed in the past two weeks as having the disease.

Understandably, parents at two local cr  ches, where TB has emerged, have been clamouring for re-introduction of the vaccine for all newborn babies.

That it required an outbreak

of TB to ensure that all the children of the nation will routinely be protected against this disease is a further indictment of the 26 Counties crisis-ridden health service.

A spokesperson for Sinn F  in Poblachtach, Cork said, "The HSE and 26-County Minister for Health Ms Harney now need to answer the people of Cork as to:

Why for 35 years the children of Cork have been denied the BCG vaccine?

Why was children's health put in jeopardy in such a way?"

On April 28 Dr Philip Monk, a British-based expert in communicable disease control,

said there was no other likely explanation for the high level of infection in children at Nurture Childcare in Douglas, Cork city, and Panda Paws Preschool and Childcare facility in Little Island, Co Cork.

Dr Monk, is working with public health officials in the Health Service Executive (HSE) South in an effort to control the outbreak, which has generated 17 child cases and two adult cases since March 15. He said TB was most commonly transmitted when an infected person coughed, expelling droplets containing the virus. These normally landed on a surface not more than three feet away, infecting people within this range.

However, Dr Monk said, because TB had been diagnosed in children who

were not in the same room as the infected childcare worker, the only explanation was the original case had been able to "generate an aerosol".

"This means the bug is attached to a very, very fine particle of moisture, and because it is very fine it is able to float freely about the building, and is therefore not confined to one room.

"This is abnormal. It is extraordinarily rare. Only by very careful detective work have we been able to discover that the index (original) case is likely to have the capacity to generate an aerosol," Dr Monk said.

He said it was believed this TB strain was very virulent, but laboratory tests were ongoing to determine exactly how infectious."

Pro-Tara group outlines election strategy

THE Campaign to Save Tara is to distribute about 100,000 flyers in advance of the 26-County election with the aim of making the M3 motorway a "make or break" issue for parties who would form the next 26-County administration.

Outlining the campaign's election strategy in Dublin on April 24, its spokesman Michael Canney, said it was asking people to "consider each candidate's and party's

position on the route to the ballot box".

Michael Canney said the campaign aimed to "translate the deep unease people feel about this issue

into a positive outcome in the election", adding that the "anti-Tara parties - Fianna F  il, Fine Gael and the PDs - will be forced to deal with it on the doorstep".

Dr Muireann N   Bhrolch  in, senior lecturer in Celtic studies at NUI Maynooth, said: "If the

Gabhra Valley is not safe, nowhere in Ireland is safe from future development in the spurious name of progress."

Architect and broadcaster Duncan Stewart called the M3 "the worst example of unsustainable development" because it would encourage more sprawl.

For The Record

MON. APRIL 2: A review from the British police inspectorate said that new 'hate crime' investigators should be introduced to tackle the growing number of racist and homophobic attacks in the Occupied Six Counties.

Two DUP councillors on the Ballymena Borough Council resigned over the power-sharing deal between Ian Paisley and the Provos.

Train services between Dublin and Belfast were disrupted due to an arson attack on a signal cabin.

Demolition work began on the perimeter wall of the H-Block prison camp in Lissburn, Co Antrim where thousands were imprisoned and ten men died on hunger strike in 1981.

Up to 15 loyalists blocked the entrance into the Coleraine Borough Council offices where a reception, to celebrate the achievements of Coleraine's Owen Roe GAA Club, was to take place. The Club reached the final of the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Football Championship in March.

TUES. APRIL 3: DUP Councillor Stephen Herron resigned from Banbridge District Council in protest at the DUP sharing power with the Provos.

An Bord Pleanála ruled that a memorial, built without permission in Lanesboro, Co Longford to Martin Hurson, one of the 10 hunger strikers, is to remain in place.

WED. APRIL 4: Ian Paisley travelled to Dublin for talks with 26-County Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors in the 26 Counties called for stun guns to be made available to all Garda members who carry firearms and not only the Emergency Response Unit (ERU).

The McEntee Report into the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings was published.

THURS. APRIL 5: The Provos apologised to the family of Eoin Morley, a member of the Irish People's Liberation Organisation (IPLO) who they shot dead in a house in Newry in April 1990.

The introduction of water charges in the Occupied Six Counties is to be deferred until after May 8 when the Stormont assembly reconvenes.

Kenneth Bloomfield, former head of the civil service in the Occupied Six Counties, said in his book *A Tragedy of Errors* that he often wonders if the 'people in Northern Ireland would not enjoy a more dignified position as a community within a united Ireland'.

Michael McDowell, 26-County minister for justice, claimed that the Provos were withholding information on the Brighton bombing in 1974.

Gerald Duffy, a nationalist bus driver, was awarded £79k by the Fair Employment Tribunal for 'five years of harassment' at Ballymena bus depot.

Greg O'Neill, solicitor for the Justice for the Forgotten group, criticised the 'appalling catalogue of mistakes' by the Gardaí investigating the Dublin and Monaghan bombings in 1974. He also said that the startling thing to come out of the McEntee Report was the refusal of the British government to co-operate with the investigation.

Ian Paisley said he decided to share power with the Provos 'rather than have the union destroyed and the setting up of a joint government by the south of Ireland'.

SAT. APRIL 7: A device was defused by the British Army at Primrose Park, Sion Mills outside the home of Mary McCrea, former member of the District Policing Partnership in Strabane, Co Tyrone. The RUC/PSNI described it as a 'viable device'. It is the second such incident in the area within two days.

SUN. APRIL 8: Brendan MacCionnaith, the Provisionals political adviser and spokesperson for the Garvaghy Road Residents Association in Portadown, resigned from the Provos.

Republican POWs in Maghaberry were put on punishment for wearing Easter Lilies which, unlike the poppy, is banned in the jail.

MON. APRIL 9: A crowd of up to 30 young people threw petrol bombs and bricks at four RUC/PSNI land rovers near the gates of the City Cemetery. An RUC/PSNI helicopter hovered over the area during the disturbances.

The Glenariff Road, Glendun Close and Glenmanus Road in the town of Portrush were



• Protesters being removed by 26-County police from the Shell E&P Ireland offices at Corrib House, Leeson Street, Dublin on April 27.

closed to traffic and a number of houses were evacuated as British army bomb experts examined a suspicious object.

TUES. APRIL 10: Hugh Orde is facing potential legal action from Kevin Winters, Solicitors on behalf of Sean Hoey, over the refusal of the RUC to explain why the Weapons and Explosives Research Centre (a 'shadowy intelligence unit') was given secret access to forensic evidence in dozens of murder trials.

WED. APRIL 11: The International Committee of the Red Cross released details of the worsening conditions in Iraq and called for the withdrawal of British troops. The ICRC said that over 100,000 people were forced to leave their homes over the last year because 'of shootings, bombings, abductions, murders, military operations and other forms of violence.'

The family of Patrick Sheils, a founder member of the Irish Volunteers and 1916 veteran from the Bogside in Derry donated their collection of memorabilia to the city's mayor. He was imprisoned in Wormwood Scrubbs, interned in Frongoch and imprisoned again in Mountjoy in 1920 where he took part in a hunger strike. He remained an active Republican until his death in 1957.

Fred Hampton Jnr, son of a former Black Panther and founder of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee, spoke at a screening in Dublin of *In Prison My Whole Life*, a film about Mumia Abu Jamal.

THURS. APRIL 12: Bertie Ahern told the relatives of the Stardust victims that John Gallagher SC would review all evidence relating to the fire in 1981 to advise if a new inquiry should be set up.

Darren Leslie Richardson, Randalstown, Co Antrim appeared in Larne court charged with membership of the UVF and possession of documents likely to be of use to terrorists and possession of 9mm ammunition at the Wrightbus plant outside Ballymena. Wrightbus just recently won a multi-million bus contract from Iarnród Éireann, based in the 26 Counties.

FRI. APRIL 13: The office of Nuala O'Loan is preparing a file for the PPS on the shooting dead of Stephen Colwell, Cullybackey, Co Antrim by a member of the RUC/PSNI in April 2006.

SAT. APRIL 14: Russian Chess champion Gary Kasparov was arrested and charged as he demonstrated in Moscow against Russian president Vladimir Putin. 250 protestors were arrested as several thousand people demonstrated, many were injured.

MON. APRIL 16: Two men were arrested in connection with the finding of a mortar bomb in Co Armagh on April 5.

Two masked men threw a petrol bomb at a house in Hartford Park, Coleraine, Co Derry. No one was injured.

Nuala O'Loan, RUC/PSNI Ombudsman, found the killing by plastic bullet of Paul Whitters was 'unjustifiable and needless'.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opened its oral hearing in north Mayo into awarding a pollution control licence for the Corrib gas refinery.

Bertie Ahern denied reports in two Sunday newspapers that he had taken cash to Manchester in 1994.

An oral hearing by An Bord Pleanála into a municipal waste incinerator at Poolbeg in Dublin will begin this week with hundreds of protestors expected to attend. The incinerator would burn 600,000 tonnes of waste (25% of Dublin's household and non-hazardous waste).

The 26 Counties paid out more than €40 million to barristers and solicitors through the legal aid scheme last year – the highest amount

ever paid.

The RUC/PSNI warned over 100 nationalists in Co Antrim and east Derry that their personal details are in the hands of loyalist death squads.

Provisional members, Alex Maskey, Jennifer McCann and Joanna Spain (Dublin West) met the head of the British policing board Desmond Rea at Stormont.

Oxfam, the Third World charity, launched an appeal to raise €5million to help the people of Darfur. Oxfam claim that two million people have become homeless in the Sudan/Chad region and that over four million people are dependent on aid.

TUES. APRIL 17: Damian McKenna and Gary Toman, Lurgan, Co Armagh were charged with possession of explosives and plotting to murder.

A petrol bomb and stones was thrown in the Tullygally Road area of Lurgan, Co Armagh.

A suspicious object was examined in Ballymena leisure centre after a telephone warning.

In a sale of historical artefacts in Dublin, an original 1916 Proclamation sold at €240k. Many rare items from the Easter Rising and the War of Independence sold for record sums. A Citizen Army mobilisation order, signed by James Connolly, sold for €80,000 and a ticket for the Tipperary v Dublin Football match on Bloody Sunday 1920, at which 14 people were murdered by the British Army, was sold for €30,000.

Combat 18 stickers and posters are displayed prominently in Comber (Co Down) town center. The neo-Nazi group is recruiting in the area.

The mother of a young man knocked down and killed by an RUC/PSNI Land Rover said she could not accept Nuala O'Loan's conclusion that her son's death, in June 2005, was "a tragic accident" which could not have been avoided.

Paul Clinton, a Dublin businessman and architect brought a High Court challenge to the preservation orders on premises in Dublin's Moore Street, including one believed to be the final headquarters of the leaders of the 1916 Rising.

A report in the *Irish Times* stated that 5,353 children were in the care system in the 26 Counties last year and that 10% of children go without proper food or warm winter clothing. It also stated that the 26 Counties still has one of the highest child-poverty rates in Europe.

WED. APRIL 18: A man was charged in connection with the discovery of a mortar bomb near the railway line at Comakinnegar Road, Lurgan, Co Armagh. He was charged with 'possession of an improvised explosive device and conspiracy to murder members of the security forces' and the possession of articles likely to be of use to terrorists. He is the third man to be charged in connection with the incident.

A Ballymena taxi driver denied he 'delivered two nationalists to a loyalist mob' in the Harryville area on Easter Saturday night. One of the men, Barry McGill, claims that the taxi driver got out of the car and told waiting loyalists 'there's two Fenians in the car'.

An internal inquiry into alleged breach of computer system security was launched by the RUC/PSNI after a civilian administrative appeared in court in Belfast on three charges of obtaining personal data from the RUC/PSNI computer system.

Up to 200 people were killed in car bombs in Baghdad, Iraq. Over 200 others were injured.

On the third day of the Environmental Protection Agency's oral hearing in Belmullet, Co Mayo, Leo Corcoran of An Taisce challenged the siting of the proposed Corrib gas refinery within the catchment of a water supply for

10,000 people. He also accused Shell E&P Ireland of breaching codes of practice applied throughout Europe.

Shell E&P Ireland is facing a legal costs bill of more than 1million euro after the High Court allowed it to end its long-running legal action against four opponents of the controversial Corrib gas pipeline.

THURS. APRIL 19: Bail was refused to Gary Toman in the High Court in Belfast by Justice Campbell but he said Mr Toman could reapply when the results of forensic tests were available.

Ian Paisley jnr said that the Provos "must accept the legitimacy of the northern state and move forward if they want to be partners in representing all of the people".

The Educational Building Society (EBS) was responsible for a third of all debt collection cases brought by financial institutions against borrowers in Dublin's Civic Circuit Court over the past six months.

Richard English, author of *Irish Freedom* and a lecturer in politics in Queens University, Belfast, was one of those nominated for the Samuel Johnson Prize for works of non-fiction published in Britain.

In the 26 Counties, moneylenders are charging up to 188% interest on money borrowed according to a report from the Financial Regulator.

FRI. APRIL 20: Jim Allister, who resigned from the DUP when Ian Paisley agreed to share power with the Provos in Stormont, said that Raymond McCord is being used by the Provos to discredit the RUC.

Two Belfast men, Liam Barr and Mark Fitzpatrick were arrested in Liffey Valley shopping centre, Dublin and charged with possession of a semi-automatic pistol.

Willie Corduff, one of the Rosspoint protestors, was one of five people who won the Goldman Environmental prize in the US.

Nurses gave a weeks notice of the 52 hospitals which will be targeted in next week's industrial action over pay and conditions, they are looking for a 10.6% pay increase and a 35 hour working week.

Róisín Conroy, co-founder of Attic Press, and women's rights campaigner died.

MON. APRIL 23: Boris Yeltsin former Russian President, died aged 76.

Martina Anderson, who served more than 13 years in jail as a political prisoner, Daithí McKay and Alex Maskey were appointed to the British controlled Policing board in the occupied Six Counties by the Provisionals.

Drew Nelson, Grand secretary of the Orange Order, called on the Provos to apologise for attacks on Orange halls 'during the troubles'.

TUES. APRIL 24: Limerick County Council were granted a High Court injunction to remove five protestors from the council headquarters in Doora Doyle which they occupied the previous day in an effort to force the local authority to restore the water supply from Bleach Lough to Pallaskerry and Kildimo in Co Limerick.

Norwegian company Statoil met a delegation of nine TDs in Dublin, including Dr Jerry Crowley, to discuss concerns about the Corrib gas project. Statoil is a partner with Shell E&P Ireland and Marathon Petroleum in the Corrib project.

The Criminal Justice Bill (2007) was passed by the 28-County administration in Leinster House, Dublin.

In an unprecedented move, Bertie Ahern will address Stormont when it reassembles on May 8. Several politicians from the US are expected to attend the opening. Ahern is also to address the joint Houses of the British Parliament at Westminster on May 15.

Jose Manuel Barroso, European Commission President, announced his intention to visit the Occupied Six Counties during the last week in April to meet with Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness.

Raymond McCord, father of Raymond McCord jnr who was beaten to death by the loyalist UVF force in 1997, called on the European Parliament to put pressure on the British government to bring his son's killers to justice.

SAT. APRIL 28: About 25 Shell to Sea protestors demonstrated at the rear entrance of the headquarters of Shell E&P Ireland in Leeson Street at 7.30am. Gardaí removed the protestors, some of whom received 'minor cuts'. Caoimhe Kerins said the point of the protest was to "shut the building for the day to highlight the 51billion euro worth of gas that is being given away to this company".

Brendan Philbin, one of the Rosspoint Five, withdrew from the Corrib gas public hearing saying that it was farcical that the project was being discussed with no specific pipeline route being known. "It could be 5km long or it could be 50km long," he said.

LOYALIST ATTACKS CONTINUE

A Belfast Chronology

Monday, April 2, 2007. Emma Groves, mother of 11 and blinded by a plastic bullet fired by a British soldier (Para) in 1971, died in Thursday, April 5, 2007.

Drew Aitken (28) suffered extensive injuries and bruising, including a broken cheekbone when he was attacked on the Antrim Road, Belfast as he walked home in the early hours of the morning.

Tuesday, April 10, 2007. Two men, John Mains and Colin Harbinson both of Highfield Drive, Belfast, charged with attempted murder deny firing shots at members of the RUC/PSNI as loyalists rioters attacked the RUC after an Orange

march was rerouted in September 2005.

Wednesday, April 12, 2007. Four youths were arrested after disturbances in west Belfast.

Monday, April 16, 2007. Aaron Huill, an administrator in the RUC/PSNI, appeared in court charged with offences believed to be connected to the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). He is the second man to be charged with such offences within a week.

Wednesday, April 18, 2007. An internal inquiry into alleged breach of computer system security was launched by the RUC/PSNI after a civilian administrative appeared in court in Belfast on three charges.



• Josephine Hayden giving the oration in Belfast on Easter Sunday. Also pictured are Leo Martin, Geraldine Taylor and Billy McKee.

Friday, April 20, 2007. A north Belfast man, Fra Hayes, is 'lucky to be alive' after being attacked and stabbed by two masked men as he walked a few yards to his home from a taxi.

Monday, April 23, 2007. A number of issues linked to the compensation case launched by the families of those killed in Omagh were raised in Belfast's High Court. Among the issues raised was whether or not 39 Gardai due to be called as witnesses will travel to Belfast to give evidence. Another issue was the reliance which will be placed on a conviction secured against Michael McKeivitt who is serving 20 years in Portlaoise prison, Co Laois, for 'directing terrorism.'

Easter Statement from Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail

"IT is a great honour that I have the opportunity to address you today on this the 91st anniversary of the historic Easter rebellion. We the Republican POWs send revolutionary and Easter greetings to all true and faithful Republicans at home and abroad and to those of you who have gathered here today at the graves and monuments of Ireland's patriot dead.

"You have remained true and faithful to the All-Ireland Republic envisaged by Tone and proclaimed by Pearse on the steps of the GPO in Dublin 1916. Since that very day a vast amount of ground has been covered, a lot of sacrifices have been made and a lot of men, women and children have gone to their graves, all in the name of Irish Republicanism. It grieves me to say that in recent years these very graves have

been desecrated by the actions of our former comrades in the Provisionals, none more sorely than their recent actions of recognising, accepting and backing the British paramilitary force, the RUC.

"They think that by a name change and a uniform change that they can then tell us that this is not the same force, the same force that sent so many of our people to the prisons and to the graveyards, that same force

which has and always will work hand in hand with the loyalist death squads. They have told us that by signing up to this anti-Republican rag-bag that they can make the so-called police more accountable to all, well we say yet again the Provos are wrong, a leopard never changes its spots. "We will recognise no police force other than that established by the 32 -County all-Ireland Republic. The recruitment drive is in full swing for the new Broy Harriers to help bolster Stormont, home of the British occupiers and the power base of the British/loyalist domination of the Six north-eastern counties of our country. Republicans were right in 1986 and their

concerns at that time are now statements of unfolding facts.

"Those of us imprisoned at home and abroad have been so for our ideological beliefs. Our belief in the Proclamation of 1916 and all that it entails is steadfast and will remain so. Here in Maghaberry jail we are denied the right to political status and whereas in 1972 and 1976 it was the British who refused it, we now have the British and their allies in the Provisionals denying to us something for which 10 brave Irishmen laid down their lives for. The Stormont agreement seeks to criminalise us, this they will NEVER succeed in doing. From Thomas Ashe in 1917 to Bobby Sands in 1981 they have tried and failed. We

are political POWs and that we will remain. We want most of all for the British to set a date for disengagement from our country, we will never accept the continuation of the occupation of our country and we remain committed to our objectives, whilst the Brits remain in Ireland.

"We send solidarity greetings to the leadership of Óglaigh na hÉireann and we wish to state that we have full faith in our leadership and comrades in arms to continue the struggle for Irish freedom. To our comrades in Portlaoise we also send solidarity greetings and thanks for your acts of solidarity during our present phase of prison protest. "We pay tribute to all of you

who have sent us letters and cards of support, they are a source of strength and great encouragement to us. We say a special thanks to the RPAG and CABHAIR for all their great support and aid.

"Finally last but by no means least we salute and congratulate all candidates who took a stand in the recent elections on an abstentionist/political status platform. We pay tribute to all who campaigned for the candidates and to those who voted for them.

"The Republican voice must be heard now and in the future. Victory to CIRA, victory to the POWs! An Phoblacht Abú!

Twentieth anniversary of Loughgall Martyrs

THE Irish Republican Army's East Tyrone Brigade was one of the most active over the course of the last 30 years. They are believed to have drawn their membership from right across the eastern side of County Tyrone as well as north County Monaghan and south Derry.

The east of the county has a long history of militant Republicanism from Tom Clarke, Joseph McGarrity, Liam Kelly, Gerry McGeough, Tommy McKearney, Bernadette Devlin and Martin Hurson. One of the most widely publicised failures in the Brigade's campaign was at Loughgall where a group of eight men were ambushed and killed by the British SAS, during an attack on the RUC station on May 8, 1987.

The East Tyrone Brigade carried out two successful attacks on RUC bases in East Tyrone. Both attacks were begun by driving a JCB digger with a 200 lb (91 kg) bomb in its bucket through the reinforced fences the

RUC had in place around their bases, and then exploding the bomb and raking the police station with gunfire. On these two occasions the stations were destroyed, and most or all of the occupants killed. It was therefore with some confidence that the active service unit tried the same tactics on the Loughgall RUC station on 8 May 1987.

The SAS, however, had set a trap to destroy the unit. They had placed an SAS soldier inside the station, and deployed a squad of 24 soldiers split into six groups around the station building. Just after 7pm, Declan Arthurs drove the JCB carrying the bomb through the perimeter fence of the



• A mural commemorating the Loughgall Martyrs.

RUC station. The van carrying the rest of the Volunteers pulled up and they jumped out and opened fire on the station. They just managed to detonate their 200lb bomb before the SAS opened fire, heavily damaging the police station.

The SAS riddled the JCB and the van with bullets. All eight Volunteers were killed. The soldiers fired more than 600 rounds; the Volunteers fired 70 rounds. The British recovered eight weapons from the scene — three Heckler & Koch rifles, one

FN rifle, two FNC rifles, a Ruger revolver and a Spas-12 shotgun.

In addition, the car of passer-by Anthony Hughes was fired on by the SAS. Forty shots were aimed at the car, killing Anthony and wounding his brother.

The dead Volunteers became known as the "Loughgall Martyrs" among Republicans, who alleged that their deaths were part of a deliberate shoot-to-kill policy by British Crown Forces.

Thousands of people attended the funerals of the dead Volunteers, the biggest Republican funerals in the Six Occupied Counties since those of the IRA hunger strikers of 1981. The East Tyrone Brigade members killed at Loughgall in 1987 consisted of: Commander Patrick Kelly (aged 30); Jim Lynagh (aged 31); Pádraig McKearney (aged 32); Declan Arthurs (aged 21);

Seamus Donnelly (aged 19); Eugene Kelly (aged 25); Gerry O'Callaghan (aged 29); Tony Gormley (aged 25).

The McKearney Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin remembers all the members of the East Tyrone Brigade who gave their lives for Irish Freedom and we continue to uphold and fight for the ideals these brave Volunteers died for. While these men were giving their lives for Irish freedom, Gerry Adams was undermining them by negotiating a surrender.

The slaughter in Tyrone especially from 1986 onward can only be seen as the British leaving the path clear for Adams to implement his control and strategy with out any problems from the "hard men of Tyrone". We remember the men who fell at Loughgall with pride and can only say their struggle continues.

Neodracht, mar dhea!

AR na mallaibh, gan náire dá laghad, ba ea a scaoiladh an fhírinne, nó cuid di, faoi neodracht na hÉireann. Siar go dtí 1939 nó 1940 rinne Fianna Fáil conradh rúnda leis an mBreatain maidir le haerspás na hÉireann a oscailt dóibh faoi choim i gCúige Uladh, d'éile ach *dorchla*.

Sa mbliain 1939, nuair a thosaigh Cogadh Mór a Dó, tháinig deireadh le mo chuid oideachais foirmeálta, agus bhí saor, dar liom, mar d'éirigh go maith liom san Ardeist. Fógairthe a bhí neodracht na hÉireann, cinneadh ab ansa liom. Ach nár chóir dom tacaíocht éigin a thabhairt don stát?

Rinne mé mar a rinne go leor eile agus isteach liom ar dtús sa bhFórsa Cosanta Áitiúil agus, ar ball beag, in Arm na tSaorstáit. Ba shin mo dhualgas, dar liom, agus ár dtír i mbaol.

Faoin am úd, agus a bhfuil de chóras oideachais na hÉireann, b'amhlaidh a bhíodh ad ar fheall na bpolaiteoirí maidir le saoirse, neamhspleáchas, an chrochdhéighilt fhéin. Go mall, dáiríre, a thágas ar an bhfírinne, nach raibh i neodracht na hÉireann ach

bréag.

DHÁ CHAMPA

Maidir le cúrsaí na neodrachta, osclaíodh campa ar Churach Chill Dara do dhá chineál cime: Poblachtóirí (bhí Máirtín Ó Cadhain ina measc), agus go teoiriciúil do shaighdiúirí eachtrannacha (Gearmánaigh, Briotanaigh, agus eile, saoránaigh na náisiún a bhí leis an gCogadh, iad faoi éide nuair a ghabh fórsaí na hÉireann iad).

Cosaint na neodrachta a bhí i gceist, dar leo siúd, ach ní mar a shíltear bítear, nó b'éigean do na Gearmánaigh agus Iodáiligh fanacht sa gcampa úd go deireadh an Chogaidh, ach faoi choim scaoiladh saor na Briotanaigh, chun go leanfaidís a gcéirde mhíleata.

Ach bhí samplaí eile fós de sháru neodracht na hÉireann, mar a bhí fórsa beag de

shaighdiúirí na Breataine, oíche amháin, iad ar meisce, más fíor, a tháinig trasna na Teorann, iad ag lorg trioblóide.

Amach ina gcoinne a chuaigh cuid dár n-óglach, ach in ionad cimit a dhéanamh díobh as neodracht na hÉireann a sháru céard é a rinneadar ach iad a bhailiú le chéile agus á dtiomáint thar n-ais go dtí a gcampa féin!

AERFORT NA mBRÉAG

Go bhfios domsa níor fhoilsigh nuachtán ar bith sna 26 Chontae focal ar bith faoin eachtra sin. Ar ndóigh, ní hionann sin is a rá nár scríobhadh an scéilín, ach bhí an chinsireacht i bhfeidhm.

Le tamall fada, ó am go chéile, cloiseann muid, nó feicfidh muid sna nuachtáin, caint mhór faoi neodracht na hÉireann. Ach is beag a fhoilsítear faoin gcaoi a bhfuil an 'neodracht' úd á sáru in Aerfort na Sionainne ag fórsaí míleata Mheiriceá agus a gcuid *rendition* (idir chéasadh agus mharú), mar chuid dá gcogadh in éadan Ioslaim, Dia linn.

Ní thuigimse cén fáth go bhfuil pobal na hÉireann chomh ciúin ciontach is atá le fada faoi na cúrsaí seo. Is feasach dom, faraíor, gur ag tréigean na hEaglaise atá go leor ar na saolta seo. Ionann sin minic go leor agus na coinsias

á chaitheamh acu an doras amach.

Ar an mbeagán a labhraíonn amach faoi bhrúidiúlacht Mheiriceá san Iaráic tá Amnesty Idirnáisiúnta. Chun an ceart a thabhairt don *Irish Times* thugadar spás flaithiúil don léirmheas a scríobh Michael Jansen (Aibreán 21, 2007).

100 MARBH

Ón am a chuir na Mheiriceánaigh san Iaráic pionós an bháis thar n-ais sa gcóras dlí sa tír bhocht chéanna, a deir Amnesty, mharaigh na cúirteanna ansin 100 duine, bheirt bhan ina measc.

Trí mheán an chéasta, dar leis an eagrais céanna, d'éirigh leis na húdaráis, le cabhair na Meiriceánach, "faoinstín" a bhaint ón oiread sin créatúirí a tháinig salach ar chúiseanna éagsúla ar riail na Meiriceánach.

Cén fáth, in ainm dhlí Dé, nach n-ardaítear a leithéidí san Aontas Eorpach agus in Eagrais na Náisiún Aontaithe? Chomh ciontach céanna leis na Meiriceánaigh agus a gcuid giollaí san Iaráic tá an rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath, go háirithe agus cúrsaí Aerfort na Sionainne gan athrú dá laghad, maidir le *rendition*.

Má thagann cuairteoir áirithe chuig do dhoras ar na

saolta seo, agus na polaiteoirí ag ullmhú don toghchán, cén fáth nach ndéanfaí polasáí Mheiriceá a dhúiseacht ina láthair, agus an cheist seo a chur: Cén fáth nach gcloiseann muid clamsán ar bith Tigh Laighean faoin gcéasadh san Iaráic? Nó an amhlaidh atá gach coinsias múchta?

GAN BHÁISTEACH

Don tríú bliain i ndiaidh a chéile earrach tirm a chaith muid sa gcúinne seo a bhfuil mo chónaí, sna cnoic taobh thiar de Dhún Laoghaire. Toisc fataí a bheith curtha agam sa ngairdín ó dheas b'éigean dom uisce a chaitheamh go rialta san oíche nó bheidís chomh beag bídeach sin is a bhíodar anuraidh ar theacht an fhómhair.

Is dócha gur mórán mar a chéile a bhí cúrsaí i go leor áiteanna eile ar fud na tíre, más fíor do na gearáin atá cloiste agam. Faoi láthair, buíochas le Dia, tá cuma mhaith ar na fataí, ach is cosúil go gcaithfidh mé leantúint le mo chuid dualgaí oíche.

Éinne a bhí in amhras faoin athrú aeráide go nuige seo is amaid é nó go bhfeiceann sé an fhírinne lena shuíle cinn: Ag tarlú atá sé, cinnte dearfá, ach ní dhéanann rialtas an stáit seo faic na fríde maidir le claoi lenár gcuid dualgaí faoi Chonradh Ciótó.

CUMA LEO

Tá tuairim mhaith agam faoi dhearcadh na bpolaiteoirí atá chomh ciúin ciontach céanna: "Ar ndóigh, ní le mo linne a thíocfas an scríos. Fágaimis faoin gcéad ghlúin eile an réiteach, más ann dó." Cá bhfuil grá don gcomharsa?

Arís don *Irish Times* a chaithfeas muid a bheith buíoch as scéal an athruithe a choinneáil os ár gcomhair, agus a bhfuil sin go háirithe de Frank McDonald (Aibreán 24, 2007), eagarthóir an nuachtáin maidir leis an timpeallacht, bail ó Dhia air.

Eisean a chuir in iúl dúinn go bhfuil eagrais nua inár measc mar atá *Stop Climate Change* (Stop le hAthrú Aeráide). Is é atá sa ndream seo comhcheangal bunaithe ar leithéidí ActionAid, Afri, An Taisce, Christian Aid, Comhlámh, Cultivate, Eco-Unesco, Feasta, Gorta, Friends of the Earth, the Methodist Council of Social Responsibility, National Youth Council, Oxfam, Voice agus eile. Agus bail ó Dhia ar an obair.

Ach a n-éireoidh leo na polaiteoirí a bhogadh, sa chaoi go gcuirfidís fáilte roimh na dlíthe nua atá de dhíth lenár dtír a chosaint ón scríos atá ag bagairt orainn?

— Deasún Breatnach

New repressive bill passed

THE Criminal Justice Bill (2007) was passed by the 28-County administration in Leinster House, Dublin on April 24, 2007 by 62 votes to 11. It now goes to the Seanad for discussion.

The bill includes revised bail provisions on electronic tagging, changes in the right to silence and sentencing. It also included new measures – based on US legislation - to deal with organised crime, drug trafficking and weapons offences.

The bill contains 50 'anti-gangland' measures, including giving powers to the Gardaí to detain 'gang members' for up to seven days without charge for various 'gun crimes'.

Development Fund Special Appeal

Republican Sinn Féin

We are embarking on a development and modernisation programme for our organisation. This will include recruitment, publicity, upgrading our technology, and office accommodation. This will cost a considerable amount of money. However, we know we can call on you for your support and we will contact all who support our aims and objectives with details of our plans and how they can help to attain our goals, in due course.

All subscriptions, large or small, can be sent to the treasurer of the Republican Sinn Féin Development Fund at Head Office or made payable to:

**Republican
Sinn Féin
Development
Fund, AIB,
Capel Street,
Dublin 1.**

**Account
number:
15411-097.**

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged.



IMEACHTAÍ

BOBBY SANDS MEMORIAL RALLY
SATURDAY MAY 5
GPO, DUBLIN

Assemble: The Island, opposite the GPO, 1pm

**WHITE-LINE PICKET IN SUPPORT OF
POLITICAL STATUS FOR POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN MAGHABERRY JAIL**
CASTLE STREET, BELFAST
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1pm

to commemorate the death of Bobby Sands
on hunger strike for political status in 1981
and to highlight the plight of the Republican
prisoners in Maghaberry jail.

**COMMANDANT NEIL 'PLUNKETT'
O'BOYLE COMMEMORATION,**
KNOCKNADRUCE CO WICKLOW,
SUNDAY, MAY 6
Assemble Hollywood at 2.30pm

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET
NEW ROSS, CO WEXFORD
SATURDAY, MAY 12

Assemble at the Quay, near the bridge, 1-2pm.

Organised by Pádraig Ó Pearaill cumann, Loch Garman and Sands/ Lynch cumann, Mooncoin, Kilkenny

SEÁN Mac DIARMADA COMMEMORATION
KILTYCLOGHER, CO LEITRIM

MAY 20, 3pm.
Speaker Joe O'Neill, Donegal.

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET
KILKENNY CITY
SATURDAY, MAY 26

Assemble at the Arch, 1-2pm.
Organised by Pádraig Ó Pearaill cumann, Loch Garman and Sands/Lynch cumann, Mooncoin, Kilkenny

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET
GPO, DUBLIN
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 12.45-1.45pm

Republican Sinn Féin in the North-West area are looking for new members. Anyone wishing to join should contact Joe on 071-9841641 or Brendan on 086-2466914.

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

ROGER CASEMENT/FRANCIS HUGHES CUMANN

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

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

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

<http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm>

SMITH-O'BRIEN/CON COLBERT CUMANN
SINN Féin Fein Poblachtach has set up a new Cumann in West Limerick to organise and direct local Republicans in the cause of Irish freedom.

Join now by contacting any member of the cumann.

Cabhraigh linn chun Éire Nua, Éire Saor, is Éire Gaeleach a baint amach.

‘The flame is still there’

MATT LEEN was born in Ballymacelligott, Co Kerry in 1947. His great-grandfather was evicted from his land back in the distant past, his grandfather's house was burned in 1921 the night the infamous Black-and-Tan Major McKinnon was shot in Tralee. His father was a comrade of Dan Keating's back in the 1930s and 1940s.

Matt was a Republican prisoner in Portlaoise jail from 1979 until 1983. The following is an interview with Matt detailing his experiences as a political prisoner carried out by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, for SAOIRSE.

Des: When did you first join the Republican Movement?

Matt: I was a post office employee, I didn't actually join the Republican Movement but I always had Republican sympathies. Bloody Sunday in Derry (January 30, 1972) had a fierce effect on me, I saw innocent civilians mown down by the British army. So a few years afterwards I said I would help out in any way I could. I was a post official and that was the only way I could help out. I was sentenced to seven years penal servitude in Portlaoise prison for that, so that is when I formally joined the Republican Movement.

Des: When were you arrested?

Matt: I was arrested in 1978. I was on remand for about two weeks and then on bail for about six months. I was finally sentenced to seven years by the non-jury special criminal court in March of 1979.

Des: Up to that point you had never been imprisoned before?

Matt: No, when I was brought to Portlaoise I counted the gates going in. Now this is interesting, I had to go through 15 gates and doors to finally reach my cell. The first morning I woke up in Portlaoise, the first sight I had was this screw at the door, he was carrying this big box of tablets, a chemist wouldn't have it, he said to me "your facing seven years here, would you like some of these, you can have anything you like valium?" I just jumped out of the bed and said take your box of tricks, it's me that's doing the time and I'll do it no problem. So off he went with his box of tricks. Unfortunately what I have to say is that some of the prisoners did take these tablets, and the effect afterwards was unreal, many of them became dependent on them. What I could figure out myself was that the big pharmaceutical companies were paying the state so they could experiment on prisoners. I have no evidence of this, but there were so much there, many of which I never heard of before, they also wrote down what a prisoner's reaction was to the drugs, were they sleeping etc.

So that was my first morning there. My next step was to walk out into the yard. Off course there were fellas there doing their own thing, like jogging and everything. I played handball so when I saw the handball alley I said this is where I would spend a lot of my time, it would help me to stay in shape. I then began to get to know the other Republican prisoners; I already knew Bobby Mac, Dinny O'Sullivan and Brendan Doherty. So you kind of get into your routine. I got to know more of the men there.

Des: Had the Republican prisoners their own command structure?

Matt: Yes, there was a structure there. There was an OC on every landing, as well as an adjutant and quartermaster. There were three landings. There were about 100 Republican prisoners there at the time. It was all well organised, we had no contact with the screws, if you wanted anything you went through your OC.

Des: Did you find it difficult to

adjust to life in Portlaoise?

Matt: No not really, I knew a lot of the men in there and got to know a lot of fellows from different parts of Ireland, there was a great sense of comradeship.

Des: Were visits and visiting conditions a problem?

Matt: Well yes, I was married and had two kids, especially with the wire in the visiting boxes; it had a traumatic effect on my wife and children, because there could be no physical contact. They were penalised because of me, which was wrong. The people going on the visit had to go through a lot including strip-searching.

Des: Your family had a long distance to travel so how regularly did you see your wife and children?

Matt: Yes, they had to travel a long way so I only could see every two weeks. I have to say An Cumann Cabhrach was very good in providing transport to bring them to the jail. One day Bishop Kevin McNamara, who was Bishop of Kerry and later Archbishop of Dublin, visited the jail to see the Kerry prisoners. So I took the visit under protest. We were brought into the dentist's office; there was no wire or mesh there. When I finally went into the Bishop I thanked him for coming, I told him I was taking the visit under protest, he asked me what I meant by that. I told him that when my wife and kids visited I had to meet them under different circumstances, with glass, mesh and wire between us. The Bishop took out his pen and started to write down what I had told him. He said this shouldn't be happening in this day and age, "I will see about this" he said. I felt he was a humane man and might do something about the visiting conditions. He did eventually help in having the wire and mesh removed. So when I hear people claiming afterwards that they had the wire and mesh removed it makes me angry. I heard Mrs Ferris claim on Kerry Radio that her husband Martin Ferris had the glass and wire removed from Portlaoise I felt it was just another example of rewriting history. All of this occurred just before the second Long Kesh hunger strike in 1981.

Des: Was there any protest by the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise over the visiting conditions?

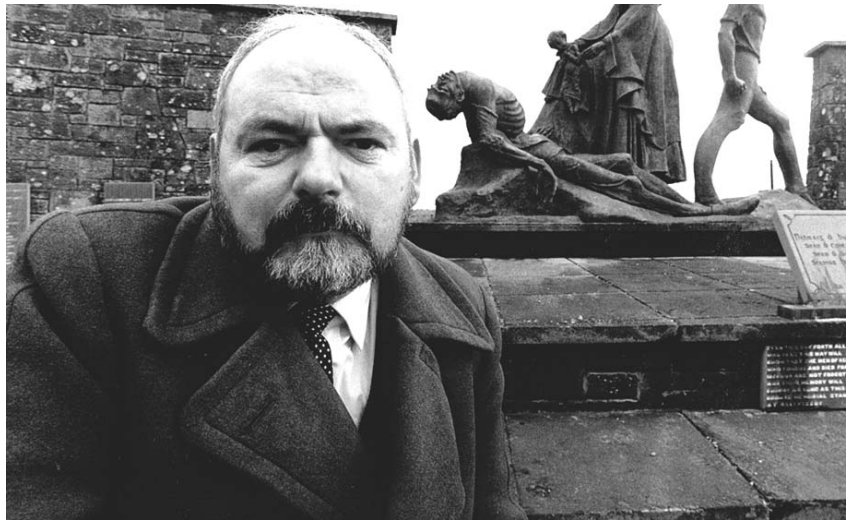
Matt: Yes there was, in 1983 but I had been released by that time.

Des: In 1981 the H Block hunger strikes would have been the outstanding issue for the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise?

Matt: All of the prisoners, we were fully prepared, in solidarity with the prisoners in Long Kesh to go on hunger strike, every one of us. We were geared up for it may be two months before it. At meetings on the landings we said this is it, we're going on hunger strike. We got word from the outside, which said this was not on; we were told it would be taking from the hunger strike at Long Kesh.

Des: Obviously this was a period when the national struggle was at its height, were you aware of what was happening on the outside?

Matt: Yes we were, we had regular



• Matt Leen pictured at the monument to the Ballyseedy Martyrs outside Tralee, Co Kerry.

visits from our families as well as welfare visits from An Cumann Cabhrach. Another thing about the prison was that papers from every county in Ireland was being sent in. At the time of Warrenpoint and Mountbatten, (When 18 British soldiers were killed at Narrow Water, Warrenpoint Co Down, on the same day August 27 1979 Lord Mountbatten, an uncle of the Queen of England was blown up on his yacht at Mullaghmore Co Sligo) that was the greatest morale boost. If you ever heard a hundred doors being kicked at the same time, the din you could hear it outside. I finished up having an argument with a man from Armagh who said this was the greatest number of British soldiers killed in an engagement, but I said no, you had to go back to Headford in Co Kerry, there was 26 killed in Headford Junction, between Tans and RIC. Another huge lift was the mass escape from Long Kesh in 1983.

Des: How aware were you of the steady escalation of the prison protest in Long Kesh?

Matt: Yes we knew all about it, the days leading up to Bobby Sands death were terrible, you could really feel the tension. It was unreal to be in there at the time. On the day of his funeral we marched in the yard and Gerry Mooney from Belfast a friend and comrade of his gave the oration. And that was done for every one of the hunger strikers. The men from the different places, Derry, Armagh, Tyrone, they all took their turn in paying tribute to their comrades who had died. It was a very traumatic time to be in prison, a sad time. When I see today, it saddens me to see the use that is being made of the sacrifice of these men. It was only a few months ago here in my own county of Kerry where there was posters put up in Ballyseedy, of which I am a trustee, a cynical use of the sacrifice of these men for votes for Mr Ferris here in Kerry. It must be terrible for the families of these men to see the way things have gone.

Des: It must have been very frustrating for Republican prisoners to have to witness all of this?

Matt: Yes it was. All you had was a radio in your cell and you would hear news like Bobby Sands had only hours to live, and everyone was glued on to the radios in the place. Inside the jail you had football matches, handball, fellas jogging, the whole lot was stopped while all of this was going on.

Des: The hunger strikes obviously had an effect on the morale of the Republican prisoners?

Matt: Oh yes it had. The screws could sense this too and they backed off. The tension was high, and it would take very little to set fellows off. When the hunger strikes ended things were on a low for a period. But gradually they started coming around again.

Des: What was an average day in Portlaoise jail?

Matt: Your cell door was opened at 8.am, you had breakfast then and you'd wash and wash the cell and few things like that. The only work we did was to clean our own landings; we didn't work for the screws. At 10am we went out to the yard. Every fellow had his own agenda, I could play handball, walk around the yard. There were workshops there, leather workshops and timber workshops and you could go there. There were plenty of things to do; if the day was wet you could watch a film. Dinner was at 12.30pm; you would be locked up until 2pm. On every landing there was a hot press where the dinners were brought up prepared, you collected your dinner and brought it back to your cell. You had about ten minutes before the lockup so a lot of fellows ate their dinner with the fella from the next cell and things like that. At the weekend you could buy food, like steak, the prison would cook that for you. In the afternoon, you could go back to the yard, on a fine day you would have lads sunning themselves; there would also be football matches and handball. It all got us through. You would go back in at 4pm and you would be locked up for an hour. You would be out again from 5 until 8pm. You could then go up to the workshops, particularly in the winter when it was dark early. There was lovely stuff turned out there like wallets and belts, tables, mirrors and that type of thing. You could lace wallets in your cell but the rest of the work was done in the workshops.

Des: Was your mail censored?

Matt: Oh yes it was, you would have letters sent in to you stopped. I found that out the day I got out of the jail, there was letters there from fellas from different parts of the country. You weren't allowed any hardback books, and any book sent in had its covers removed. When you were released you had to leave them behind you, as you weren't allowed to bring them out. There was a library there and they would get you books if you

requested them.

Des: Did the Republican prisoners organise education/classes etc?

Matt: Yes they did, there was Irish classes, Jim Monaghan organised a class one day, it was actually an explosives class, one fellow went to the class thinking it was about construction as it was advertised as an 'Engineering class', when he came out he said "It was blowing things up not building they were teachin ye in there". There were very good lectures. Whenever Gearóid Mac Carthaigh gave a lecture there was a full house, because Gearóid lived through all of this. Gearóid was locked up in the 1940s, '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s. His lectures were unreal. Gearóid was giving a lecture one night on the 1940s, there was this infamous Special Branch man Dinny O'Brien, he was notorious for chasing down Republicans, he and his brother Paddy had fought in 1916 and in the Four Courts in 1922. Gearóid said that on the day O'Brien was shot by the IRA he was wearing a bullet proof vest but he didn't have a bullet proof hat. Liam McElhinney from Co Tyrone also gave very good lectures. Liam was also the OC and I count him as a most honourable man. He knew his history about every part of Ireland. There was another fellow I gave him a copy of the book *Tragedies of Kerry* and I said read this tonight. So he came out in the morning out of the cell and said, "who dreamt this up? This never happened" well I said if you don't know your history, this is what happened in Kerry, Kerry is in Ireland too.

But what I found with some of the northern people they knew some of the history of their own areas but they weren't too well up on the history of the rest of the country. It's important to have a full knowledge of Irish history. If you're in jail, first of all you have to believe in what your there for, and your time won't be half as hard. If you don't believe in what your there for you will suffer. There were a lot of them in there and they didn't know what it was all about. I remember this one evening these missionaries used to come in. There was a few of them just a joke but one fellow came into me in the cell, he said to me "You don't seem that pushed or worried, do you ever think about your wife and family outside?" Oh I do I said, I think about them every day, I love my wife and family. He was trying to upset me a bit. So I said to him did you ever hear of a vocation? You're supposed to

have a vocation. I believe firmly in what I'm here for do you believe in what your doing? When I said this to him he pulled back.

Des: What were the other notable events, which occurred while you were in Portlaoise?

Matt: There was a spy caught working within the jail. He was wearing a neck collar, and they put some tape on the inside of it. He was recruited by the state while he was a prisoner. This happened in about 1982/83. The other event was what we called the "beating day".

It was the October bank holiday, why I remember the weekend is the Dublin city marathon was on, it was October 1983. On the Sunday at dinnertime they searched two or three cells, which they hadn't done before while I was there. The next thing we all kicked the doors, it was around one o'clock to half past one in the day. They called for reinforcements; half of them were out in the town drinking. You could smell the drink on them. They threw everything out of the cells; they locked us in anyway and came back in about two hours. You'd think you had nothing in the cell until they started pulling everything out, you'd have pictures up on the walls and all the rest. At around half six in the evening you'd be sitting on the pipe, there was an old water pipe heating going through, the door opened and five of them came in, they said "give us your clothes". Before they came to my cell I could see across the landing. Through the spy hole I could see what was going on. They were working their way slowly down along; they were going into one cell at a time. Peter Michael Ryan from Co Tyrone was in the cell next to me, I could hear what he went through, now Peter was tough, five of them would not handle Peter. So the belting and beating started, they kicked and beat him, they didn't have anything in their hands. You could hear the thumping, they overcame him with force of numbers, he got an awful doin altogether. It went on for maybe eight to ten minutes, which is a long time, before they put him down.

So the next thing they opened my cell and they landed in. I was wearing a thermal vest, two of them grabbed a hand each and one of them grabbed my legs and put me down on the ground. One fella was kind of over weight, a heavy fella; the sweat was rolling off him, now he was after struggling with Peter. Another fella tried to pull my clothes off, three of them held you down while the fourth tried to strip you. So your man took a breather so I hit him a kick, bang under the chin and drove him out the door, so they came back in, turned me over, but they couldn't get my clothes off me. Now I was fit from the gym and the handball, but there was no way they could get the clothes off me. So they were there for about five or six minutes at the time and they were hopping me off the ground lifting me up and down. Turned me over but there was no way they couldn't

do it. Eventually they were back out on the landing and I was there flat on the floor with just my vest and underpants on me. They had givin up. But there were more fellas. Now I saw Dessie Ellis, I could see him in the cellacross, they went into his cell, the first fella out like he didn't know what hit him. Ellis had a black belt. He kicked your man and he shot out and went down. So the second fella went in and the same thing happened. Do you know how they eventually did it? Six of them went in backwards, they locked their arms and backed in the door and pinned him against the wall. Now there were several taken to hospital. Over many hours they went to every cell.

Des: Did news of what happened get to the outside?

Matt: It did, Fr Piaras Ó Duill he was on about it straight away. I can recall when I came out in '84 a few Branchmen came to my house and they said, "Do you want to do anything about this?" There were complaints made, I think Fr Piaras Ó Duill wrote a report on it.

After that the worst thing I saw was what happened to Dessie O'Hare. He was in the basement, he had barricaded himself into the cell, and we were in the yard and could look in through the cell window. He put up a fierce battle it went on for about a half an hour, but eventually they got into the cell, we broke every glass that was in the window, we could see right in, they battered him with everything, batons the whole lot.

Des: Tell us the story about the gelinegite being found in the workshop.

Matt: There was a timber workshop. You had a certain amount of fellas doing timber and some leather. We had two workshops. This fella was in the workshop, now the sawdust could be there for months and it would be piled high. But there was this piece of timber and your man was making a small part for a harp, and had marked out a template on the timber the piece he wanted. There were some timbers we had to send out, they had carpenters outside. But your man that drew this he didn't know a thing about it, he sent it out, the screw cut around it next thing out comes the gelinegite. Well that evening they came in with sledges, hatchets everything; they broke everything that was inside the workshop. There were tables, harps, everything smashed in smithereens. So the workshop was out of bounds, it never opened again, that was the end of the timber workshop. They tore the cells asunder they searched all around the place. Afterwards in the other workshop if you were cutting something and the blade broke on the hacksaw you had to wait till a screw brought a replacement, you weren't allowed out of the workshop. The piece of the blade that broke had to be found as well. That happened around 1983. That fact that security was so tight and still something like gelinegite was smuggled in was what killed them.

Remembering Bobby Sands

IT was a misty morning, a morning that you get in early Summer, when the sun peers through the clouds at around 11.30 or 12 o'clock. There was eerie silence on the landings in Portlaoise prison as the prisoners went to and fro.

It was May 4, 1981, and Bobby Sands had been on hunger strike in Long Kesh for 65 days. The gates to the exercise yard spun open, the long stream of prisoners trooped out and started the daily ritual of circling the mesh fence enclosure. But there was something different this morning, no one went jogging, no one played football, no one played handball, no one had the heart to do anything.

The radio gave the grave news on all news bulletins since 7 o'clock. "Bobby Sands grows progressively weaker and is not expected to last the day." Everywhere in the yard, huddles of men could be seen, heads crouched in a circle,

waiting for a newflash, or any crumb of information on his condition.

The day dragged on till eventually we were locked up for the night at 8.30pm. I could not sleep, then the news came on the radio, "Bobby Sands died at 1.17am on the morning of May 5, he had been on hunger strike for 66 days."

I wept alone in my cell. The tears I cried were not self-pity, but tears of admiration for the strength of character and endurance of this unconquerable Irishman. I paced up and down the cell, sat on the bed, picked up a book and read for a while. Something strange then happened, it was as if a ghost passed through the walls of the cell. It must have been the ghost of Seán McCaughey (the Tyrone man who died in this jail at 1.10am on May 11, 1946 after 23 days of hunger and thirst strike).

In the House of Commons, the speaker announced the death of

"Robert Sands Esquire, MP and member for Fermanagh and South Tyrone". There were no condolences for the family.

In India, the parliament held a minute's silence. President Mitterand of France sent his condolences. Portugal, Spain, Poland, the USA, Italy and many more countries expressed their deep regret at the passing of Bobby Sands.

One hundred thousand people attended his funeral at Milltown Cemetery in Belfast, while here in the jail we paid our own small tribute by lining up in the prison yard to be addressed by Gerard Rooney, a close friend and comrade who gave a stirring oration.

Bobby Sands was 27 years old when he died in the hellhole that is called "Long Kesh" on May 5, 1981.

— Matt Leen
Political Prisoner
Portlaoise Prison
May 1981

But anyway a week later they released Walter, so he sat at the gate and they had a taxi hired to bring him to Waterford. So Walter, who was taxi man himself in Waterford, asked the driver what he was charging to go to Waterford. When he said £40 Walter said he was going back into the prison. He knocked on the gate and the screw said "you're out of the jail now Walter go away from us".

Des: Off course you remember the day of your release.

Matt: On the day before I was released, now this is interesting, word came in that Brendan Doherty had died, the Doc, was a great friend and comrade of mine, and this put a damper on my release. Even though I was getting out after so many years it really got to me, because I was looking forward to meeting him and seeing him.

The morning I was released, you'd walk along the corridor and say goodbye, maybe put your finger in through a spy hole of a cell of someone who was good friends with you and say goodbye. On the morning I was released I counted the gates coming out, there were two extra from when I went in.

My sister Lucy had brought me up a pair of brogue shoes, now they never came into me in the jail they were left in the outside office. Now I was left inside in this kind of waiting place, my brother and my wife and two kids were outside waiting for me. So I was wondering what was going on. So I said to the screw "what's going on here?"

He told me I'd be out shortly. After an hour and a half this screw came in

carrying the shoes, there was this strong smell of glue. They'd cut the soles off my shoes. Now the shoes had never come near me and they still cut the soles off and stuck them back on with glue. When I asked them why they did this they just said "security". That was the day I walked out of Portlaoise jail.

Des: Were you imprisoned again?

Matt: I was yes, in 1986 for two days in Cork jail and again in 1987 for 31 days for selling Easter Lilies. In Cork in '86 I was brought up to the governor, he said, "you won't conform" I wouldn't give them my clothes. So I told him I wanted to go to Portlaoise, as a political prisoner. "Oh he said your fine has been paid", so I asked who had paid it and he said "I can't divulge that", that was after two days. The next time I was there for 31 days, I wrote about that later in a letter to SAOIRSE comparing my month in prison for selling Easter Lilies and Liam Lawler's month in prison. When I was in Cork jail I met this councillor from Connemara, he asked how I was able to wear my own clothes. I told him it was because I was a Republican. He said "Ah sure we're all the one", fair the play to the man he was in for some local issue. So I said to him there's a small difference between you and me, he asked what would that be. I told him the length of a rope. I asked him if he ever heard of a man called Pierpoint, well I said your leader De Valera brought him here to hang Charlie Kerins from Tralee.

Des: I suppose looking back at the sacrifices of the 1981 hunger strikers and your own experiences it must sadden you to see Republican prisoners in Maghaberry again having to struggle for the same right to political status?

Matt: It does yes, when I spoke to the BBC recently I mentioned the issue of political status and the journalist told me I couldn't talk about this, as it wasn't on the agenda. I told him he would hear a lot more about Maghaberry because it was all going to blow up again over the issue of political status. I

ts very sad really, how can the Provisionals sign up to the RUC/PSNI who brutalised the nationalist people over the years? How can they go to Bobby Sands grave? How can they go into Milltown cemetery? We're the same here in Kerry, we had great men like Charlie Kerins and Maurice O'Neill, Charlie Daly all of those fellas.

Des: What would your message be to young Republicans?

Matt: Well what I can see is that if you lose your history, if you forget where you came from, you lose your identity. You've lost everything. Society now is very money oriented. I hope Irish history is taught in the schools because we are a proud nation we come from a great people. I would urge young people to learn about where they came from because the flame is still there, the flame of Republicanism, and will be there in the future.

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ULSTER

Antrim

THE annual Easter Commemoration took place in Belfast in bright sunshine as Republicans gathered at the gates of Milltown cemetery and marched behind the Tricolour to the Republican plot accompanied by the Glens of Antrim Pipe Band – and indeed a British Army helicopter overhead.

At the graveside, the proceedings were chaired by Leo Martin, Belfast. The Proclamation was read by Margaret Dobbin; wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Republican POWs, Cumann na mBan and Republican Sinn Féin and a decade of the rosary was recited by Billy McKee. A statement from the POWs, Maghaberry was read by Bridge Connor (the mother of a POW) and the statement from the Portlaoise POWs was read by Kay Davidson.

The oration was given by Josephine Hayden, Ard Comhairle member from Dublin in which she paid tribute to the "...Republicans of courage and honour who did not betray the Republic," and the common bond we share with them is the right of the Irish people to sovereign independence. She continued: "But unfortunately, down the years, we have also had men and women who have betrayed the Republic and thus brought about the continuance of the struggle into this generation. Our former comrades of the Provisionals are continuing in the tradition of betrayal – not even the Stickies accepted the RUC. They now sit in Stormont administering British rule in the Occupied Six Counties, and have instructed the nationalist people to collaborate with the RUC/PSNI at the behest of the British Government and Ian Paisley. I don't believe any Republican died for the 'right' to sit in Stormont administering British rule or for offices in Westminster."

She called on all Republicans to join RSF in the upcoming protest against the visit to Dublin of the Queen of England.

She concluded by sending greetings to the POWs and using the acorn and the oak tree as symbol of our position: "From a tiny acorn grows an oak tree, let us nurture that acorn and we will grow into the oak tree".

Leo Martin, in bringing proceedings to a close, said that 'the Provisionals had betrayed and sold the principles of the Republican Movement and turned their backs on the prisoners'. He concluded: "Republicans have had to struggle before us as they suffered betrayals again and again but there was always a band of people who passed on to the younger generation the principles of Republicanism. We will slowly build again until we are in a position of strength; we are prepared to do that". He sent greeting to the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise and thanked them for their courage.

The band closed proceedings with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

Armagh

ARMAGH CITY

THE Easter Commemoration in Armagh City once again saw a committed crowd of both old and new supporters, who had come out to remember those who had given their lives for freedom in 1916.

The large crowd gathered in Sandyhill Cemetery and at 3pm the parade was led by a nine-strong colour

party, which commenced to the Republican plot whilst being observed by the RUC/PSNI.

The chairperson of the proceedings, Aidan Quinn from Tyrone, reminded those present of the continual harassment afforded to true Republicans and their families by the RUC/PSNI. Following his remarks the 1916 Proclamation was read by Niall Ward from Armagh. Another local man, John Kelly, then read the Roll of Honour for the North and South districts of Armagh.

Three wreaths were laid at the Republican plot, first on behalf of the Liam Lynch/ Armagh Martyrs Republican Sinn Féin Cumann Armagh/ Keady by James Carroll, followed by a wreath on behalf of the Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry Jail by Joe Tierney. Lastly a wreath on behalf of the Continuity Irish Republican Army. Armagh/Keady Units.

A decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish by 10-year-old Conor Hughes from Keady. A masked and uniformed CIRA man entered the cemetery under the noses of the RUC/PSNI to applause from the welcoming crowd



• A Volunteer reading a statement on behalf of the CIRA Armagh Brigade.

and read a rousing and inspirational speech on behalf of the CIRA Armagh Brigade before departing the cemetery to cheers and shouts of solidarity. A local man read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Oliver White from Newry read the Republican Prisoners Easter statement. A minute's silence was then observed in respect of Ireland's fallen dead.

The main oration was then delivered by Seán McGoldrick from Dublin. The commemoration was brought to a close by the Cathaoirleach. The colour party descended to the bottom of the graveyard before falling out. All the above speeches and texts are available at:

www.freewebs.com/rsfarmaghkeady

LURGAN

A large crowd marched to the Republican Plot in St Colman's cemetery for the Easter Commemoration. Peter Corry chaired the proceedings. Tony McPhillips read the 1916 Proclamation. Wreaths were laid on the graves of Donal Knox and Mary Mulholland and also on the Republican Plot by members of the Thomas Harte Cumann, Lurgan. The Statement from the prisoners in



• Joe O'Neill and a member of the colour party at the Drumboe Martyrs Monument, Stranorlar, Co Donegal on Easter Sunday.



• The RUC/PSNI videotaped the Easter Commemoration in Sandyhill Cemetery, Armagh city.

Maghaberry was read by Oliver White and the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Barry Toman. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Peter Corry. The oration was delivered by Seán McGoldrick, Dublin and Sligo.

SOUTH ARMAGH

Wreath-laying ceremonies took place throughout South Armagh.

Derry

THE annual 1916 Easter Commemoration took place at the Cúchulainn Memorial in the City Cemetery on Easter Sunday. Michael McGonigle of Dungiven chaired the proceedings and read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by former H Block hunger striker Brendan McLoughlin. Frank O'Neill laid a wreath on behalf of the leadership of the Republican Movement. Damian McGonigle laid a wreath on the grave of Seán Keenan on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

The 1916 Proclamation and the statement from the Maghaberry POWs were read by Richard Walsh, Derry. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaelige by Seánín Brady (granddaughter of Michael McGonigle).

A statement was read on behalf of former hunger striker Brendan McLaughlin:

"My name is Brendan McLaughlin. I am an ex-Hunger Striker and a life-long Republican.

"I am proud and honoured to be present here today in Derry at this Easter Commemoration and gathering of true Republicans. I am here to honour and salute my fallen comrades

emancipation of the Irish people. They claim to have moved forward but they have disbanded their Republican principles in the process.

"Fellow comrades, I am not a dissident. My views have not changed, and neither have the reasons for which I felt compelled to join the Movement in 1969. Ireland is still partitioned; Ireland is unfree - and Ireland unfree shall never be at peace!"

The oration was delivered by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin, in the course of which he said:

"The real political agenda which underpins the Stormont Agreement and St Andrews proposals was spelled out in the *Irish Times* editorial of February 26 which stated 'British occupation is a thing of the distant past'. To accept the logic of this is to view the 26-Counties as Ireland, however if you see Ireland as a 32-County nation such a claim is grossly untrue.

"Either you accept the existence of the Irish nation or you don't, on this there can be no middle ground. If you accept and believe as Irish Republicans do that the Irish nation exists, that the 'right of the Irish people to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies to be sovereign and indefeasible', as proclaimed in 1916, then British courts, British law, British police or British rule will never be either normal or acceptable."

Proceedings closed with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by Whitey O'Neill on the fiddle.

A wreath was laid on Easter Sunday morning at the grave of Vol Seán Larkin, at The Loup, Co Derry by Michael McGonigle, Dungiven. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin at the grave of hunger striker Kevin Lynch in Dungiven by his sister Bridie; at the grave of Vol James Kelly, Dungiven, by his brother Thomas; and at the graves of Vols O'Carolan and Kilmartin by Michael Begley. Michael Kelly laid a wreath on the grave of Tommy Toner on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin. Wreaths were laid in honour of hunger strikers Francis Hughes and Thomas McElwee in Bellaghy.

Donegal

ONE of the best crowds in recent years gathered at the monument to the Drumboe Martyrs in Stranorlar on Easter Sunday.

Chairman of the event was Joe O'Neill, Bundoran, who called on James Sweeney to lay a wreath on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin, Mick Cullen on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement and Mary O'Neill on behalf of the Drumboe Martyrs Committee. Richard Walsh, Derry read the 1916 Proclamation and Esther McElhinney read the Roll of Honour.

Joe then called on a member of the Colour Party to read the Statement from the Prisoners in Maghaberry jail. Pat Barry read the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement which was greeted with loud applause.

The main speaker was Dan Hoban, Mayo who gave a stirring oration. In the course of his speech he gave an outline on the lives of the four patriots remembered and stated that: "It was a disgrace that half an hour after this commemoration Martin McGuinness, MLA will be speaking on the very

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spot where four men are remembered who were shot by Free State Forces for not recognising partition. This is the same minister of the Crown who is paid by the Brits to administer British rule in a partitioned Ireland”.

In conclusion Joe thanked all for attending and noted the many young people at the event. The ceremony closed with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

BUNDORAN

Richard Walsh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach Ard Comhairle member from Derry was the main speaker at the Bundoran commemoration on Easter Monday. The crowd formed up behind the colour party and led by the Glens of Antrim Pipe Band, marched from the East End to the Republican Garden.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin by Anne O'Neill and by Phyllis Cullen on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Chairman of the commemoration Pat Barry, Bundoran, asked James Sweeney, Gweedore and Scotland, to read the 1916 Proclamation. Esther McElhinney read the Roll of Honour and a statement from the prisoners was read by a member of the colour party.

Pat then called on Joe O'Neill to read the Statement from the one true leadership of the Republican Movement which was greeted with loud applause.

Richard Walsh then gave a very well researched speech in which he stated that: “the only attitude towards the colonial policy (RUC) was one of eternal hostility.”

The assembled crowd stood for Amhrán na bhFiann after which Pat Barry thanked everyone for coming and asked that Republican continue to resist all the forces of British occupation in our country until such time as there is a 32 County Irish Republic.

Down

NEWRY

A large turn-out of Republicans, led by a fine colour party marched to the Republican Plot in St Mary's Cemetery, Newry.

The proceedings were chaired by Ruairi White who called on Melvin Marriot to read the proclamation and Damien McAteer to read the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Oliver White read the Statement from the O/C Republican POWs Maghaberry Jail.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Joe Conway Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Newry and the Republican Movement, Newry. A minutes silence was observed for all those who gave their lives in the cause of Irish freedom.

Ruairi then introduced the main speaker Michael Lavelle, Fermanagh who gave a stirring oration to loud applause.

Before closing the proceedings Ruairi called on those present to redouble their efforts to fulfil the dream of unifying our country. That is our dream and was the dream of the men lying here in this grave and the men and women lying in graves around the country.

Fermanagh

A CROWD of around 150 Republicans took part in the Easter commemoration at the graves of the Roslea Martyrs on Easter Monday.



• Led by a colour party, Republicans in Newry, Co Down make their way to the Republican Plot in St Mary's Cemetery.



• Former hunger striker Brendan McLaughlin with his son Michael at the Cúchulainn Monument in Derry on Easter Sunday.



• The colour party at Edendork Cemetery, Dungannon, Co Tyrone.

The crowd assembled in Finn Park, Roslea and as the piper was ready to lead the Commemoration an eight-man colour party appeared dressed in full battledress to the applause of the gathered people.

The piper then led the colour party to the graves of the Roslea Martyrs, Smith, Connolly and McMahon. Local Republican Tony McPhillips chaired proceedings. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement and Republican Sinn Féin. This was followed by statements from the prisoners in Maghaberry Jail and the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Cathleen Knowles McGuirk gave the main oration, in the course of which she said that it was said that the leaders who planned and carried out the 1916 Rising had no mandate but

the fact that the political system that obtained in Ireland was subject to an English parliament that refused to accept Ireland's right to sovereignty was their mandate.

“The Rising failed but the consequences were such that they brought about the beginning of the collapse and dismemberment of the British Empire. Frightened by what the Rising signified Lloyd George imposed two political institutions on Ireland under the illegal Government of Ireland Act, which came into force in May 1921.

“Those who opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty or Treaty of Surrender later that year followed in the footsteps of the executed leaders of the Rising and were the true inheritors of their mantle. Had it not been for a deliberately designed and executed counter-revolution we would in all

probability have had a 32-County Republic.

“Gerry Adams, who has reinvented himself as Mahatma Ghandi, has been quoted in the print media as saying that ‘a united Ireland can and will be achieved through peaceful, democratic and political means ...’ Tell that, Mr Adams, to the ten young Republican soldiers who fasted to death in the hell-hole of her ‘Majesty’s’ H-Blocks because of the intransigence and vengefulness of Margaret Thatcher and her government who faced down the demand for political prisoner status. It is sad indeed to acknowledge that the ‘spider has finally got the fly into his parlour’.

“The recent Stormont Assembly election was an important one in many respects, not least for the amount of anti-Agreement and anti-RUC/PSNI candidates who decided to stand. Republican Sinn Féin fielded six candidates and did so for a number of reasons. (1) To show that we have an alternative in our ÉIRE NUA proposals; (2) to expose once and for all the duplicity of the provisional leadership who have misled the rank and file members of their organisation and (3) to stop the final nail being hammered into the coffin of the Republic.”

In conclusion Tony McPhillips thanked everyone who turned up and in particular the well turned out colour party.

There was a short walk back to the local GAA complex where the crowd enjoyed refreshments laid on by the local cumann.

Monaghan

Wreaths were laid at the Fearghal Ó hAnluain Monument in Monaghan town and at his grave in Laturcan Cemetery. Wreaths were also laid at the grave of Séamus McElwaine in Urbslanny Cemetery, Scotstown.

Tyrone

THE Easter commemoration took place in Edendork, Co Tyrone, on Easter Sunday, organised by the local Mc Kearney/McCaughey Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin. Led by a full colour party those assembled marched to the Republican Plot. Aodhán Ó Cúinn chaired the proceedings.

MUNSTER

Clare

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin in Clare held the County commemoration on Easter Monday at Drumcliffe Cemetery, Ennis.

It was well attended and led by a piper and colour party. Proceedings were chaired by Paddy Kenneally, Ennis. A wreath was laid by Jacinta McNamara in memory of the Volunteers who gave their lives for the cause of Irish freedom. The Easter Statement was read by Bridie McNamara and Des Long, Limerick, gave the oration.

A wreath-laying ceremony was also held on Easter Saturday in Killaloe, Co Clare. Led by a colour party Republicans marched to the Bridge where a wreath was laid by Kevin Scollone. Proceedings were chaired by Paddy Kenneally and Des Long gave the oration.

Cork

THE Annual 1916 Easter Commemoration in Cork took place on Easter Sunday April 8th. Year on year the numbers attending grow and this year was no exception. Assembly

took place at the Wilton Roundabout at 2.30pm.

The parade then proceeded to the Republican Plot, Saint Finbarr's Cemetery lead by a Colour party from Sinn Féin Poblachtach Cork, followed a number of pipers of the ex-Cork Volunteer Pipe Band, Cumann na mBan and a large contingent of the public embracing all age groups.

Donal Varian of the Mac Curtáin/Mac Suibhne Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Cork chaired the proceedings. The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to “this the most sacred place for Republicans in Cork.”

A wreath laying ceremony then took place with wreaths being placed by Liam Cotter, Kerry on behalf of the Republican Movement, Kitty O'Callaghan O'Brien on behalf of Cumann na mBan and Mrs Glavin on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Diarmuid Murphy, the bugler then sounded the last Post and Reveille. Antóine Ó hAnnrachain recited a decade of the Rosary.

The Proclamation was read by life long Republican Liam Heaphy. Alfie McAvoey read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. The Easter Statement from the O/C Republican prisoners Maghaberry jail was then read.

The Cathaoirleach then introduced Liam Cotter from Kerry, who gave the oration. Liam said, “Is honóir mór ormsa chun óráid a thabhairt I gCorcaigh ar an lá stairiúil seo.” Liam spoke from the heart; no script was needed or required. Those in attendance, standing or seated on the grass, surrounding the Republican plot were visibly moved and inspired by each word.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked all who had attended and concluded with the following words, “It is of the utmost importance, following the attempted sell out and challenge by former comrades to Republicanism that our dead generations and our Volunteers be remembered and honoured with dignity and pride as their goal of a United Ireland has yet to be achieved, Free of British Rule.”

He also strongly condemned his fellow Cork men for extending an invitation in the name of Sinn Féin to Conor Murphy, Armagh now a British paid agent and minister of an occupied puppet state.

The National Anthem was then played. Over 200 eight-page booklets giving a brief history of the 1916 Rising were distributed from the MacCurtáin/MacSuibhne Cumann to all who had attended.

Kerry

LISTOWEL

A crowd of about 30 Republicans gathered at the old graveyard gate on Easter Monday in Listowel and marched behind a Tricolour to the Republican Plot. The proceedings were chaired by John Mangan who called on Stephen Brosnan to read the Proclamation.

Wreaths were laid by Dominic Kissane, Jimmy McCannon and Bill O'Sullivan. The oration was given by Pádraig Garvey, Cahersiveen who said that the Provisionals were the same now as the mainstream political parties, ie Fianna Fáil, Labour etc. He also pointed out that the Easter Rising of 1916 was undertaken by a small group of dedicated people and that Republican Sinn Féin claim a direct line from them to the present day.

TRALEE

1916 Easter Commemorations 2007

Easter Sunday in Tralee was celebrated with a march from the Pikeman in Denny Street to the Republican Plot at Rath Cemetery for the annual 1916 Commemoration where George Rice chaired proceedings.

Eamon Breen read the Easter Statement; Stephen Brosnan the 1916 Proclamation; Finola Kissane said a decade of the Rosary; wreaths were laid by Jimmy Scanlon, Eugene Deane and Patron of Republican Sinn Féin, Dan Keating.

A truly inspirational oration was delivered by Geraldine McNamara of Tipperary in the course of which she said: "The struggle for Irish national self-determination did not begin in some back street in Belfast in 1969 as the provo revisionists would have us accept. It is a struggle that goes back into the mists of our history and will continue until we have a united Ireland.

"Maybe the Provos should have studied evolution instead of devolution. I would recommend Darwin's *Origins of the Species*. Because if anybody can prove we are descended from the apes the Provos can. They haven't evolved at all, they are going backwards, back into the Empire. Our neutrality has been sold out, the prisoners in Maghaberry are continuing to fight for their right to regain political status signed away by the Provos. Today, Republican Sinn Féin stand as the only political party who will not recognise or legitimise partition" she concluded.

Proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann by Siobhán Walsh.

It is very encouraging to see an increase in the attendance at our commemoration as Republican Sinn Féin alone remain true to the ideals and principles of the patriots of 1916.

On Good Friday, members of the Rice/Sheehy/Dowling Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Tralee gathered at the Roger Casement Monument, Banna Strand.

A wreath was laid by Jimmy McCannon in memory of Roger Casement. The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was then read by Stephen Brosnan. Jimmy McCannon gave a short address and outlined the work Casement had done to rid his country of English rule and how he paid the ultimate sacrifice, death by execution.

He then, on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin, extended best wishes and Easter greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. Before the ceremony was ended the national flag was lowered to half mast and a minute's silence observed.

CAHERCIVEEN

A large crowd assembled in Cahersiveen at the Republican Memorial on Easter Sunday for the annual Easter commemoration.

Pádraig Garvey chaired the proceedings and the 1916 Proclamation and the local Roll of Honour were read out. Kathleen Clifford laid the wreath and Una Sheehan recited a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge. Mary Sheehan then played a slow air on the accordion and the flag was dipped.

Pádraig Garvey read the Easter Statement and John Sheehy, Listowel, gave the oration during which he said: "There are POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise whose rights were sold out by the collaborators of Adams,



• A section of the crowd at Killaloe, Co Clare on Easter Saturday.



• Donal Varian, Cathaoirleach, introducing Liam Cotter who gave the oration at the Cork Easter Commemoration.



• Stephen Brosnan, Tralee read the 1916 Proclamation at the Commemoration to Roger Casement on Good Friday in Banna Strand. McGuinness and Martin Ferris."

He called on Republicans to work tirelessly to restore political status. To conclude Áine Sheehan sang Amhrán na bhFiann.

Limerick

THERE was a large attendance at the Limerick Easter Sunday Commemoration. It was headed by a six-person colour party and a lone piper. The local Slua of Na Fianna Éireann also attended.

Joe Lynch chaired the ceremony which was held at the Republican Plot in Mount Saint Laurence Cemetery.

A decade of the Rosary was recited by Annette Long after which a number of wreaths were laid. The first by Joe Kennedy on behalf of the Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Cásca, the second wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Bernard Brew.

women.

"Today there is a war of propaganda and punishment being waged against the national aspiration of a new and united Ireland. The media is being used to normalise British rule here and to denounce the ideals of the men of 1916."

The parade then moved to the grave of Seán Glynn. Seán who was the first IRA Volunteer to die under Fianna Fáil in 1936 always forms part of the Republican Commemoration. Here a wreath was laid by Seán Cavanagh and a short address was made.

The Commemoration ended with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

On Easter Monday a short ceremony arranged by Billy Maguire was held at the 1916 Memorial at Sarsfield's Bridge. Here the 1916 Proclamation was read by Séamus Ó Suilleabháin, secretary of Comhairle na Mumhan and a wreath was laid. The ceremony was also attended by Des Long, Chairperson of Comhairle na Mumhan.

Tipperary

NENAGH

The proceedings were chaired by Donal Malone. Martin Ryan read the Proclamation; Michael Kirwan read the Roll of Honour and Mary Nolan laid a wreath. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Gearóid Ó Broin and a stirring oration was delivered by JP McDonnell.

ROSCREA

Wreaths were laid on the grave of Joe Mangan and at the plaque at Old Barrack Yard wall to Russell, Burke, O'Shea and McNamara by members of Republican Sinn Féin, Co Tipperary.

LEINSTER

Carlow

TULLOW

At Easter 2007 members of Republican Sinn Féin laid a wreath on the 1798 Monument in Tullow, Co Carlow. Leaflets were handed out in support of the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry Jail, Co Antrim.

Dublin

A LARGE crowd gathered at the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin and marched behind a piper and a colour party of members of Republican Sinn Féin, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann to the historic GPO on Easter Monday for the Annual Easter Commemoration.

The proceedings were chaired by the Leinster Organiser Andy Connolly who welcomed everyone. The Proclamation was read by Joe Keegan; the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement by Tony Kennedy; the statements from the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise by Róisín Hayden and Seán McGoldrick respectively. Margaret Mullen laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement. The flags were dipped as the piper played a lament. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Republican Sinn Féin, gave the main oration in which he said that:

"The 1916 Rising against British rule in Ireland meant (a) the re-assertion of the right of the Irish people to national independence; (b) the re-birth of Christian idealism – the idea and (c) the emergence in the 20th century of the anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movement which was to spread world-wide.

"Those who in recent times attempted to sign away the rights of the Irish people by restoring Stormont

may have worn the time-honoured Easter Lily but in reality they were putting back an obstacle on the road to the freedom of All-Ireland.

"They have accepted Stormont under the Union Jack, British police, British courts and British law in denial and flat contradiction of that Proclamation and the deeds of the Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and Fianna Éireann 91 years ago.

The poets' Insurrection of Pearse, McDonagh and Plunkett, as it was called, asserted the right of Irish people to the ownership of Ireland, which right could only be extinguished by the destruction of the Irish people.

"It promised civil and religious liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities, and ignored the differences carefully fostered by an alien government. Resistance to British rule would continue, it said, until "the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrage of all her men and women.

"The task for Republicans today remained to organise and lead the section of the Irish people opposed to English rule here. The way forward is through a nine-county Ulster Parliament as part of a new four-province federation.

"Optimum devolution of power and decision-making will provide for all sections, whether of the majority or of local minorities. Thus can the bright ideals of the 1916 Rising be advanced and the stand taken by Pearse, Connolly and their followers vindicated," he concluded.

Andy brought the proceedings to a close by calling on everyone to 'join the Republican Movement. That the country was still not united, the British establishment was still in residence so there was a lot of work still to be done. The piper then played Amhrán na bhFiann.

DEANSGRANGE

This year's Easter commemoration at Deansgrange cemetery took place on Easter Sunday. A larger than usual crowd assembled at the gates and proceeded to march behind the Tricolour to the Republican plot.

The ceremony was chaired by Andy Connolly; the Proclamation was read by Joe Keegan; the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement by Tony Kennedy and the statement from the prisoners in Maghaberry by Kevin Devlin. Dan Donohue then laid a wreath at the graves and a minute's silence was observed.

Peig Galligan of the National Graves Association gave an extremely interesting account of the 1916 Rising. Leas-Uachtarán Sinn Féin Poblachtach Cathleen Knowles McGurk gave the main oration. She warned that, contrary to what many in the media and establishment would have us believe, the goals of the Easter rising had not been achieved and that until such time as they were, Republican resistance would continue.

The day ceremony concluded with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

As usual the Special Branch were out in force, harassing and confiscating items from young members of Na Fianna Éireann and Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

BALBRIGGAN

On Holy Saturday, April 7, members of the Ray McCreesh

1916 Easter Commemorations 2007

Cumann, North Dublin and fellow Republicans, gathered on Bridge Street, Balbriggan, over the river Bracken near the spot where two local men Séamus Lawless and Séan Gibbons were bayoneted to death by the Black-and-Tans from nearby Gormanstown Barracks on September 20, 1920. The two men were murdered during the sacking of Balbriggan which was a reprisal for the killing of RIC Det Inspector Peter Burke, a notorious and brutal RIC agent of the Crown Forces.

This was the inaugural commemoration of two young Irish men who were among many who paid the ultimate price during the regime of brutality of the Black-and-Tans.

Andy Connolly opened proceedings by welcoming everyone, including local residents who stopped to pay their respects. He related that many of the young men of this town took their inspiration from the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, the Fenians and the men of 1798. We too take our inspiration from these men and women and also our more recent heroes Seán Sabhat and Fearghal O'Hanlon, Bobby Sands and the hunger strikers of 1981 and the Loughall Martyrs.

Jimmy Maguire, Ray McCreesh Cumann, laid a wreath and following the reading of the Proclamation by Ciarán Flood there was a minute's silence and the dipping of the flag.

Andy concluded the proceedings by thanking everyone in attendance and look forward to seeing everyone next year at what will now become an annual event.

Kildare

THE Kildare 1916 commemoration was the most successful in many years when a large crowd gathered at the Republican Plot in Grey Abbey cemetery at 12 noon on Easter Sunday April 8 at the graves of Patrick Bagnol, Patrick Mangan, Joseph Johnston, Bryan Moore, Patrick Nolan, Stephen White and James O'Connor executed by Free State forces on December 19 1922.

The ceremony was chaired by Ard Chomhairle member Matt Conway, Kilcullen. Jim Meehan, Newbridge, laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement this was followed by a decade of the rosary recited by Kitty Hawkins, Ballymore Eustace. Carl Cullen, Celbridge, then read the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Ciarán McQuaid, Maynooth, Celia Conway, Kilcullen read a statement from the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise. The national flag was carried by Christy Stanley, Straffan.

Matt Conway then introduced the main speaker Niall Fagan, Co Meath in the course of his oration he said: "The bogus 'peace process' being promoted by the Provo movement is in effect a denunciation of the legitimacy of the struggle for freedom by all our volunteers of the last 90 years." He concluded by saying: "The 26-County government recognises the six-counties as part of the UK but typically are careful never to say so publicly. Republican Sinn Féin will never accept that now or ever. That is our position and our right to continue the struggle is absolute."

Wreaths were laid throughout Co Kildare, the Republican Plot, Naas, 1798 monument Old Kilcullen, the grave of Frank Driver, Ballymore Eustace, Newbridge Cemetery, Joe



• *Led by a piper and a colour party the Limerick Easter Commemoration makes its way to the Republican Plot in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery.*



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



• *Ciarán Flood reading the 1916 Proclamation at the Easter Commemoration in Balbriggan, Co Dublin on Easter Saturday.*

Bergin memorial, Milltown and the 1798 monument, Monasterevin.

Kilkenny

THE Bobby Sands/Liam Lynch Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny held a very successful Easter Commemoration on Saturday April 7 at the grave of Jo Foran, to remember the men and women who gave their lives at Easter 1916 and since in the cause of Irish freedom.

A piper led the colour party from Wexford/Mooncoin from the Technical School, followed by Na Fianna Éireann.

Des Dalton, vice-president Sinn Féin Poblachtach chaired the proceedings. Jimmy Murphy, Ard-Chomhairle member from Dublin/Carlow read the Easter

statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Ann Marie Hunt, Wexford read the Proclamation and a wreath was laid by Walter Foran, son of Jo Foran. The oration was delivered by the chairman of the local Cumann and grandson of Jo Foran, Ger Foran. The reception from the public was very positive and the large crowd reflected their belief in Republican Sinn Féin.

Following the Commemoration a function and raffle was held locally and was most enjoyable and successful.

Laois

A WREATH was laid on the graves of James Lacey and James Connor, killed in action in May 1921 in Barrowhouse cemetery. A wreath was also laid at the 1798 monument in Portarlatington.

PORTLAOISE JAIL

The POWs in Portlaoise jail fell in on E1 Yard at 2.30pm for the Easter commemoration. The proceedings were chaired by Malachy Maguire and the orders were given in Irish by Ger Mooney. PJ Kelly carried the National Flag; Dean Coleman read the 1916 Proclamation. Colm Maguire read the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Timmy King gave the oration as follows: "Today marks the 91st Anniversary of the 1916 Rising, an occasion which would inspire us to embrace militant Republicanism as the only real solution to overthrow British Rule in Ireland."

"We gather here today, true to the principles of republicanism and as determined as ever to see the

Róisín Hayden, Dublin, in the course of which she said:

"It must never be forgotten that the RUC/PSNI are still British police in the pay of the British government and they implement British rule at the point of a gun. Republicans will never accept British rule in any guise or in any part of this country, be it from Stormont or Westminster, and anyone administering it has no right to call themselves Republican."

"The collusion of the RUC and British army with loyalist death squads is by now well documented - collusion that went all the way to the top of the British government itself. The extent of that collusion is still emerging as we have seen in the various reports into the Dublin-Monaghan bombings and the O'Loan Report."

"These reports prove to the world what Republicans have said all along - the loyalist death squads were another tool of the British State against the nationalist people of the Six Occupied Counties. Perfidious Albion has not changed throughout its long history in Ireland, the only solution is for them to leave Ireland forever, lock, stock and barrel."

Next year's commemoration will be at Killoe Cemetery at the grave of Barney Casey, murdered by Free State forces in the Curragh Concentration Camp in the 1940s.

Louth

DUNDALK

A wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Republican Plot in St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk.

Meath

WREATH-laying ceremonies were carried out at various locations in Meath on Easter Sunday and Monday.

At Kilglass Cemetery, Longwood the 1916 Proclamation was read from the Republican Memorial, as was the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A decade of the Rosary was said at the grave of Lt Thomas Allen who was killed defending the Four Courts on Easter Thursday 1916.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Thomas Allen Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin and members of the Allen family attended.

On Easter Monday wreath-laying ceremonies were held at Knockmark, Drumree at the memorial to Fian Séamus Fox who was killed at St Stephen's Green assisting Countess Markievicz on Tuesday of Easter Week. Lt George McDermott who lost his life defending the Republic in July 1922 was honoured in a wreath-laying ceremony at Ardbracken Cemetery on Easter Sunday.

Westmeath

THE graves and monuments to the Republican dead in Co Westmeath were tended to by members of Republican Sinn Féin on Easter Monday morning.

Wreaths were laid at the Republican Plot in Mount Temple cemetery and at the Tormey-Hurson IRA Memorial outside Moate courthouse by Jimmy Doyle, Mount Temple along with Kathleen Bannon (née Tormey) on behalf of the Tormey family.

Seosaimh Ó Maoileoin, Tyrellspass also laid wreaths, including one in Fore Cemetery at the grave of Paddy Dermody, Castlepollard, shot dead by Special Branch in 1942.

At the Athlone Brigade IRA Memorial, Custom Place wreaths were laid by Tommy Morris.



• *Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Republican Sinn Féin, gave the oration at the GPO.*

withdrawal of foreign troops from Irish soil.

"It is important that republicans reject the RUC/PSNI as they are the tools of the partitionist state and act at the behest of the Brits and no doubt, when MI5 establish their base in the Occupied Six Counties we will see true Republicans come under more hardships."

"Let us not forget our comrades in Maghaberry who are fighting for political status which had been signed away in the Belfast Agreement by former comrades, remember their struggle is our struggle."

"All Republicans should help our leadership in whatever way they can to complete the struggle as everyone has a part to play no matter how big or small as we have many enemies and disgruntled elements trying to dishonour and discredit our honourable leadership and aspirations."

"Infinite resistance is urged once and for all against the British establishments as we preach continuity and nor compromise."

Victory to the All-Ireland Republic. Tíocfaidh Ár Lá."

Afterwards the men went to the recreation room where they had 'a good social' and Jock McMahon sang *Take it Down from the Mast*.

Longford

THE Easter commemoration was held on Easter Sunday at the grave of 1798 hero General George Blake. Proceedings were chaired by Seán Lynch, Drumlish.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Lorraine Casey and wreaths were laid by Stephen Fulham and James Mallon. The Statement from the Leadership was read by Seán Lynch and the Rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Mary Casey. The Longford Roll of Honour was read by Pádraig Dolan and the oration was delivered by

1916 Easter Commemorations 2007

Wexford

THE traditional Easter Sunday Commemoration in Wexford was led by a colour party which led over 100 Republicans along the quays, through the Bullring, along the Main Street and back to Crescent Quay.

Those in attendance went by bus and car to Crosstown cemetery where they marched from the gates to the Republican Plot. In his opening remarks the chairperson Seamus Mac Suain said "we are here every year to honour these men unlike others – the Provos – out here earlier today to mock them. Earlier today wreaths were laid by the Wexford and Enniscorthy Cumainn on the graves of Joe Whitty in Grahormack graveyard; Con McCarthy and Bernie Radford in Murrinstown Cemetery; Kyle Cross memorial, and in Enniscorthy to George Keegan, Seamus Rafter and at the Post Office for Paddy O'Brien and Muiris Spillane and here at Crosstown on the graves of Padraig Ó Pearaill, Matthew Furlong, John Lacey and Jack Dunne."

He then called on Stephen Roche to lay a wreath on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association; Jim Kavanagh, Enniscorthy on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach and Peter Dempsey on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Richie Bierny read the 1916 proclamation and Frank McManus read the Wexford Roll of Honour. Jimmy Kavanagh then read the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

A minute's silence was then held with the dipping of the Tricolour. Fearghal Moore, Monaghan gave the oration in the course of which he said:

"We faithful Republicans follow in a noble tradition. From the pike-men of 1798 through the patriots who lie here, to the Edentubber martyrs, to today Wexford has played here part in the struggle for the All Ireland Republic. But the Republic is not enthroned as it should be. The Ireland you see about you today is not the Ireland that Parle, Crean, Hogan and the others sought to create.

"True Republicans can never accept British Rule in any part of Ireland. Neither can we pretend that Stormont is anything but a tool of British Rule. While the Brits remain in Ireland there will be those who will attempt to expel them by force of arms just as the Pike-men did in 1798 and just as Pearse and Connolly did 91 years ago that fateful Easter week. As a consequence the brave patriots of today who are unafraid to put their lives on the line by taking up arms against the occupier and the enemies of the Republic sometimes find themselves captured and imprisoned. We send our best wishes and

thanks to those incarcerated in Portlaoise but we reserve a special thought for those held in Maghaberry, Co. Antrim who are currently on protest over conditions there.

"If Ireland is unfree, if the Brits can walk the streets of Belfast in their shirt sleeves we must ask ourselves what part we have had to play in this. We have obviously not done enough in the cause of our own freedom. No one is just going to hand it to us. Some of us seem content to bide our time. Connolly said in January 1916 "this bide your time doctrine has ruined Ireland's chance before and the same doctrine will ruin it now."

"I believe that there is no time like the present for the continuation of the struggle until there is a successful conclusion and Ireland is free once more."

Seamus thanked everyone for attending and a special word of thanks went to the stewards Frank McManus and Jappa Murphy and to Barry and Terence McManus for looking after the guests. The ceremony closed with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann after which everyone adjourned to the West gate tower for a function.

Wicklow

A wreath was laid on the graves of Thomas and Myles O'Reilly in Hollywood cemetery Co Wicklow.

CONNACHT Galway

WREATH-laying ceremonies were held throughout the county. At Oughterard, on Saturday, April 7 Tommy Healy laid a wreath at the grave of Volunteer Séamas Ó Máille. Sean Mac an Iomaire said a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge and Tomás Ó Curraoin gave a brief oration.

Wreaths were also laid on Easter Sunday at the grave of Fr Michael Griffin, in Loughrea. On Easter Sunday morning, Republicans assembled at the Cathedral in Galway city and marched to Liam Mellows statue in Eyre Square where a commemoration was held. Proceedings were chaired by Tomás Ó Curraoin. The Rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Mait Ó Brádaigh. The 1916 Proclamation and Roll of Honour were read and Tomás Ó Curraoin read the Easter Statement.

The County Commemoration was held at Donoghpatrick Cemetery, Headford, Co. Galway, on Easter Sunday. The commemoration was held after a march from Caherlistrane, led by a colour party and piper.

Ceremonies were chaired by Tomás Ó Curraoin, Bearna, who also read the Easter Statement from the Leadership. Seán Mac an Iomaire (Galway City) led the pairdín for the souls of the Republican soldiers buried in the cemetery. Mait Ó Brádaigh, Bearna, read



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin laid a wreath on the 1798 Monument in Tullow, Co Carlow.



• Ger Foran addressing the Easter Commemoration at Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny on Easter Saturday.



• Richard Walsh speaking at the Easter Commemoration in Kilkenny, Co Mayo. Also pictured is Dan Hoban, Cathaoirleach and the colour party.

the 1916 Proclamation and the Roll of Honour was read by Johnny Clarke. The following wreaths were laid at the graveside: on behalf of the family of Tony Darcy, hunger striker; on behalf of Mayo Republicans; on behalf of the Newell family; and on behalf of Galway Comhairle Ceantair of Republican Sinn Féin.

A very fitting oration was delivered by Dr Seán Maguire, Mayo.

Leitrim

THE Annual Republican Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration was held in Jamestown Cemetery on Easter Sunday at the grave of Vol Patrick Gill, IRA.

Drumshanbo.

The oration was delivered by Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, Ard-Rúnaí, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dublin. she said: "We have seen in the past year that the GAA has allowed itself to be used to accommodate other sports, resulting in the playing of the British national anthem in Croke Park, on the spot where the British army murdered 14 people in 1921.

"RSF led the protest at Croke Park and will be to the fore in the coming year to prepare for a visit from the Queen of England. We call on all Republicans to join us in that protest to let the world know we do not accept the 'policy of normalisation' being pushed through by the British government, the 26-County administration and other native traitors."

The bearer of the National Flag was Seán Fitzmaurice, Kilmore.

Mayo

THE annual Easter 1916 Commemoration by Republican Sinn Féin took place in Kilkenny on Easter Monday.

An enthusiastic parade formed up at the church gate at 12 noon and led by a piper from Balla Pipe band and a colour party marched to the East Mayo IRA Memorial.

There Dan Hoban, Newport presided and Seán Mac An Iomaire, Gaillimh recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish.

The Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic 1916 was read by Pat Cannon, Foxford and the east mayo Roll of Honour was read by Bart Gormley, Tuam.

A statement from the Republican prisoners on protest in Maghaberry prison, Co Antrim was read by Brendan Casey, Ballyshannon and Tomás Ó Curraoin, Bearna read the Easter statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Wreaths were laid as follows: Neil Chambers, Newport (West Mayo Republicans); Kay Curran, Bearna (Galway) and Michael Hannily, Ballinagare (Roscommon).

The oration was delivered by Richard Walsh, Derry, in the course of which he said:

"Republican Sinn Féin took a principled stand against their ongoing treachery in the recent Stormont elections. However, the six candidates were denied fair coverage by the establishment media who were acting in concert with the Provos, DUP and the English government.

"Indeed, even the RUC sought to disrupt the campaign, stopping and searching the Director of Elections, and Director of Finance for the election campaign, and others. Despite their attempts to frustrate the RSF campaign, several thousand people across the six constituencies expressed their opposition to the treachery of the

Provisionals at the polls. Regardless of whether the British Colonial Police are made up of Protestants, Catholics, Poles, Travellers or anyone else, the attitude of true Republicans to the RUC and all British Crown Forces is very clear—it is one of eternal hostility."

Roscommon

THE flags of 1916, the National Tricolour, the Starry Plough of the Irish Citizen Army and the Sunburst of Fianna Éireann, led the Easter Commemoration parades at venues in Co Roscommon on Easter Sunday.

The ceremonies, under the auspices of the Co Roscommon IRA Commemoration Committee took place at Elphin, Ballinlough and Kiltoom.

Following 11.30am Mass in Elphin, a parade marched to the County IRA Memorial at Shankill cross. There Pádraic Cryan, Kilmore presided and Patsy O'Connell, Elphin said a decade of the Rosary in Irish.

Wreaths were laid by Tommy Cull, Arigna on behalf of the organising committee and Paddy McNama, Arigna on behalf of the Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim and Portlaoise.

Dermot Mullooly, Strokestown, read the Proclamation of the All-Ireland republic 1916 and Frank O'Dowd, Cortober read the Co Roscommon Roll of Honour.

At Ballinlough at 12 noon, Michael Hannily, Ballinagare presided at the IRA memorial and Tom Freeman, Lisacul, laid a wreath.

Stephen French, Lisacul, read the 1916 proclamation and Berny Doherty, Lisacul read county the Roll of Honour. Joe Murphy, Ballinlough the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

In the afternoon a parade formed up at Moyvanion Castle gate and led by a colour party and the Raheen Pipe Band marched to Kiltoom Old Cemetery.

Tommy Morris, Kiltoom presided at ceremonies at the grave of Comdt Toby Mannion, IRA who was shot by Free State forces at the Hill of Berries in 1923.

Patsy O'Connell, Elphin secretary of the County Committee, recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish. Bugler Patsy Haugh, Castlereagh, sounded the Last Post and Reveille as flags were dipped in salute to the dead Volunteer.

Wreaths were laid by Liam Mannion, The Berries, on behalf of the relatives; by Frank Beattie, Rahara, on behalf of the organising committee; by Pádraic Cryan on behalf of the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons and by Joe Kelly, Killglass on behalf of Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

Charlie Farrell – Unrepentant Fenian

A chara

At Easter members of Republican Sinn Féin laid a wreath at the grave of Charlie Farrell in Enniscorthy.

Charlie Farrell was an unrepentant Fenian. At that time the top brass of the Catholic Church condemned the Fenians.

When my mother was a young girl going to school they were told that everyone had a chance of going to Heaven – that is everyone except Charlie Farrell.

The Fenians did not mind talk like that. They just stood by their principles.

BRENDAN TOBIN
Wexford

Where Is Irish Pride?

A chara

I am an Irish citizen born abroad but now living in Ireland and I must pose the question: Why are Royal Mail

bags being used to collect and transport Irish mail in the 26 Counties? These bags can be seen in many post offices in the 26 Counties but the worst insult is to see them lying around in the GPO!

The courageous men and women who fought in the GPO to give Ireland our freedom are, in my opinion, being totally disregarded and disrespected. Can we not afford our own? But the message boldly emblazoned on these propaganda mailbags is one of subjugation to the English. You see this message every time you go to the post office and I must say I don't like it at all.

I grew up in the United States, a country that also fought a war of independence against the English occupier. We, however, really did get our independence from England and our mailbags do not have 'Royal Mail, Great Britain', and a crown prominently displayed all over them!

Why do we still have this propaganda from the country that invaded and oppressed Ireland for so many hundreds of years after it 'supposedly' won its independence – part of the country anyway? England does not still own us. Or does it? The presence of these Royal Mail bags declare, loud and clear, that we could be



• Brendan Tobin laying a wreath at the grave of Liam Mellows in Castletown, Co Wexford on Easter Sunday.

considered a part of the British Empire. And where are the wonderfully appropriate

paintings of the Easter Rising in the GPO that were recently removed for the renovations done there? They belong back where they proudly hung for all to remember the men and women who fought so bravely right there at the GPO to win our independence from England. I was so proud and awed every time I saw those paintings. Everyone should see our history come alive through these vivid images. Where is Irish pride? Why is our heritage being hidden? So it will be more easily forgotten and the present day continuing

occupation of Ireland by England made more palatable? I don't swallow that goal plan and I believe neither do you even though you grew up with this type of cultural genocide all around you.

Regain your independence. Call and write to the mail service to demand Irish mailbags for Irish mail. And please demand the historic 1916 paintings of the Rising be placed back where they belong.

MARY BERHAN
Baltinglass, Wicklow

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

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 SÁOIRSE. Postal address: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

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1916 Easter Commemorations 2007

Stephen French read the Proclamation of Easter Monday 1916; Dermot Mullooly read the Roscommon Roll of Honour and Joe Murphy read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the republican Movement.

The oration was given by Emmet Walsh, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

Sligo

ON Easter Sunday, Republicans assembled at the gates of Sligo Cemetery and proceeded to the Republican Plot where a wreath-laying ceremony was held.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaelge. The Roll of Honour, the 1916 Proclamation and the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement were read. Con Darcy gave the oration.

Earlier in the day graveside ceremonies were held at all Republican graves in Sligo: at the graves of Kevin Coen, Seán McGoldrick and Thomas Sheerin in Sooye Cemetery; of Éamon Healy and Joseph McManus in Sligo Cemetery.

SCOTLAND Glasgow

ON Easter Sunday 50 people including representatives of Glasgow's Irish sporting and cultural bodies, assembled at Pearse Park GAA ground in a ceremony chaired by Stephen Coyle on behalf of the Francis Hughes Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Pádraig Óg MacGiolla

Uidhir read the Proclamation. The Republican Roll of Honour was read by Stephen Coyle who outlined the contribution made to the freedom struggle by John McIntosh, James Connolly, Charles Carrigan, Iain MacKenzie Kennedy and Peter Monahan who were all born in Scotland.

Seán Feeney of the Pádraig Pearse Cumann of Conradh na Gaeilge recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish. Patrick McAleer of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann read the poem *The Rebel*.

The Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Antóin Mac Piarais of the Francis Hughes Cumann. Joey Simmonds of Glasgow RPAG read a statement from the Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Ireland's patriot dead as the colour party dipped the flags. The well-known Glasgow folk singer Gerry MacGregor then read *The Rhythm of Time* by Bobby Sands. The proceedings concluded with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

ENGLAND Liverpool

THE annual Easter Commemoration was held at Ford cemetery in Liverpool on Easter Monday.

The proceedings were chaired by Michael Ó Lógán. The proclamation was read by Daithí McIntyre, Erris, Co Mayo and Liam Kelly laid



• David McIntyre and Greg Lynch at the Easter Commemoration in Ford Cemetery, Liverpool.



• The colour party at the Bundoran, Co Donegal Commemoration on Easter Monday.

flowers at the Fenian Monument. Greg Lynch, Killkishen, Co Clare gave the oration in which

he spoke against Bertie Ahern's wholesale sell-out of the 32-County Ireland, running a short head behind America and England's rich and powerful and said "but we have yet to taste the carrot that has been dangling since he got to power. If I were you Bertie I would get a food taster in – preferably from Downing Street".

Peter Fitzpatrick, Monaghan read the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

USA New York

ON a clear, cold and windy Easter Sunday morning, members and supporters of Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta (the National Irish Freedom Committee [NIFC]) gathered at the graveside of Joe Stynes in Woodlawn cemetery in the Bronx.

Joe, along with Michael Flannery and George Harrison founded the Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta in 1987. Joe Stynes was a true Gael, who gave a lifetime of service to Irish freedom and embodied the spirit of 1916, with all this in mind it is fitting that we honor the Republican ideals of Easter 1916 at his grave. Brian Mór Ó Baoighill served as master of ceremonies and spoke briefly about his former comrade Joe Stynes.

He then introduced Séamus Ó Dubhda who read the Easter Proclamation as Gaelge followed by Liam Ó Murchu who read it in English. Brian then introduced Pádraic Mac Liam who read the Statement

from the leadership of the Republican Movement in Ireland. The Easter Message from the National Irish Freedom Committee was then read by Bruce Mac Giolla Phádraig.

Tiokasin Ghosthorse, a member of the Lakota Nation and a long time friend of the National Irish Freedom Committee, spoke in his native tongue before reciting Pearse's oration at the graveside of O'Donovan Rossa. Liam Ó Murchú closed the ceremony by delivering a brief but concise history of the modern part of the struggle for Irish Independence.

After the ceremony, those present proceeded to the Easter Mass and Commemoration held at Kelly Ryan's Restaurant organised by Sean Óglaigh Na h-Éireann and the Friends of Irish Freedom, The Irish American Cultural Club of Long Island, the Tipperary N & B association and Saoirse NJ. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Pat Maloney who gave a stirring sermon.

After Mass, Master of Ceremonies Martin Lyons, a lifelong activist both in Ireland and in America for the cause of Irish independence, introduced the platform party. Martin welcomed Ken Tierney another icon of Irish Republicanism who is back from a long illness. He also asked for a moment's silence for those who died in the past year including Frank Durkan, Bart Dougherty and Eileen Flynn from Philadelphia.

WHAT THEY SAID

The IRA's 25-year campaign can meaningfully be seen not as a war to drive Britain out of Ireland, but as a reaction to British and unionist violence and a continuation of the civil rights campaign by inappropriate means.

— Sunday Business Post, April 1, 2007, article by Eamonn McCann gives views on "Gerry Adams and his associates' manoeuvring."

Viewed in this perspective, the shift in the line of [Provisional] Sinn Féin which culminated in the acceptance of the legitimacy of the Northern Ireland state — and all else followed from that — appears not as a challenge but as an adaptation to the consciousness of its base.

— Eamonn McCann.
Paisley's fundamental problem is holding his party together over the coming week will be the fact that he has spent his life preaching that, in Northern Ireland, religion and politics were coterminous.

The defence of "Ulster" and the defence of Protestantism were one and the same thing. To give an inch to Nationalists, then, was to go against God.

— Eamonn McCann.
The thought that water privatisation — the charges are designed to provide a revenue flow for the envisaged private company — might be affected or even reversed by an incoming [Stormont] executive clearly hadn't occurred to Mrs Bryan (chief executive of the NI Water Service, Katharine Bryan).

— Eamonn McCann.
If a new [Stormont] executive is to make even a plausible show of delivering on the economic agenda its leaders were pressurised into outlining on the electorate, it will have to take on Ms Bryan [of "Northern Ireland Water"] and scores of other New Labour appointees to key economic agencies and boards who remain in place.

— Eamonn McCann.
In endorsing the "principle" of consent (the establishment cover-up term for the Unionist Veto. Ed) contained in the [1998] Agreement, accepting that Northern Ireland will, as of right, remain part of the United Kingdom until such time as a majority within the Six Counties decide otherwise. [Provisional] Sinn Féin had ditched the idea that lay at the heart of its own tradition and that had provided the justification in political morality for the campaign, indeed the existence, of the IRA.

— Sunday Business Post, April 8, 2007 article by Eamonn McCann entitled "Historical handshakes do not reflect street-level reality".

This makes an abstraction, if not a nonsense, of the ringing words that will be read out

by [Provisional] Sinn Féin representatives at Easter Rising commemorations North and South this afternoon: "We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible".

— Eamonn McCann.
Nevertheless, the happy picture of old enemies glad-handing one another in spring sunshine doesn't reflect any already-established street-level reality.

The North remains sharply divided. More than half the population lives in areas that are at least 90 per cent Protestant or Catholic.

— Eamonn McCann.
"He [Trimble] is a liar, a cheat, a hypocrite, a knave, a thief, a loathsome reptile which needs to be scotched," said Paisley.

Talking to Stephen Nolan on BBC Northern Ireland last Wednesday night, Paisley explained that he eschewed such language and had accepted the [1998] Pact only in order to save the Union.

This is exactly the justification offered by Trimble.

— Eamonn McCann.
Paddy McEntee's report into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings of May 1974 paints a damning picture of a Garda force conducting an incompetent investigation that was concluded too soon, writes Colm Heatley.

— Sunday Business Post, April 8, 2007.

What McEntee's inquiry did unearth though, was shocking evidence of Garda malpractice and incompetence in the handling of the investigation.

Files relating to the investigation were put on a bonfire — almost 600 witnesses statements had vanished into thin air, basic records and files handling practices were non-existent and photographs of suspects also disappeared.

Forensic evidence, including fingerprints, also went missing.

— Sunday Business Post, April 8, 2007 article by Colm Heatley.

... at least not unless the British Government opened its files to scrutiny, something Downing Street and Whitehall have steadfastly refused to do. Some asked whether this Garda "incompetence" was really an accident or part of a wider design.

Colm Heatley on the "removal of this mass of critical evidence" and whether it ensured that the "truth behind the Dublin and Monaghan bombings would ever be uncovered".

But Paisley revealed a number of things about his decision to join the "peace" process that he never admitted anywhere else. He confirmed that he was frightened for the union, that the London/Dublin "Plan B" was the beginning of a process that might end up in joint authority or worse and he added that he made the decision as the new leader of unionism to save the union.

"I had no choice", he said at one stage, "Things have changed you know".



• The scene of carnage in Parnell Street following the loyalist bombings in Dublin on May 17, 1974 (see quotes, April 8 below).

— Sunday Business Post, April 8, 2007, the Tom McGurk column. So unionism does yield to pressure from the British government...

Republican Sinn Féin Vice President Des Dalton addressed a commemoration in Derry during which he denounced what he called the "Provo sell-out".

— Irish Times, April 9, 2007.

The breath of the widespread loss of State files revealed by the McEntee commission is staggering. Government ministers, many of their senior civil service officials and members of State security have presided for many decades over a system of record keeping that has denied justice to untold numbers of Irish citizens, including the victims of the Dublin-Monaghan bombings.

— Irish Times, April 9, 2007, letter to the Editor from Finian Fallon, Dublin 8.

The late Jackie Clarke left his extraordinary collection of historical memorabilia to the public, and it is now being housed in a special library in Ballina [Co Mayo].

— Irish Times, April 17, 2007, Fintan O'Toole column, headed "Who owns Pearse's Letter?"

The instinct to give historic material to the public remains strong, but curators find that approaches are increasingly concerned with establishing the price, rather than the value, of an object.

— Fintan O'Toole.

"We as a species just cannot get past the need to kill each other," he [Liam Clancy] declares with venom. "I was in America at the end of the Korean War and I saw fools going into Vietnam, doing the same thing again. And then when Bush came along, they made the same mistake of history all over again. Do they not learn anything?"

— Irish Times, April 17, 2007, Siobhán Long interview with Liam Clancy.

"They talk about 'accomplishing the mission'. What was the mission? The mission was to grab the oil belonging to another country, to establish US bases there, and for Halliburton to reap the rewards of all the development. They'll never accomplish that mission."

— Liam Clancy to Siobhán Long.

"I was appalled that there

was no anger in this country at seeing Bertie Ahern shaking hands with George Bush on St Patrick's Day," Clancy continues, warning to his subject. "I was appalled to see planes at Shannon, scrapping habeas corpus, taking people off to be tortured in countries where America could do it with impunity. I mean, what kind of a country are we."

— Irish Times, April 17, interview with singer Liam Clancy.

May 8 should be the date when [Provisional] Sinn Féin enters Stormont with Ian Paisley and the DUP to form government in Northern Ireland.

May 8, 1987 marks the day when eight young men were murdered in Loughgall on active service for the Provisional IRA.

Nobody will ever know if any of these men would have supported the strategy now employed by Sinn Féin and the Provisional movement — they may well have done....

What is certain is that those eight men were gunned down fighting to free Ireland from British control and gain independence. That is what they signed up for. It was not a war for civil rights, it was a war of liberation...

They died for a free Ireland — not for policing, for Stormont or for an all-Ireland food council.

Seven Tyrone and a Monaghan man died for what thousands of others have died for since 1169 — and let no one tell you different. Many Gaels in Tyrone will remember that and they will also remember what happens on May 8, 2007 in Stormont.

And we have long memories in Tyrone.

— Irish News, April 19, 2007. Part of a letter captioned *The Gaels of Tyrone have long memories and signed by M Donaghy, Carrickmore, Co Tyrone.*

The Scottish National Party looks set to claim victory in next month's polls, but just how far can the independence movement go, asks Frank Millar in Edinburgh.

— Irish Times article, April 21, 2007.

Is referendum the basis on which to determine the issue once and for all? Would one referendum be enough? And what (an interesting question in the Northern Irish context) would constitute a sufficient endorsement by the people for such a step?

— Frank Millar.

Would independence rely simply on a majority of those actually turning out to vote, or would Westminster (where the constitution remains a reserved matter — ie not devolved to the Scottish parliament) set a higher threshold.

— Frank Millar.

In a scene which many thought had been left behind with recent political developments in the North, [Mark] Thompson, a human rights worker with the Relatives for Justice group, was told [by the RUC/PSNI] the Ulster Volunteer Force had his personal details and that there was a substantial threat to his life.

— Sunday Business Post, April 22, 2007, article by Colm Heatley in Belfast.

Recent investigations into loyalist paramilitaries, especially those conducted by the Police Ombudsman have revealed far-reaching collusion between the state and the UVF and UDA. Loyalist gangs were allowed to kill with impunity and protected from prosecution by Special Branch.

While it appears a lot of effort was invested in maintaining the UVF and UDA, no real political pressure is being exerted to ensure that the two groups dismantle.

— Colm Heatley.

For many, the continued existence of the UVF and UDA, and the lack of political will to get rid of them, is a direct result of the relationship which loyalists enjoyed with the RUC and the British army.

Far from being adversaries, it appears from a substantial body of evidence now in the public domain, that the state and loyalists were colluding for decades, mutually assisting one another during the Troubles.

— Colm Heatley.

By the middle of last week [pre-April 22], 116 others had been informed of the same threat, as a UVF spy ring had allegedly been uncovered, operating at the heart of PSNI's civilian officers.

Threats come just weeks after the UDA said publicly it had no intention of putting its weapons beyond use.

— Colm Heatley.

"We place on record our profound disappointment that the Agreement between the government of Eire and Great Britain did not include

any reference to partition, the main matter of interest to our people here."

— Irish News, April 28, 2007, statement by Nationalist members of Stormont on April 28, 1938, defining their attitude to the "Anglo-Irish Agreement".

Brian Feeney [April 4] said: "The people have spoken, like it or not." If you don't like it then you are "fundamentally anti-democratic". There is nothing democratic about British rule over Irish people.

Irish opposition to British rule cannot seriously be described as anti-democratic.

Mikhail Gorbachev stated: "There is no democracy nor can there be, without Glasnost."

Likewise there is no democracy without freedom and Irish people have a right to freedom. The people have spoken but we are still subject to British rule.

— Irish News, April 28, 2007, letter to editor from Malachy Scott, Co Antrim.

A PUP delegation also had talks with Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde yesterday. Ms [Dawn] Purvis (leader) said the purpose was "to get an assessment from the chief constable and his top team on dissident (sic) Republican activity."

— Irish News, April 28, 2007, William Graham, Political Correspondent.

A major statement on the future of the PUP-linked UVF and Red Hand Commando is expected next week. There are, however, no signs that loyalists will decommission their weapons through the normal channels yet.

— Irish News, April 28, 2007, William Graham, Political Correspondent.

The whole reason for this hearing is to deal with facts. The applicant is here seeking an IPPC licence. There's a gas field, there's a site for a refinery but there's a big blank in between"

— Aine Ryan report quoting Brendan Philbin, one of the Rossport five, on the hearing organised by the Environmental Protection Agency, Irish Times, April 28, 2007. (The company informed the hearing that it is not in a position to clarify matters relating to a proposed new on-land route).

Vincent McGrath, also of the group of five protestors, referred to the ancient lore around Srurwaddaon Bay and its association with the Children of Lir.

"They were called Fionnuala and Aodh; maybe if they were around nowadays they'd be called Jay and Rocco" he said.

— Aine Ryan.

The Taoiseach, Mr de Valera, in the [26-County] Dáil yesterday made several remarkable predictions about the partition problem. He said it would disappear sooner than some people think, a remark which brought loud applause from his supporters.

— Irish News, April 29, 2007, Eamon Phoenix column "On This Day/April 28, 1938. That was 69 years ago and on April 8, 2007, Martin McGuinness said: "We have begun the countdown to a united Ireland." So what is new?

ARRESTS, COLLABORATION AND VICTIMISATION

**50
Years
Ago**

ON MAY 5, 1957 an event occurred which gave an indication of future collaborationist actions by the new administration in the

26 Counties.

On that date, the President of Sinn Féin Pádraig Mac Lógáin, one of the National Secretaries and two Ard Chomhairle members were arrested by Special Branch on the outskirts of Monaghan town.

When they had concluded a post-election organising meeting of representatives in the Western Hotel they were followed by two police cars, blocked, arrested and brought back to the barracks in the town.

They were searched and all personal and organisational papers seized. They were held for an hour and then released. All papers were returned without a word of explanation or apology.

Two months earlier a seat in the Monaghan constituency had been won for Sinn Féin by Éineachán Ó hAnluain, a brother of Fearghal who was killed in action with Seán Sabhat at Brookeborough barracks.

Following the general election in the 26 counties in March, a Fianna Fáil administration was returned in Leinster House with a secure overall majority.

The new Justice Minister was Oscar Traynor who had been O/C of the Dublin Brigade, IRA during the Black and Tan War. In June 1927, even after the formation of Fianna Fáil, he was elected a Sinn Féin TD for North Dublin. He later defected to de Valera's party.

The new Minister for Defence was Kevin Boland, son of Gerry Boland who became notorious in the 1940s for his repression of Republicans while Justice Minister.

Fianna Fáil had not uttered a word as to its intention to employ coercion when it went before the electorate in February and early March but the appointments of Boland and Traynor (who had been Defence Minister in the 1940s) and the Monaghan arrests foreshadowed coming events.

Meanwhile at Stormont indications were given during a debate on an increase of 250,000 pounds voted to the B-Specials, that hard-line attitudes were being taken.

Unionist MP Nat Minford stated (*Irish Press* May 3): "No measures could be severe or repressive or bad enough for them (the freedom fighters). We should have the same laws here as in Cyprus, and anyone found helping these fellows should be taken out and shot."

"Better death for them than for some innocent person. The hanging machinery should be kept in good working order."

South of the Border, all those sentenced to imprisonment for terms of three months or less following the January round-ups had now been released on expiration of sentence.

Richard Burke of Dublin had been Chief of Staff temporarily but now Tony Magan was restored to that post. Seán Cronin resumed as editor of *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*.

But now additional penalties not resulting from the courts were being imposed on Republicans. They were being victimised in their employment.

Cases in point were Domhnall Ó Lúbhlaí and Ruairí Ó Brádaigh TD, vocational teachers in South Tipperary and Roscommon respectively, and Tomás Mac Curtáin, a rent collector with Cork Corporation.

The *United Irishman* of June reported in

detail on this. Domhnall Ó Lúbhlaí was arrested on January 18 and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment.

He applied for leave of absence without pay to the South Tipperary Vocational Education Committee which was granted to him.

Despite this the Minister for Education suspended him because "he had failed to perform satisfactorily his duties by being absent from school."

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh TD, still in Mountjoy was similarly suspended. Tomás Mac Curtáin's case came before a meeting of Cork Corporation. As in the other cases mentioned he had been given a form to sign stating that he would have nothing to do with the Republican Movement.

Sinn Féin Councillor Seán Ó Murchú raised the matter in Cork and proposed that the letter from the Department of Local Government be referred back to source. Councillor J Hickey seconded and Lord Mayor Seán Casey supported the Ó Murchú proposal. Hickey and the Lord Mayor represented the Labour Party.

The motion was passed by seven votes to six, three Labour, three Fianna Fáil and one Sinn Féin supporting and three Fianna Fáil, two Fine Gael and an Independent opposing. (*Irish Independent* May 29)

The *Sunday Press* of May 26 reported a meeting of Leitrim Co Council. "A resolution calling on the Minister for Education (Jack Lynch) to reinstate the vocational teachers who were suspended after being imprisoned under the Offences Against the State Act was rejected by the Chairman, Mr Stephen Flynn TD (Fianna Fáil) at Leitrim Co Council meeting yesterday."

"Mr B McGowan (Clann na Poblachta) who proposed the resolution said that three or four teachers had been 'victimised'. They had got leave of absence while in prison but when they returned to their schools they were asked 'to sign certain documents or else...'

Martin Bernard McGowan had been a Sinn Féin TD for Sligo-Leitrim in 1923-27 and was an uncle of Declan Curneen, Glenade, Co Leitrim, formerly of Ard-Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin who is now seriously ill in hospital. Best wishes are extended to Declan.

The UI of June 1957 said: "The object (of the victimisation) in all cases appears to be to drive Irish Republicans out of the country by forcing them to emigrate."

"Men received leave of absence to return to their British Army units at the time of the Suez aggression".

Those firings were similar to those engaged in by Stormont for the same reasons. It went on:

"There must be a public outcry by our people. This is not 1917 and those who want to back British imperialism in this country by doing the things that were done to men released after 1916 had better be made understand that."

Indeed in some cases that stand was made as will be seen in future instalments of *Fifty Years Ago*.

The Republican organ for June reported that it took a British Judge – Lord Justice Black – 35 minutes to sentence 13 men to 94 years imprisonment in Belfast.

Three Newry men, **Bernard Loy** (19), **Christopher Loy** (25) and **Thomas Kearns** (20) with three Dundalk men **Pat Shaw** (21), **Seamus Hand** (35) and **Peter Duffy** (36) and a Dublin man **Paddy Constantine** (28) were all sentenced to eight years each.

Peter Duffy had endured the blanket protest in Portlaoise in the 1940s when Seán McCaughey died on hunger and thirst strike. Paddy Constantine had taken part in the Arborfield Raid in England in 1955. All seven men were arrested near Warrenpoint, Co Down in January.

John Kelly, (20) of Belfast, **David Lewsley** (20) of Lurgan and **John Madden** (20) of Cork were also sentenced to eight years each. **Peter Monaghan** (22) Dunamore, Co Tyrone



• Pádraig Mac Lógáin

received three years. All were captured at Dunamore.

Two Dublin men **Piarsas Ó Duíll** (23) and **Pat Hodgins** (21) arrested near the Glenshane Pass, Co Derry were sentenced to six and five years each. All 13 were accused of possession of arms.

In addition **Tony Cooney** (21), **Willie Gough** (20) and **Jimmy Linehan** (20) all natives of Cork received 32 years, 12 years for Cooney and 10 each for the other two.

They were taken after a gun-battle near the RAF radar installation at Torr Head, Co Antrim on December 12. In a statement of his position, Tony Cooney said that the freedom fighters were attacking British occupation in Ireland alone.

James J Corbett and **Thomas Ferran** both of Belfast received five years and four years for possession of arms and ammunition and **Phelim McStravick, Co Antrim**, two years for possession of documents including the *United Irishman*.

The other Belfast men, **Patrick Pearse McGrogan** (23) and **Desmond Patrick O'Hagan** (23) got four years each on charges arising out of the attempted rescue of Thomas Lennon, an internee, from Belfast City Hospital. The same issue of the Republican paper gave the total interned without trial in Belfast Jail as 133.

On May 26, a total of 38 young Dublin men were arrested in Glencree Valley, Co Wicklow by members of the Special Branch. They were not armed and appeared to have been engaged in a cross-country hike at the time. They included three of the four wounded at Brookeborough, **Paddy O'Regan**, **Phil O'Donoghue** and **Seán Garland**.

All were taken to the Dublin Bridewell, charged with not answering questions and eventually sentenced to two months imprisonment each. Apparently, mass arrests of Republicans had become the order of the day.

One week later exactly, at the very same place, 28 students were arrested by Special Branch. They carried a big wooden box which when opened was found to contain a large rock. They were taken to the Bridewell and held for two days. Their action was in protest at the earlier mass arrests.

Right through these months, military operations by local units of the IRA continued across the Six Counties. In no way was it a 'Border Campaign' as enemy propaganda asserted. Transport, communications, bridges, electricity power supplies and B-Specials training bases were all hit by explosives and RUC barracks were sniped by gunfire.

Occasionally an operation caught the public imagination. On Easter Sunday morning, an Irish National tricolour was seen flying from a 50-foot high water tower at a disused aerodrome at Clontoe, Co Tyrone.

An RUC constable named Power from the nearby Coagh barracks climbed the tower but found his way blocked by a thorn bush. When he pulled the bush out of his way a hand grenade exploded and blew him down to the platform underneath.

He saved himself by using his lanyard and revolver as a tourniquet to stop a severed artery in his leg from bleeding. With great difficulty, RUC and ambulance workers brought him down the narrow ladder to the ground.

At meetings that Easter speakers referred to the incident calling for Tricolours to be flown at prominent positions throughout the occupied area, 'with a good thorny bush under each Tricolour to keep it safe from interference!'

Then in Stormont on May 28 a new Bill was introduced to strengthen still further the restrictions on nominations to elections for the puppet parliament.

Two abstentionists had been elected in the latest election in 1953: **Charlie McGleanean** for South Armagh and **Liam Kelly** for Mid-Tyrone.

On June 12 the text of the new Bill was circulated: "I.....of.....hereby solemnly and sincerely profess, testify and declare that I recognise the lawful authority of the parliament of Northern Ireland etc. etc." The oath-bound candidates were required to take seats "in the said House". It duly became law in the Six Counties.

However, an even more sinister aspect of this question was revealed in the Stormont Cabinet Papers published 30 years later. The *Irish Times* of January 1 and 2, 1987 gives chapter and verse:

"Nationalist MPs sought the assurances of the Stormont government in a bid to preclude Sinn Féin from contesting elections to the Northern Ireland Parliament, according to the 1956 Cabinet papers."

"At a Cabinet meeting of February 8th, 1956, the Attorney-General, Mr Edmund Warnock, revealed that he had been approached by 'several Nationalist MPs' to suggest to the Government that legislation should be introduced requiring all candidates for Stormont elections to take the Oath of Allegiance at the time of nomination."

"Their object", he explained, "was to prevent Sinn Féin candidates going forward for election who had no intention of sitting in Parliament if elected, and they contended that if a number of Sinn Féiners were elected, it would destroy the Nationalist Party and mean eventually that there would be no effective opposition".

The report ends: "In fact the measure was passed in 1957". It all demonstrates just how far into the system alleged nationalists could be drawn. Their stand in this regard was ultimately a Unionist one.

The *Irish Independent* of May 27, in an editorial struck a blow at the Dublin government decision to ask District Justice Michael Lennon to resign "in the teeth of the Judge's (Teevan) findings".

It concluded: "The Minister (GIB May 24) has caused DJ Lennon to resign and has therefore inflicted a penalty which the High Court Judge who heard the case expressly declared was not merited. What is of far graver import, the Minister and the Government have struck a blow at the independence of the Justices."

Thus ended the career of Michael Lennon who joined the Volunteers in 1914, fought in 1916, suffered imprisonment in Frongoch Camp in that year and in Mountjoy and Lincoln prison, England in 1918-19 and was a Justice of the South Dublin District Court under the First (All-Ireland) Dáil.

(More next month. Ref. *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, May and June 1957; *Irish Press*, May 3; *Sunday Press*, May 26; *Irish Times* January 1 & 2, 1987 and *Irish Independent*, May 27 & 29.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

SINCE the latest British invasion of Ireland in the Six-Counties of the Northeast, innocent Irish people have been subjected to various forms of physical and psychological abuse.

Britain was cited for torture by the European Commission on Human Rights and convicted of gross violations of human rights by the European Court at Strasbourg, France. The latter is another way of saying torture in less inflammatory terms, but torture just the same. The torturers were kept anonymous and not convicted individually.

Documented cases of torture were presented to the White House during the Caster Administration by the Irish National Caucus at the request of the Irish Republican Movement. President Jimmy Carter had made human rights the hallmark defining gesture of his foreign policy.

He accepted the evidence and documentation of individual cases of torture, but when he was about to release a document citing the British violations to show he would criticise friend or foe, the Free State came to the rescue of the Brits. What a shocker!

The Free State informed the State Department that they had taken the British to the European Court and had them cited for gross violations of human rights and no further action by the US to further sanction them was necessary.

History has borne out that nothing has changed, but the British were more careful and Dublin got involved in abuse. Let's we forget the 'heavy gang'.

The United States spoke about human rights but the condemnation of the Brits failed because of the support they got from Dublin who had a vested interest in protecting abusers. The Free State was also an abuser of human rights and should have been cited.

ON RECORD

That was put on record years

before by the testimony given by Sinn Féin president Ruairí Ó Brádaigh before the Human Rights Subcommittee of the US House of Representatives.

Britain carried on two wars in Ireland. They had a shooting war with the Irish Republican Army and they had a brutal "Dirty War" which put them in the same category as the worst right wing dictatorships in the world.

It was like Argentina's "Dirty War" against the innocent. Britain always drew a bye on torture because they would claim to be a democracy and torture was not their policy. America had a policy of accepting whatever Britain stated.

The British, as well as other abusers of human rights now may be pursued in the United States under new immigration policies that permit US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to pursue rights violators in the US. They will be reluctant to do so against the Brits, but the apparatus is in place to do so. We must force it by gathering solid evidence.

Recently ICE agents arrested 3 former foreign military officers who entered the United States after they lied about their pasts in the military service of Peru during the campaign against the Shining Path guerrilla movement and others connected to Argentina's dirty war.

The pursuit and the arrest of the 3 Peruvians for crimes against humanity in their home country clearly shows how often alleged human rights violators have come to live in the US unmolested.

Don't you think there may be a few British soldiers living in the United States who are guilty of human rights violations in Ireland or those who may want to come? We don't want them here. Of course there are and we need to find them. This will take the efforts by concerned Irish human rights activists to find out where former British soldiers might be



living or visiting in the US.

It would also be productive to know regiments and who served in them when abuse was rampant. For instance any serving member of the Parachute Regiment committed egregious abuses of Bloody Sunday. None of them should be permitted into the US. That is just one example. There are legions.

THE Peruvians were arrested under expanded powers given to the ICE under changes in 2004 to the US Intelligence law. ICE is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. Telmo Ricardo Hurtado-Hurtado was arrested and charged with criminal visa fraud. The US does not want to be a haven for those who have come here to avoid punishment for crimes they committed against others. The British government has protected individual violators carrying out official British policy.

Abuse in Ireland came from the top. 10 Downing Street and the worst butcher to occupy that residence was Maggie Thatcher. She comes to the US to make money and she has a torrent of innocent Irish blood on her hands. No person of Irish blood or human decency can accept her presence in America.

Remember when the British were brought to trial at the Strasbourg Court. The soldier witnesses were protected but each should be on a list to be banned from the US. If any individual's name is withheld from public meetings then the entire unit should be banned.

There must be some way to get those names. Any British soldier living in the United States who served in Ireland from 1970-2000 is collectively guilty of human rights abuses unless the British give up names.

Any application for a visa from the UK should ask: Have you ever served in the British Army? Have you ever

served in Ireland? What was unit? If an ex-soldier says he served in the Paras in 1972 in Ireland, he should be excluded. If found here he should be deported.

We need an Irish Justice Commission to monitor this activity and in Ireland it should be under the aegis of Republican Sinn Féin. If information is gathered on soldiers, the US could be forced to act. They won't want to act against the British, but the law is the law.

A Peruvian army platoon in 1985 killed 69 innocent people. How is that different from the Derry Massacre? How in principle is that different from the killings of the Gibraltar Three? How is that different from the murder of Majella O'Hare? The British soldiers are not entitled to visit the US. We do not want those murderers here.

During the Hunger Strike of 1981, the treatment of those 10 men human rights violations.

I would be willing to wager she, as the Commander-in-Chief of British forces, has never admitted to human rights violations, but she sure as hell is as guilty as sin. She should be denied admission to the United States. A complaint must be filed. We know she ordered covert murders.

In my opinion, the British by being convicted of gross violations of human rights by extension that convicts their army and any serving soldier. There are units by which evidence shows they were involved in very specific evidence. On principle, the British army are guilty of violations as Peruvian soldiers or those of al Qaeda.

Frank Prodi, a former manager of ICE's Human Rights Violators Unit noting the Hurtado case said he cannot believe US Consular officials would issue visas to known human rights violators. We need targets and if individual names are not forthcoming, we can and must take collective action.

We can be specific about units like the PARAS and there are many others as we are aware. We must get accountability. Do you think the DUP/Provo Stormont government might help?

I would encourage all Irish Republicans to become involved and gather any and all information on those in the British military who have

committed human rights abuses against Irish people.

Any former British soldier found living or visiting the US who served in Ireland from 1970 to 2000 must be assumed to have participated in human rights violations. They must prove their innocence.

GOOD FAITH

We must test the good faith of the US. If someone is a human rights violator, it should not matter if they are friend or foe. They should not be allowed in the US.

On April 2, 2007, ICE issued a press release which is now quoted: "Identifying and removing persecutors and human rights violators from the US is one of ICE's top enforcement programs. To achieve this goal, ICE created the Human Rights Violators Unit, with a specific mandate to deny safe haven to human rights violators by bringing to bear a full range of investigative techniques and legal authorities to identify, locate, investigate and remove them from the United States". Let us set up committees to find out where they are and name them.

"ICE encourages the public to come forward with any information they may have regarding human rights abuse living in the United States. Nationwide, anonymous tips may be reported at 1-866-DHS-2ICE(1-866-347-2423)".

Britain has not been punished for its endless abuses in Ireland mainly because the United States has protected them. This new legal apparatus was not intended to be used against the Brits and Bush did not see this possibility.

A test of America's credibility would be to pursue a Brit for violations and make an example of him. Again, the burden is on us to find soldiers who live or visit in the US who are violators. ICE says it is serious, but they do not expect there to be Brits to expel, so we must help them enforce the law.

Let us use whatever resources we can muster and find some British soldier violators in the US and identify any others in the UK who might try to enter the US. They are out there and if we find one, we can force ICE to take action.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Comhbhrón

DEVINE, Deepest sympathy to the family of Paddy Devine, Clonbony, Miltown Malbay, Co Clare who died on March 11, 2007. From Tom Malone and family, Miltown Malbay, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Clare.

DUNNE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Dunne and O'Brien families, Cos Wexford and Donegal on the tragic deaths of their loved ones. From Brendan Tobin, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.

GRIFFIN, The death took place of Mark Griffin on April 1, 2007 in Florida USA. Mark was a native of Co Mayo. Mark was married to Frances O'Hagan, daughter of Mrs O'Hagan, a well-known Dundalk Republican. Frank was in the bar and restaurant business in Atlantic City and New York for many a year before he and Frances retired to Florida. The Republican Movement lost a true friend and supporter. We offer our sympathy to his wife Frances and all his family. From Frances Hanratty, Dundalk.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy to Mick Hanley, Limerick on the death of his grandson Tony Hanley. From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mick Hanley, Limerick and the Hanley family on the sad death

of his grandson Tony Hanley. From the Republican Sinn Féin Limerick.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy to Mick Hanley, Limerick on the death of his grandson Tony Hanley. From Dean Coleman and Timmy King, Continuity POWs, Portlaoise jail.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mick Hanley, Limerick on the death of his grandson Tony Hanley. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mick Hanley, Limerick on the death of his grandson Tony Hanley. From Ger Brommell, Mick Ryan and Seán O'Neill, Limerick.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mick Hanley, Limerick on the death of his grandson Tony Hanley. From Joe, Denise and Rachel Lynch, Limerick.

HANLEY, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mick Hanley, Limerick on the death of his grandson Tony Hanley. From Paddy Connery, Ken O'Reilly, Dave Cleary and Brendan Kiely, Limerick.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is extended to Mark McMahon, Portlaoise POW, and family on the recent death of his niece Shannon. From the Pádraig O'Pearraill Cumann, Loch Garman.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy to Joe McMahon and family on the recent death of his niece Shannon, from Mick, Anne-Marie, Sasha and Mikey Hunt, Wexford.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is extended to Mark McMahon, Portlaoise POW, and family on the recent death of his niece Shannon. From the Pádraig O'Pearraill Cumann, Loch Garman.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy to Joe McMahon and family on the recent death of his niece Shannon, from Mick, Anne-Marie, Sasha and Mikey Hunt, Wexford.

McMAHON, CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund) extend deepest sympathy to Mark McMahon, Republican Prisoner, Portlaoise jail, and his family on the recent death of his niece Shannon.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mark McMahon Continuity POW Portlaoise Jail on the sad death of his niece Shannon. From his comrades, the Continuity POWs, Portlaoise Jail

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mark McMahon Continuity POW Portlaoise Jail on the sad death of his niece Shannon. From the Republican Movement Limerick

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Mark McMahon POW Portlaoise Jail on the Death of his niece Shannon from Joe Lynch and Des Long Limerick

MURPHY, The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Con Murphy, former President of the GAA, who died on April 30.

REILLY, The Kileallen Cumann, Co Kildare, extends sympathy to the family of Mossy O'Reilly, Athy, Co Kildare who died on March 31. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

REILLY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Mossy O'Reilly, Athy who died on March 31.

From Matt and Celia Conway, Kilkullen, Co Kildare. Go raibh suaimhneas sioraí dá anam.

REILLY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Mossy O'Reilly, Athy who died on March 31. From Des Dalton, Athy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

I gCuimhne

BALLYMULLEN VOLUNTEERS – 84th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of seven Republican prisoners executed at Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee by a Free State firing squad in April 1923. Vol Reginald Hathaway, Vol Edward Greaney, Vol James McEnery, Vol Jimmy Daly, Vol John Clifford, Vol Michael Brosnan, Vol James Hanlon. "I have been in the Republican Army since 1916. I fought the Tans and it is hard to think my own countrymen are putting me to death." Part of the last letter of Capt James McEnery, Tuesday evening April 21, 1923. "Remember Them With Pride". Kerry Conhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

BROGAN - 1st Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Andy Brogan who died on April 22, 2006. Always remembered by the Hartigan Highstreet Cumann Republican Sinn Féin, London.

HURSON, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Carmel Hurson, Co Tyrone, sister of hunger striker Martin Hurson, who died recently. From the Casey/McCreesh Cumann, Londonderry.

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HURSON, Co Tyrone, sister of hunger striker Martin Hurson, who died recently. From Seán Lynch, Martin's election agent in 1981, Co Londonderry.

HURSON, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Carmel Hurson, Co Tyrone, sister of hunger striker Martin Hurson, who died recently. From the Martin Hurson Memorial Committee, Co Londonderry.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by the Kevin Coen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, west Roscommon.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by the Kevin Coen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Arigna, Co Leitrim.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by the Cull/Tymon Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Arigna.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by the F O Donoghue Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Killeass.

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LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Michael Mullooly, Elphin.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Seán South, south Roscommon.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Longford Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Mayo Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Galway Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Leitrim Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Louth Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS – 20th Anniversary. In loving memory of the Loughgall Martyrs. Always remembered by Louth Sinn Féin Poblachtaich.

Beannachtaí

GET well wishes to Stephen Coyle, Scotland. Sorry to hear of your accident. Hope you are up and about again – can't keep a good man down!! From all your comrades in Republican Sinn Féin in Ireland.

Guantánamo hunger strikes resume

POLITICAL prisoners at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, the US's maximum-security internment camp, have resumed a mass hunger strike to protest at the conditions of their detention, their lawyers have said.

The on-again/off-again action involving at least 20 prisoners over the past few months started in January when more than 170 of the 385 men detained at Guantánamo were moved to the newest and harshest facility, Camp 6. Many of the prisoners had been living in 10-bunk barracks or metal-mesh cages in open rows from which they could communicate with each other, play board games across adjoining cells and exercise in a communal sports court. When the majority of the detainees were moved into the tougher Camp 5 and Camp 6, some resumed a hunger strike that had lasted from late 2005 to January 2006 "in protest of their near-complete isolation," said Joshua Colangelo-Bryan, the lawyer for Bahraini prisoner Isa al-Murbati.

Isa al-Murbati told him on a recent visit that a score of prisoners had resumed the strike, even though medical personnel force-feed any prisoner who has refused food for three days or more. The force-feeding regime, conducted while the prisoner is held in a "restraint chair", broke the previous hunger strike that at its peak involved more than 100 Guantánamo prisoners. Joshua Colangelo-Bryan and human rights monitors who learned of the resumed protest from recent visits by lawyers said the new strike was spurred by resentment of the harsher conditions. Kuwaiti prisoner Fayiz al-Kandari told his lawyer during a visit two months ago that at least 42 prisoners were on hunger strike at the time, 12 of whom were being force-fed.

"Lights are on in the cell all the time, it's very noisy," Fayiz al-Kandari's lawyer, David Cynamon, notes in a report of the exchange only recently cleared by Pentagon censors for disclosure. "Guards bang on the door regularly, and your face has to be turned toward the guard." Camp 6, a \$38 million (€28 million) facility completed last autumn, was designed to be a medium-security prison with communal eating and recreation rooms.

But after a May riot at Camp 4 (a barracks-like facility for the most compliant prisoners), the commander of the joint taskforce running the prison and interrogation network, Navy Rear Adm Harry Harris, ordered Camp 6 retrofitted to confine each man behind cement walls and steel doors. Sound-dispersing mouldings to thwart even shouted conversation were recently added.

A Pentagon spokeswoman would only say that the Guantánamo medics follow so-called established ethical procedures when dealing with hunger strikers.

Irish people reject the use of Shannon Airport

IN A statement on April 21 Roger Cole, Chair of the Peace & Neutrality Alliance (PANA) said:

"The Peace & Neutrality Alliance was the first organisation to hold a demonstration at Shannon Airport in May 2002 to protest against the use of Shannon Airport in the then planned invasion, conquest and occupation of Iraq by the US and its allies. It helped to organise the massive demonstration against the war and the use of Shannon in that war on February 15, 2003.

"Since then PANA has participated and helped to organise many other demonstrations. While the numbers turning up at these demonstrations was small, PANA believed that this did not reflect the Irish people's opposition to the war, but that they did not see much point in taking part. After all Ireland's war leader, Bertie Ahern, had ignored over 100,000 demonstrators.

"PANA therefore decided to commission Lansdowne Market Research to provide independent research on the views of the Irish people. They were asked:

"Are you in favour of, or opposed to, the use of Shannon Airport by US troops travelling to and from Iraq?"

"The response was as follows: In favour 17%; opposed 59%; No opinion 24%.

"Thus it is absolutely clear the vast majority of the Irish people are opposed to the policy of the Irish war parties, Fianna Fail and the PD's to back President Bush's war by allowing the use of Shannon. Mr Timmins, the FG spokesperson on Defence have also made it clear that FG also support the war and the use of Shannon. PANA welcomes the statement by SF that they would not support a Government unless the use of Shannon was terminated, and we urge the Labour Party and the Green Party to make their position clear as well.

"There is a major and deep flaw in the nature of Irish democracy that while the vast majority of the Irish people oppose the use of Shannon in Iraq war, Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the PD's with only the support of 17% of the people, back Bush's war.

"The Irish corporate media have a responsibility to report the actual views of the people and to ensure that groups like PANA that reflect the opinion of 59% are not excluded.

WORLD NEWS

Six extraordinary conservationists win 2007 Goldman Prizes



• (From left, front row) Julio Cusurichi Palacios, Sophia Rabliauskas, Tsetsegee Munkhbayar. From left, back row: Hammerskjöld Simwanga, Willie Corduff, Orri Vigfússon, winners of the Goldman Prize. (Photo courtesy Goldman Prize)

AN Irish farmer jailed for his work in opposing Shell Oil's gas pipeline through his land and an Icelandic entrepreneur saving North Atlantic wild salmon by brokering innovative fishing rights buyouts were among the winners of this year's prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize.

The Irish recipient was Willie Corduff, Rossport, Co Mayo, one of the Rosport Five who spent five months in prison in 2006 for opposing a Shell oil pipeline through his and his neighbours' land.

"This year's Prize recipients have succeeded in combating some of the most important environmental challenges we face today," said Goldman Prize founder Richard Goldman. "Their commitment in the face of great personal risk inspires us all to think more critically about what ordinary people can do to make a difference."

The \$125,000 Goldman Environmental Prize, now in its 18th year, is awarded annually to six grassroots environmental heroes and is the largest award of its kind in the world.

The winners were awarded the Prize at an invitation-only ceremony on April 23 at the San Francisco Opera House. They were also honoured at a smaller ceremony at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, DC.

This year's winners are:

North America: Sophia Rabliauskas, 47, Canada: Working on behalf of the Poplar River First Nation, Rabliauskas succeeded in securing interim protection for a portion of the boreal forest of Manitoba.

Africa: Hammerskjöld Simwanga, 45, Zambia: In Zambia's North Luangwa Valley, Simwanga created an innovative sustainable community development program that successfully restored wildlife and transformed this poverty-stricken area.

Asia: Tsetsegee Munkhbayar, 40, Mongolia: Munkhbayar successfully worked with government and grassroots organisations to shut down destructive mining operations along Mongolia's scarce waterways.

South and Central America: Julio Cusurichi Palacios, 36, Peru: In the remote Peruvian Amazon, Cusurichi secured a national reserve to protect both sensitive rainforest ecosystems and the rights of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation from the devastating effects of logging and mining.

Europe: Willie Corduff, 53, Ireland: In Rossport, Corduff and a group of fellow local residents and landowners successfully forced Shell Oil to halt construction on a Gas pipeline through their land.

Islands and Island Nations: Orri Vigfússon, 64, Iceland: Vigfússon brokered huge international fishing rights buyouts with governments and commercial interests, helping bring to an end destructive commercial salmon fishing in the region.

The Goldman Environmental Prize was established in 1990 by San Francisco civic leader and philanthropist Richard Goldman and his late wife, Rhoda Goldman. It has been awarded to 119 people from 70 countries.

Denez Riou — Breton freedom fighter

DENEZ Riou, a public services employee and ex-member of the ARB (Breton Revolutionary Army), is currently serving a seven-year sentence in Ploemeur, Morbihan having been arrested in Lanester (Morbihan), near Lorient, on September 30, 1999.



He and a number of Breton and Basque activists who seek the independence of their countries were charged with "providing logistic support and shelter" to Basque activists, but the more likely reason is to silence Breton and Basque spokespersons. The editor of *Breizh Info*, a Breton weekly, Charlie Grall was also held for some weeks before being released on medical grounds.

Denez Riou was for several years the responsible editor of *Combat Breton*, the monthly newspaper of the left-wing independence movement Emgann. He attended and spoke at several of Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Fheiseanna.

In 1999 Jean-Pierre Chevènement, then French minister of the Interior, spoke of him on French TV channel TF1 as "the leader of the ARB". The prosecutor used this accusation against him during his trial in June 2005.

Following an article published in Breton daily newspaper *Le Télégramme*, Denez Riou lodged a complaint for violation of judicial secrecy which was eventually dismissed in 2001 for lack of sufficient charges. Nevertheless, on 22 August, 2002, he had *Le Télégramme* sentenced for breach of presumption of innocence, following the publication of an article in this paper on July 15, 2002. His family also had this paper sentenced for breach of the right to privacy.

Death of Scottish veteran of International Brigades

ONE of the last Scottish veterans of the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War has died aged 99 on Monday April 9, 2007.

James Maley, whose father was from County Mayo, was born in the Calton district of Glasgow in 1908.

In 1932 James joined the Communist Party, emerging as a noted speaker at Glasgow Green. Walking along Argyle Street, trams tooted their horns, acknowledging a firebrand socialist. In 1936 James answered the call of the Spanish Republic after hearing La Pasionaria on the radio.

He was in action at the Battle of Jarama in February 1937, part of a heavy-machine-gun company, covering the retreat for three days. Captured and sentenced to 20 years, he was released in a prisoner swap.

James remained a committed socialist and internationalist to the end. The struggle for Irish freedom was particularly dear to him and he gave practical solidarity to the cause. In August 1985 at the age of 77 James was arrested whilst selling a pro-Republican newspaper at an Irish demonstration in the Lanarkshire town of Carfin. He was subsequently charged under Section 2 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) that:

"He carried and displayed a document entitled 'Ireland's War' in such a way and circumstances as to arouse reasonable apprehension that he was a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation, namely the IRA, contrary to Section 2 of the PTA."

He was held in custody over the weekend despite the lack of facilities to cater for someone of his age. His case was finally heard at Hamilton Sheriff Court on the Monday afternoon, where as well as being charged under the PTA, he was also charged with a Breach of the Peace. James pleaded not guilty to both charges and his trial was fixed for February 1986.

A campaign was mounted to have the charges against James dropped, and also in defence of the democratic right to free speech on Ireland. Within weeks of his arrest worldwide outrage and condemnation of this shameful act by the police and courts began to flood in. Support from Ireland was expressed by the Republican and Republican Socialist POWs.

James subsequently received a letter from the procurator Fiscal's office stating that all charges against him were dropped. The police and courts had been defeated in their attempt to suppress support for the Irish Republican cause in Scotland and to silence free speech on Ireland.

James Maley passed away on April 9 as a result of pneumonia. The Francis Hughes Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach in Glasgow extended its sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

His commitment to socialist republican ideals, international solidarity and the cause of a united and independent Ireland is an inspiration to all of us.

A pound is a lot of money to a man with a golf ball for a brain

THERE seems to be a broad acceptance of the sell-out of nationalists by the *status quo* politicians of the Durkan-Adams ilk. Paisley too seems to have lulled his followers into accepting that 'less than perfection will do'.

Of course in 1922 a majority of northern nationalists also accepted partition. They lived to regret their decision. Following that decision nationalists endured years of complete domination by

British backed unionism. No votes. No houses. No roads. No advance factories. No jobs and self imposed loss of dignity.

Is there any reason to believe this time round will be any different?

Nationalists have this time ensured they will have ministerial posts which will allow THEM to impose water charges, house rates and local government taxes with which to pay their own expenses. Will the cost of policing also be paid for by these taxes rather than by

the British exchequer?

A package of money has been promised. This does not include 'new money'. Probably actually creates a saving for Britain when compared to the cost of maintaining British rule by military force alone.

Will May 8 represent a new beginning? Even Paisley and Adams do not pretend to claim that. On this occasion what is on offer is a return to the *status quo* with a few token 'Uncle Tom' nationalists

along for the ride. Both nationalists and unionists have a rude awakening ahead. What lies in store are hard times and little money.

What little is about is going to be concentrated in the hands of a few. Those few in turn will have to jump through hoops for the British to keep them on board.

THERE is a funny side to everything of course and this situation has a particularly funny side to it. The sight of Paisley and Adams

conspiring to con each other's supporters is one of the strangest alliances imaginable. It also points to what they are both really about – power for the sake of power.

Durkan of the SDLP and the UUP leadership find themselves sidelined as the others scramble to hoard all money and power to themselves.

And there is the irony, the Marxists of the Long Kesh huts have become the gombeen men of the new millennium, and Paisley

and his fundamentalists have swapped Christian principles for the materialism of the new world order.

There are those who might describe this as 'peace at any price' but the reality is that it is 'peace on the cheap'. People in general get paid what they are worth. Paisley and Adams are examples of that.

— Mac Cool

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN, CO. DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - To Pay off Our Loan of €5,000

The committee and trustees of the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal are pleased to announce that plans are being drawn up for the next stage of development at the garden.

It is proposed that six commemorative plaques will be erected in the coming year. To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive.

In the weeks running up to Easter, the gates and railings, seats and flagpoles were all painted. New flags were erected and additional flowers and shrubs were added. This in keeping with the continued development and is only fitting considering the Republicans who are remembered there.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way small or big and ask anyone who wishes to make further donations to forward them to any committee member, head office or Joe O'Neill directly.

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



Republican Sinn Féin calls for release of Miami Five

ON April 25, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, said that Republican Sinn Féin wished to go on record as supporting the cause of the Miami Five who have been imprisoned wrongfully in the United States since 1998.

He said: "As they stated in court their actions were never directed against the US government, nor did they possess or use weapons in the US.

"They simply were monitoring the actions of Miami-based terrorist groups in order to prevent terrorist attacks on their country of Cuba. Instead of arresting the terrorists, the anti-terrorists were themselves arrested by the FBI.

"Our monthly newspaper, SAOIRSE – Irish Freedom has repeatedly supported the Miami Five in their plight and continues to do so.

"The convictions of the

Miami Five were overturned and a new trial ordered outside of Miami. Yet this decision was itself reversed. These men are political prisoners and their case is a political one. The whole wide world needs to know of their situation.

"Justice requires their immediate release. Victory to the cause of our common humanity!"

The Cuban Five are five Cuban men who are in U.S. prison, serving four life sentences and 75 years collectively, after being wrongly convicted in U.S. federal court in Miami, on June 8, 2001.

They are Gerardo



• Poster supporting the Miami Five.

Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González.

The Five were falsely accused by the US government of committing espionage conspiracy against the United States, and other related charges.

But the Five pointed out vigorously in their defence that they were involved in monitoring the actions of Miami-based terrorist groups, in order to prevent terrorist attacks on their country of Cuba.



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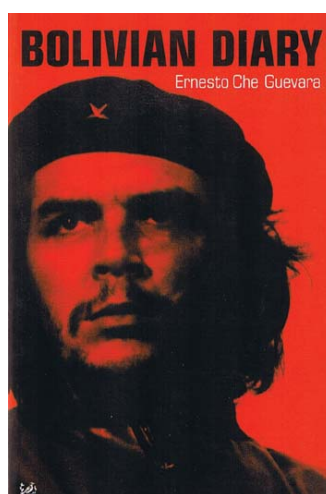


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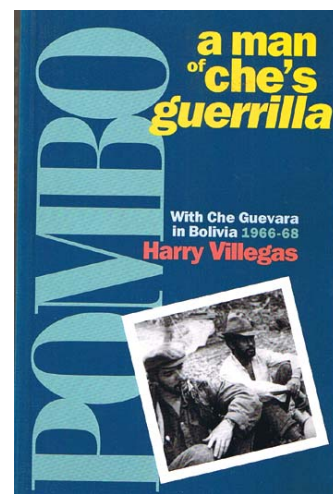


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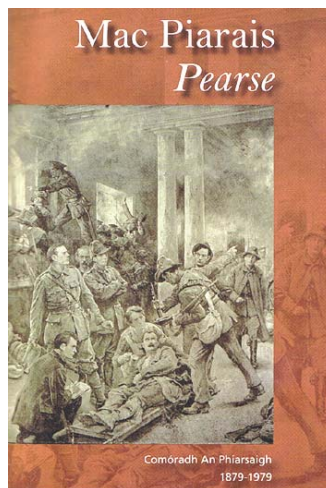
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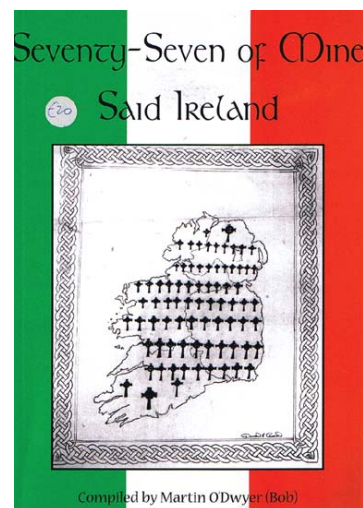
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