

# SINN FÉIN



**FREEDOM**  
**JUSTICE**  
**PEACE**

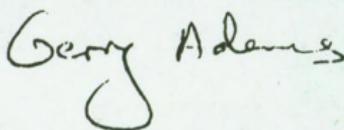
# INTRODUCTION BY GERRY ADAMS

THE YEAR 1987 was a very arduous one for the Republican Movement. Nevertheless, republicans face 1988 with confidence, assured of the justness of our cause and our ability to see it through to victory.

The military and political enemies of Irish independence are strong. In the British occupation of the Six Counties, republicans must meet the might of one of the strongest military, political, economic and propaganda machines in the world. Britain and its allies, especially the Dublin government, dominate not only the fighting ground in the Six Counties but also the political arena and the media through which the British government defends its unjust and oppressive presence in our country.

In comparison, the resources of republicans are small. The political battle for national self-determination and lasting peace with justice has to be fought on many fronts and in many campaigns in Ireland and abroad. As well as focusing attention on the root cause of violence and suffering in the Six Counties, the progressive forces in our country must combat all aspects of repression and censorship.

In all of this work the dedication of political activists and supporters has been unflinching. But to increase their effectiveness and speed the struggle towards our goal they need more resources. Above all they need more finance. They need your help. Please contribute whatever you can to the cause of Irish freedom.



**President of Sinn Fein  
Member of Parliament for West Belfast**

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SINN FEIN has been active throughout the 32 Counties on numerous social and economic issues ranging from the fight against monetarist cutbacks, water rates, housing, tax reform, Concerned Parents Against Drugs, neutrality, agriculture, emigration and unemployment. Other campaigns it has initiated or supported have been:-

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**HILLSBOROUGH TREATY:** The treaty signed by Garret FitzGerald and Margaret Thatcher on November 15th 1985 (and being operated by Charles Haughey) copper-fastens partition. British direct-ruler Tom King described it as "a bulwark against a united Ireland". The only concrete results of the Hillsborough Treaty have been the British army machine-gun posts and bunkers along the border which reinforce Britain's partition of Ireland.

**PEACE:** In May 1987, Sinn Fein launched a discussion document entitled *A Scenario for Peace* to stimulate debate on the way forward to peace in Ireland. In January 1988, the SDLP's John Hume and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams met to exchange views and seek common ground.

**ELECTIONS:** Sinn Fein's electoral strategy has blown a massive hole in British government propaganda that republicans have no support. Sinn Fein had five abstentionist members elected to the now-prorogued Assembly, has had Gerry Adams returned as the abstentionist MP for West Belfast, and also has 87 councillors throughout the 32 Counties.

**SHOOT-TO-KILL:** British army and RUC murder squads have operated a shoot-to-kill policy since November 1982 which has claimed the lives of 15 nationalists.

**RUBBER/PLASTIC BULLETS:** The innocuous-sounding rubber and plastic bullets used by the British army/RUC have claimed the lives of 16 people, including seven children. The European Parliament has repeatedly called upon all

member states to ban the use of plastic bullets, but the British government has refused to comply.

**EXTRADITION:** The Dublin government has joined with the British in their attempts to criminalise the freedom struggle by overturning previous Dublin High Court decisions that actions taken against the British occupation forces are political and therefore non-extraditable. Every case that seeks to hand over a political refugee from the Six Counties to the British army and RUC to be railroaded through non-jury courts into Long Kesh must be fought. However there is no legal aid for those fighting extradition and each case costs about £40,000.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Twenty years after Civil Rights marchers were batoned off the streets by the B-Specials, the RUC and other loyalist gangs, the British government has reluctantly conceded the fact that job discrimination still exists. Catholics are 2½ times more likely to be unemployed than Protestants. In November 1987, Sinn Féin launched its document, *Setting the Criteria: Tackling Discrimination*.

**CULTÚR:** Tá Sinn Féin chun tosaigh san fheachtas le teanga agus cultúr na hÉireann a chur chun cinn. Sna Sé Chontae chuidíomar le forbairt na teanga sa saol laethúil trí bunú fo-choistí ar údaráis áitiúla, ranganna Gaeilge, naíscoil-eanna agus bunscoileanna agus ardú comharthaí bhóthair Gaeilge in ainneoin an choisc dlithúil orthu. Sna Sé Chontae is Fiche cuidíonn Sinn Féin le obair na neagras Gaeilge. Gach bliain eagraíonn Sinn Féin, Slógadh, comhdháil lán-Ghaeilge. 'Sé an t-aon chomhdháil dá leithéid in Éirinn, rud nár éirigh fiú Roinn na Gaeltachta a eagrú.

**STRIP-SEARCHING:** The British government claims that strip-searching of women POWs is necessary for security despite the fact that the £30 million top-security Maghaberry Prison (which replaced Armagh Prison) has £5 million

worth of security technology. The degradation and humiliation of strip-searching is inflicted on women POWs in Ireland and England whatever their state of health.

**PORTLAOISE:** There are 100 POWs in Portlaoise including those jailed for escaping from Long Kesh, Crumlin Road and Brixton Prison in England. The Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives' Action Committee and the prisoners have succeeded in replacing caged visits with open visits. They are still campaigning for (1) release dates for POWs serving life; (2) Compassionate parole for those serving 40 years; (3) An end to solitary confinement and strip-searching; (4) An end to censorship of prisoners' letters; (5) Improved medical facilities.

**POWS IN ENGLAND:** There are 44 republican POWs in English jails. It is stated British government policy that prisoners should serve their sentences in jails as near to their homes as possible yet, in 20 years, the only four POWs to be repatriated to Ireland were transferred only after an epic 206-day hunger-strike (they were force-fed for 167 days) in 1973; British soldiers convicted of crimes in the Six Counties are immediately returned to Britain. Added to the financial and physical strain on families having to travel hundreds of miles to visit their loved ones in England is the mental anguish of finding that the POW has been arbitrarily moved to solitary confinement in another prison, possibly hundreds of miles away, without the family being notified and costing them hundreds of pounds and days of travel.

**STATE CENSORSHIP:** Sinn Fein is barred from RTE radio and television under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act which is opposed by the National Union of Journalists and has been denounced by the International Federation of Journalists as "clear-cut political censorship". Not only is it state censorship of a political party but a denial of freedom of information to RTE viewers and listeners.



RUC assaulting mourners at the funeral  
of Vol Larry Marley in Belfast

The success of our work  
depends on the measure of your help.

Please give generously  
to our appeal for funds.

All donations to:-

**Joe Cahill & Lydia Comiskey**

**Sinn Fein Head Office**

**44 Parnell Square**

**Dublin 1**

**Ireland**

**Telephone 726932/726100**

**FAX 733074**

*(All donations will be gratefully acknowledged)*

If you would like to meet a representative  
of Sinn Fein please contact us.

*Front leaf: Gerry Adams is held aloft by  
supporters after he was returned as Sinn Fein  
MP for West Belfast*