

Scaoil Saor Dessie Ellis



DON'T
EXTRADITE
DESSIE
ELLIS TO
BRITISH
INJUSTICE

*"If you're Irish
and you're charged
with a 'terrorist' or
political-type offence,
you don't stand
a chance."*

— Gerry Conlon,
Guildford Four



Despite the obvious truth of Gerry Conlon's statement, and that of Paddy Joe Hill below, the Dublin High Court on July 30th rejected Dubliner Dessie Ellis's appeal against extradition. Judge Hamilton, sitting alone, turned down all of Dessie's lawyers' arguments. The High Court decision means accepting the British judicial system, despite all the evidence that it cannot give justice to our citizens.

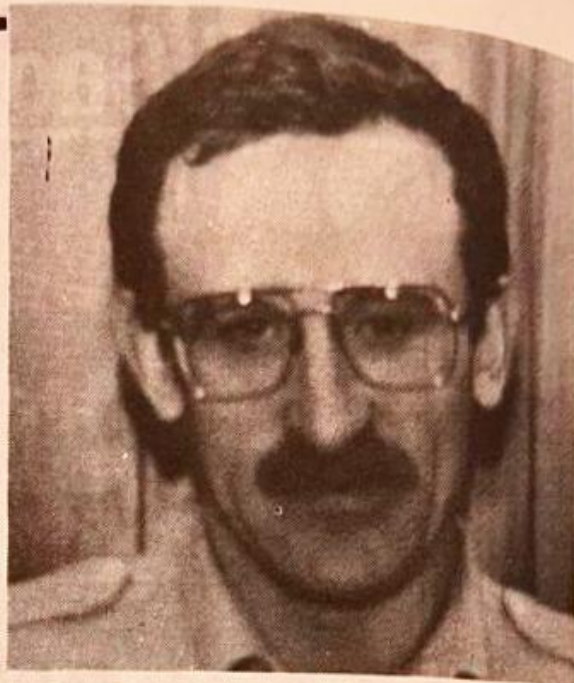
The decision, for instance:

- Denied that Dessie would not get a fair trial, despite the fact that the Guildford Four, Judith Ward, the Maguire family, the Birmingham Six, the Winchester Three, Danny McNamee and other cases show Irish people charged with such offences have no hope of a fair trial;

"The Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, Maguire family and Judith Ward are all living proof of what the Irish people can expect from British justice. To hand over Irish men and women to a British court is to condemn them to a system where they will be judged and sentenced by the British media before they set foot inside a court, and where they will be discriminated against by the whole prison administration because they are Irish."

— Paddy Joe Hill, Birmingham Six

- Accepted the word of a Scotland Yard detective that they had forensic evidence, despite the fact that such evidence has been falsified in the Birmingham Six, Guildford



Four and Maguire cases and that there is currently a major legal inquiry going on in Britain involving this whole issue;

- Accepted British warrants for "conspiracy" despite the fact that conspiracy charges are impossible to disprove, violate habeas corpus and are not used in most democratic countries;

- Denied that the offences are "political" despite the fact that none of the offences would have taken place if it weren't for the political situation resulting from British interference in Ireland;

- Ignored the fact that at the time of the alleged offences, Dessie was either in prison here, living in Finglas and under close Special Branch surveillance as well as signing on at a Garda station three times a week, or in the US where he was imprisoned and deported as an illegal immigrant. Dessie Ellis did not set foot in Britain;

- Denied it would be unjust to hand Dessie Ellis over, even though the "conspiracy" charges relate to a period seven-nine years ago, and that the British had the option of having him tried here.

STOP THE FRAME-UP

The use of conspiracy charges is practically unknown in Irish law. But such charges have obvious advantages in getting convictions in British courts against Irish nationalists and republicans. By their very nature such charges make a person guilty until proven innocent. And just how can anyone prove themselves innocent of "conspiracy"? It is an impossible charge to disprove.

Such trials are inevitably accompanied by "trial by media" in the British gutter press and political interference, as happened in the Winchester Three case. During 1987-'88, five Irish citizens were sentenced in England to 20-25 years on such charges, with the Winchester Three only being released because the support generated by the campaign for their release threatened to create another international scandal for the British judicial system already reeling under the Guildford Four release and the Birmingham Six controversy. If Dessie Ellis is extradited, he could end up with a 20 or 25-year sentence for "conspiracy".

Is poblachtanach, gan leithséal, é Dessie Ellis. Throid a sheanaithreacha in Ard-Oifig an phoist i 1916 agus bhí Dessie pairteach i ngluaiseacht na poblachta. Is Gaeilgeoir é Dessie a chaitheann an fáinne go railta. Bhí sé ina chathaoir — leach ar craobh Thomás Mhic Gabhann, Conradh na Gaeilge i bPort Laoise i 1988.

He served an eight-year sentence in Portlaoise for his republican activity and was due for release on April 28th, 1989, when the extradition warrants were served on him. In effect they are seeking to punish him twice over.

Don't let Maggie Thatcher get her hands on Dessie Ellis.

Don't let the coalition government hand him over.

Bigí pairteach i bhfeachtas saoirse agus cearta Dessie Ellis.

What you can do to help:

- Contact the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee, and get involved in the campaign;
- Raise Dessie's case with your local councillors and TDs and ask them to call on the Minister for Justice, Ray Burke, to use his power to release Dessie;
- Write to Ray Burke, Briargate, Malahide Road, Swords, County Dublin, along the same lines;
- Raise Dessie's case in your trade union, community group, amongst friends and co-workers;
- Ask any group you're involved in to invite campaign speakers along to talk to them about Dessie's case.

SPONSORS:

The Late Seán MacBride SC
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Aine Ní Giolla Easpaig
Tony Coughlan
Capt James Kelly

Funds urgently needed: The campaign against extradition is urgently in need of funds to publicise the case of Dessie Ellis and other citizens facing extradition. We are also in need of office equipment. Donations and offers of help can be sent to IAEC, 29 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.

DON'T EXTRADITE

DESSIE

ELLIS

TO



BRITISH INJUSTICE

MARCH & RALLY

2.30pm Sat 13th Oct

Parnell Square, Dublin

SPEAKERS: OWEN CARRON, ROBERT BALLAGH & MARTHA ELLIS