



Fuascailt

Irish Political Prisoners Campaign



Summer 1997

PO Box 3239, London NW5 1RA

AMNESTY CONDEMNS USE OF SPECIAL SECURE UNITS

Fuascailt has been campaigning against the use of SSUs and the incarceration of Irish republican prisoners within them since it was formed. Now Amnesty International has published a highly critical report condemning the use of SSUs and the conditions under which prisoners are held. The report states; "Amnesty International is concerned that the Special Secure Units (SSUs), in which "exceptional escape risk" Category A prisoners are held, constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and deny prisoners their right to a fair trial in violation of the United Kingdom's obligations under international treatment".

According to Amnesty, Category A prisoners suffer from inadequate exercise, lack of daylight, an absence of educational facilities and medical attention, all of which lead to serious

"Amnesty International is concerned that SSUs constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and deny prisoners their right to a fair trial in violation of the UK's obligations under international treaties"

Amnesty International Report on SSUs

physical and psychological side effects. These conditions are, it says, "greatly exacerbated" in SSUs. It points out that of the 25 prisoners held in SSUs in February 1997 about half were Irish, most of them unconvicted remand prisoners, and argues that the fact that SSUs do not exist in the Six Counties suggests therefore that Irish prisoners are "arbitrarily and punitively singled out for a particular form of detention".

The Amnesty report goes into detail with regard to the physical and psychological effects of incarceration within an SSU. They cite as an example one remand prisoner in Belmarsh SSU whose cell measures 3metres by 1.8metres. Within this space is a 76 cm wide bed bolted to the wall, a small fixed table bolted to the opposite wall, a fixed bench and a toilet. These conditions were described as "claustrophobic" by a former Chief Medical Officer. As a result, prisoners' eyesight has begun to deteriorate, with a loss of distance vision, and they suffer from headaches. The report stresses that the lack of access to natural light and exercise "violates international standards and has led to a variety of debilitating physical effects in prisoners, including generalised muscle wasting, weight loss (due to inadequate food) and stomach disorders".



Fuascailt supporters outside Downing Street hand in a letter about the transfer of prisoners.

A document written by Belmarsh prisoners Eoin Morrow, Martin Murphy, Patrick Martin, John Crawley, Donal Gannon, Frank Rafferty and Gerry Hanratty (at the time of writing on trial at the Old Bailey) and passed to Fuascailt also provides an account of the conditions within the SSU, particularly the stress created by the imposition of closed visits, where a prisoner and his visitors (including solicitors) are required to undergo a series of humiliating searches, are separated by means of a glass screen and have to communicate via a telephone link, all within the hearing of a prison guard. They wrote; "On remand, unconvicted, hundreds of miles from our families, confined by financial restraints regarding visits, unable to communicate our love and affection to our loved ones, we find ourselves to a high degree severed from the outside world."

"We further feel that Michael Howard (the then Home Secretary) and the prison service are taking a jaundiced view of prisoners' mental health, the psychological impact on our families (in particular our children) the right of prisoners to have reasonable access to a lawyer and the ability to adequately prepare for our impending trial.... the closed visit regime is totally superfluous to prison security; is generated by an institutional paranoia and used as a form of punishment".

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Amnesty International Report

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Amnesty's report confirms this account and severely criticises the British government on the the psychological effects of detention within an SSU; they conclude that prisoners have developed "reclusiveness and an inability to communicate" as well as to "suffer from a lack of concentration and loss of memory." Amnesty also cites an unpublished report by Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer, in which he states that the conditions in Whitemoor SSU, where Peter Sherry, Liam O'Dwyer and Liam McCotter were held, "constitute systematic physical and psychological stress likely to lead to mental and physical disorders." Amnesty states unequivocally that the government's response to this report has been "totally inadequate" and, further, that it should be published immediately for public scrutiny.

In November 1996, Fucascaillt issued a leaflet (*Breaking their own rules - abuses of Irish prisoners by the British prison system*, available from Fucascaillt) detailing the practice of closed visits, the systematic

"Some prisoners have been arbitrarily and punitively singled out for a particular form of detention"

dehumanisation of prisoners and the number of punitive strip and rub-down searches undergone by prisoners in Belmarsh, their families and legal representatives and how these abuses were preventing prisoners from preparing their defence. The Amnesty report also charges the British authorities with denying prisoners a fair trial in violation of Article 6(3)(b) of the European Convention on Human Rights; it argues that "The conditions within the SSUs have seriously interfered with the exercise of remand prisoners' right to a fair trial, both because they undermine the defendants' capacity to prepare their defence and because they restrict the facilities for the preparation of their defence through closed legal visits psychiatrists concluded that their mental capacity to fully engage with and participate in the preparation of their defence in connection with the forthcoming trial has been impaired by these disorders including depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder ...".

The report concludes; "The organisation calls on the authorities to ensure that security considerations do not undermine the requirements of international standards ... In particular, prisoners' physical and mental health should not deteriorate as a result of punitive measures which appear to be arbitrarily applied in the name of security and which constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment." Like Fucascaillt and many others, Amnesty also points to Article 3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and Article 15(2) of the European Convention of Human Rights on the matter of the

"In some instances, prisoners have development serious psychological problems as a result of their conditions of Imprisonment, which have also Impaired their ability to prepare their defence"

torture of prisoners. The Article states that "No state may permit or tolerate torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Exceptional circumstances ... may not be invoked as a justification of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

In his first major speech as Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook said that New Labour would implement an "ethical" foreign policy and that the government was to examine the human rights records of countries with whom Britain intended to trade, particularly in arms. Britain, however, has the worst human rights record in western Europe having derogated a total of eight times from the European Convention on Human Rights. In most cases, these derogations have related to the treatment of Irish people under British law (see Fucascaillt leaflet *The British Government and Violations of Human Rights in Ireland*). He should, therefore, as a matter of urgency address the violations of human rights which are being carried out by his government in his own country.

A full copy of the report (*United Kingdom, Special Security Units: Cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment*, Index No. EUR 45/06/97) can be obtained from Amnesty International.

JAMES CONNOLLY/BOBBY SANDS ANNUAL COMMEMORATION DAY



28 JUNE 1997

McNamara Hall
Camden Irish Centre
Murray St, London NW1
1.00-6.00pm



SINN FEIN SPEAKER

Angie Birthill, Irish Women's Centre

Pat Reynolds IBRG

Harpal Brar, Indian Workers' Association

Invited Speakers: Jeremy Corbyn, MP, Arthur Scargill, Socialist Labour Party,

Kurdish, Turkish and Basque speakers

Workshops: Women in the Struggle for Irish Freedom & the Prevention of Terrorism Act

Creche, Video showing and food provided

Admission £1

For further information write to: Peter Middleton, Wolfe Tone Society
BM Box 6191, London WC1N 3XX

ROISIN McALISKEY



At the time of writing, Roisin has been granted conditional bail and is resident with her daughter Loinir in a specialist mother-and-baby unit in London but suffering from severe post-natal depression. A full extradition hearing is expected shortly.

In the light of an article ('No Case to Answer', *Sunday Business Post*, 4 May 1997 by investigative journalist Lin Solomon the case against Roisin has become untenable. She has alibis for the crucial dates mentioned in the German extradition warrant, the central witness in the case denies ever having identified Roisin as one of the tenants of the flat used by the IRA volunteers in its attack on the British Army barracks in Osnabruck, and Gareth Pierce, Roisin's solicitor, has stated publicly that the fingerprint "evidence" (which has not been independently scrutinised) would be "thrown out of court".

Please help us to campaign on behalf of Roisin by registering your protest at her treatment, either in writing or by telephoning one (or all) of the government departments/embassies listed below. Roisin has never been charged, much less convicted, of any crime and the case against her should now be abandoned.

Where do I write or telephone?

1. Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (tel 0171-273-4000)
2. Northern Ireland Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AZ (tel 0171 210 3000)
3. NI Office, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (tel 01232 520700)
4. German Embassy, 23 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PX (tel 0171 824 1300)

PTA

Second edition of Fuascailt PTA Information Card now available

Fuascailt has now issued the second edition of its Prevention of Terrorism Act card, which contains information for the Irish community on the Act and what individuals should do if they are stopped or detained under it by the British police. The card also contains telephone numbers and addresses of legal firms and civil rights organisations who can be contacted for help and advice (some 24 hours a day) in the event of detention. For your copy of the card, or if you wish to place a bulk order, please contact Fuascailt at the address above.

"If I and others had had one of these cards we would not have gone through years of wrongful imprisonment."

Billy Power, one of the Birmingham Six

Fuascailt has consistently campaigned against this Act, key aspects of which are in contravention of the European Convention of Human Rights (most notably the 7-day detention orders which violate Article 15). One of New Labour's election promises was to incorporate the Convention into British law. We believe that in the light of this pledge, the government should provide an undertaking that the PTA will be repealed as a matter of urgency.

Support the Monthly Picket

Fuascailt has been holding the monthly picket of Downing Street for over two years, and attendance has increased steadily. Come along and show your support for POWs on the first Sunday of each month from 12.00 noon- 1.30pm.

1997 Dates:

6 July
3 August
7 September
5 October
2 November
7 December

PRISONER LIST

July 1997

Hundreds of Irish political prisoners, both men and women, are being held by the British government because of the conflict in Ireland. Below is a list of those incarcerated in English prisons. Please write to one or more of the prisoners and show your support.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Sentence</i>
BELMARSH PRISON				
John Crawley	XK0725	Dublin	6 May	Remand
Donald Gannon	XK0720	Dublin	17 August	Remand
Gerry Hanratty	XK0721	Dublin	26 January	Remand
Patrick Martin	XK0722	Belfast	18 August	Remand
Eoin Morrow	XK0727	Dundalk	4 January	Remand
James Murphy	XK1347	London	8 August	Remand
Frank Rafferty	XK0723	Belfast	16 January	Remand

FRANKLAND PRISON

Patrick Hayes	EN1978	London	27 February	30 yrs
Nick Mullen	MR0639	Sligo	2 February	30 yrs
Joe O'Connell	338635	Clare	15 May	Life

DONCASTER PRISON

Vincent Wood	EN1049	Mayo	7 August	22 years
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DURHAM PRISON

Liam Quinn	49930	San Francisco	6 February	Life
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FULL SUTTON PRISON

Vincent Donnelly	274064	Tyrone	25 September	Life
Denis Kinsella	EN1944	Dublin	12 April	25 yrs
Paul (Dingus) Magee	BT3783	Belfast	30 January	30 yrs
Liam O'Dwyer	MT2483	Dublin	14 December	30 yrs
Peter Sherry	B75880	Tyrone	30 June	Life

WHITEMOOR PRISON

Eddie Butler	338637	Limerick	17 April	Life
Hugh Doherty	338636	Donegal	7 December	Life
Harry Duggan	338638	Clare	31 October	Life
Liam McCotter*	LB83693	Belfast	2 January	17 yrs
Sean McNulty	CL3440	Tyrone	13 October	25 yrs
Jan Taylor	EN1977	London	18 January	30 yrs

*Liam awaiting imminent transfer to Ireland pending release.

Wear a green ribbon to show your support for the prisoners

SUPPORTING REPUBLICAN POWs

Prison addresses:

HMP Maze (Long Kesh)
Lisburn, Co. Antrim
N. Ireland BT27 5RP

Maghaberry Prison
Old Mill Road
Ballinderry, Co. Antrim
N. Ireland BT28 2PT

HMP Frankland
Finchale Avenue
Brasside, Low Newton
Durham DH1

Portlaoise Prison
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois
Ireland

HMP Whitemoor
Long Hill Road, March
Cambridgeshire PE15 OPR

HMP Doncaster
Marshgate
Doncaster DN5 8UX

HMP Full Sutton
York, YO4 1PS

HMP Durham
Old Elvet
Durham DH1 3HO

When writing to Irish political prisoners:

DO:

- ☐ Include your full address on each letter.
- ☐ Include the prisoner number if any; avoid any overtly political comments/stamps/stickers on envelopes.
- ☐ Remember that all letters in and out will be censored.
- ☐ Tell prisoner about yourself (hobbies and interests, if you study Irish history, language, etc). If necessary, let them know if you are male or female.
- ☐ Ask general questions about their home town, family, hobbies/interests, if they are studying anything.
- ☐ Make the letter interesting - but keep initial letters short.
- ☐ If you want to start a regular correspondence, ask prisoner to forward the letter to someone else if they don't have the time to write back.
- ☐ Consider sending magazines and books (paperback only) on almost any subject, or t-shirts/sweatshirts (light coloured, without hoods).
- ☐ Limit or omit any political discussion, otherwise your letter is likely end up in the bin!
- ☐ Expect at least 3 weeks before you receive a response to each letter, longer around holidays.

In the case of POWs in English jails, before you write we recommend that you contact the relevant prison first since prisoners are often moved to other jails without notice.

DON'T:

- ☐ Ask about politics or political affiliations, or the prisoner's case at the outset - let the prisoner bring it up.
- ☐ Ask - or offer - anything of a very personal nature, due to the censors.
- ☐ Take it personally if you don't receive a reply - some prisoners will have no interest in writing or will be too busy. Don't be discouraged! Always write back and ask - sometimes letters in either direction 'go missing'.
- ☐ Send valuable, perishable, electronic or remotely controversial items without asking first.

Prison conditions are such that prisoners cannot always write back. If you haven't received a return letter, don't be discouraged. The POW's are always grateful for incoming mail and support.

IMPORTANT

When writing to prisoners on remand, please bear in mind that they have not been convicted (or in some cases even charged) with any crime. Receiving mail with Republican or anti-British content could seriously affect their trials and/or possible repatriation.

Other prisoner support organisations:

These organisations also raise funds to help support the dependents of Irish political prisoners. You can support **An Cumann Cabhrach** and/or **Green Cross** by sending donations to:

An Cumann Cabhrach
PO Box 4739
Birmingham
B11 1LG

An Cumann Cabhrach
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1
Ireland

Green Cross
51/55 Falls Road
Belfast 12

Summer 1997

TRIAL REPORT

A Fuascaillt member's account of the current trial at the Old Bailey

April 9th saw the start of the Old Bailey trial of eight men, six Irishmen, an American and an Englishman, who were arrested in London and Birmingham in July of last year. Gerry Hanratty, John Crawley, Eoin Morrow, Donal Gannon, Francis Rafferty, Pat Martin, Martin Murphy and Clive Brampton are all pleading not guilty to the charge of conspiring to cause explosions. The trial judge is Justice Scott-Baker, the chief prosecuting counsel is Nigel Sweeney and the defence team includes Helena Kennedy QC.

The trial began with the swearing in of the Jury and other legal formalities. This was the first time that we were able to see the defendants and, given the conditions in Belmarsh SSU, they looked relatively well. Several family members were present in the gallery along with friends and supporters; the defendants radiated bright smiles when they saw us in the balcony seats, giving nods of acknowledgement, winks and thumbs-up. Although Court 1 is hardly an ideal venue, it at least provides some respite from the SSU.

Since then I have attended about once a fortnight, along with various family members and supporters. The first six weeks were dull, at times excruciatingly so, due in part to a particular prosecutor (known as 'Mr Mogadon') who makes Nigel Mansell appear positively radioactive. At times the defendants appeared to be struggling to stay awake - there was much fidgeting, protracted yawning, leaning on elbows and glazing over of eyes. Pat Martin, however, quickly adapted to this by bringing a book into the dock and reading to his heart's content, occasionally looking up to smile when something amusing transpired. Even the jury, who generally seemed to be following the proceedings intently, appeared to need stimulation at times; they seemed

overwhelmed by the amount of files, folders, handouts - and a sea of papers. Various witnesses have appeared over the weeks and one or two of them have livened up events with their eccentricities. One of my favourites was 'The Shoe Man', an expert who enlightened us all on the intricacies and uniqueness of the human footprint. I learned more about feet, from arches to insteps and toes to balls than I cared to. I was, however, unable to attend when the MI5 witnesses were on the stand and so missed the honour of being ushered from the court whilst the security screens were being erected.

At the end of May the defence began and Gerry Hanratty took the stand. He was very impressive, delivering his defence eloquently and with great confidence. Then one morning, for some inexplicable reason, he was not provided with his customary - and necessary - travel sickness medication before setting off from Belmarsh. Although clearly unwell, he still managed to take the stand.

The trial will probably last until the first week of July; if you decide to go along to support the prisoners, you will need to use the side entrance of the Old Bailey, and to take some form of ID - a passport or driving licence. Also bring an official envelope with your address on it, as officials occasionally ask for this in addition to the above. The court sits from Monday to Friday from 10.30am until 4.15pm with an hour's break. Your bags will be searched as you go in and you will not be allowed to take mobile phones, cameras or walkmans. You will also confront Checkpoint Charlie on your way into Court No. 1 who will ask "What is your interest in this trial?"

I would strongly urge all those who can to go along to the trial. It is important for prisoners to see friendly faces in the gallery and it is difficult to convey how much your presence would be appreciated.

ANOTHER SUMMER OF DISCONTENT LOOMS

At Drumcree last year the Orange Order displayed to the world's media the level of violence and intimidation in which it is prepared to indulge in order to get its own way. The more recent events in Harryville suggest that there is no let-up in this rage, which is designed to foster sectarianism and remind Catholics of the Orange ascendancy; an ascendancy now more deeply flawed and in danger of fragmentation than ever.

The marching season is approaching again, and once more the nationalist community in the six counties will be subjected to concentrated sectarian abuse and intimidation by members of the Orange Order and its associated supporters. As in previous years, they will be allowed to do this by an organisation which provides the Order with many of its members; 'The Royal Orange Constabulary'.

How have nationalists responded to this oppressive intrusion? Generously. They have attempted to enter into dialogue with the Order to reach some sort of compromise. This, however, has not been reciprocated by the Order, who believe they have an absolute

civil and cultural right to march, and to revile Catholics whilst they do so.

All this has, of course, gone on for countless years, but more recently the nationalist population have demonstrated their determination to resist being ignored by the British government. Initially, this took the form of setting up residents' committees opposing sectarian marches and lately they have formalised their opposition with the election of local government councillors to represent their views.

The new British government must act to ensure that the civil rights of the nationalist population are no longer abused at the whim of the Orange Order. Sympathetic noises from Mo Mowlam are not good enough - it has to be followed through with political action. In Britain we need to work to expose Orangeism for what it is; an ideology based on exclusion and oppression and as a vehicle for the social advancement of Unionists. We need to educate our politicians, and do everything we can to support the nationalist community.

Welfare Work - helping prisoners' families

Fuascailt members have been very active in facilitating visits to the London area of relatives of Republican prisoners in England. This is the sort of work which, though vitally important to our campaign, often goes unnoticed. Relatives coming to this country for visits or to attend court appearances have a number of obstacles to overcome; firstly, there is the huge expense and the often arduous journeys involved. Then they often face harassment under the racist PTA, and this can make journeys - especially the passing through ports - a traumatic experience. They also often suffer loneliness and isolation whilst here and for many it is their first time in England.

Fuascailt has since its inception helped in meeting friends and relatives at airports and transporting them to prisons and courts or to a supporter's home where they can stay for the duration of their visit. This has provided them with a secure and friendly base whilst they are in London. Members have accompanied relatives to prison and court. Once the visit or court appearance is over the main problem for families and friends can be boredom; we try to alleviate this by keeping them occupied whilst they are here. It is especially important that first-time visitors are met and made to feel at ease and welcome in what is a very hostile and threatening environment for them.

With the continued denial of visiting rights to remand prisoners in Belmarsh, it is heart-breaking to see families travelling often hundreds of miles in difficult circumstances to simply catch a glimpse of a loved one. As one relative wrote recently; "... if he is going to court I'll come over just to see how he looks. It's sad isn't it when we're reduced to getting a glimpse of each other across a court room."

Fuascailt makes a monthly donation of £100 to An Cumman Cabhrach in England for use in welfare work and also donates larger sums from time to time when funds allow. Relatives have expressed their thanks for the help Fuascailt members and supporters have given to them when they are in London. Funds, as always, are needed for this important work.

Transfer of two more prisoners approved

On 21 May the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, announced that he had approved the transfer of POW Liam McCotter and miscarriage of justice victim Danny McNamee home to Ireland. However, as is usual with cases of transfer from Britain, this is on a purely 'temporary' basis, meaning that the transfer can be revoked at any time, and that those prisoners under transfer order are not permitted the same privileges as other POWs.

Martin McGuinness in a statement said "I hope that these transfers signal the beginning of more humane consideration by the British authorities towards Irish political prisoners. Those who have campaigned on their behalf must be congratulated and should continue their efforts to have all Irish prisoners repatriated pending their eventual release."

EX-POW PATRICK KELLY DIES



Fuascailt black flag protest outside Downing Street in memory of POW Patrick Kelly

Pat Kelly, an Irish POW who developed skin cancer whilst imprisoned in the Special Secure Unit of Whitemoor prison has died at his home in Co. Laois. Pat became the subject of an international campaign last year after the British government refused to provide him with appropriate medical care or allow his transfer to a prison closer to his family until he had become terminally ill.

In a statement Gerry Adams expressed his deepest sympathy for Pat's family and friends: "To his partner Angela, his family and to all his many friends and comrades I extend by sincerest sympathy and condolences. Despite serious ill health Pat never gave up and continued to provide inspiration to people everywhere, particularly all those who campaigned so strenuously for his release. His death is a sad loss to all of us."

"Pat's death highlights in the most tragic way possible the attitude of the British government to Irish Republican prisoners. Despite the British knowing for months the full extent of Pat's serious illness they refused to give him the obviously urgent medical treatment which he required and kept him in the appalling conditions of the Special Secure Units. The callous neglect and deliberate inaction of the British government clearly contributed to his death."

"The fact that this was going on while an IRA cessation was in place is a stark example of the British government's attitude to the peace process. Pat Kelly's death gives added urgency and impetus to the need to address the question of prisoners and their treatment, particularly those held in jails in England"

Sinn Féin's POW department also issued a statement offering their sympathy to Pat's family. Their spokesperson said that his death was "a tragedy for those who knew and loved him, but even more so in the knowledge that his death was avoidable. The responsibility for Paddy's death lies firmly with the British Government and particularly with the former Home Secretary Michael Howard."

"Paddy Kelly was a life-long Republican who showed courage and determination in everything he did."

DIARMUID O'NEILL CAMPAIGN

PO Box 3239, London NW5 1RA

Summer 1997

In the early hours of 23 September 1996 armed police raid a house in west London and fatally shot Diarmuid O'Neill. Initial statements by the police justified his death by stating that he was killed during a shoot-out. Subsequent reports, however, confirmed that Diarmuid was completely unarmed and that there was no shoot-out. Why then were these misleading claims made by the police?

The treatment of Diarmuid after the shooting also need to be investigated. Photos of blood smeared on the front steps of the house indicate that Diarmuid was dragged, seriously wounded, down the steps to the pavement, rather than being treated where he lay or removed on a stretcher. Another issue is the excessive use of CS gas during the operation.

The Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill Campaign asks that this incident be fully examined by way of an independent public inquiry and the results of such an inquiry published. We would expect the terms of reference to such an inquiry to include:

- Why was the decision made to shoot Diarmuid and who was responsible for that decision?

- Why did the police lie (a) about a non-existent 'shoot-out' (b) in insisting that Diarmuid was armed, and (c) in claiming that there were explosives on the premises?
- Why was Diarmuid not asked to attend a police station if he was under suspicion? His whereabouts were well known in the local area.
- Why was his brother, Shane, held for 5 days without charge and only then released on police bail?
- Why was Karmele, Diarmuid's partner, not allowed to return to her home 3 months after this incident?

The Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill campaign is a broad-based campaign which includes members of Diarmuid's family, friends, trade unions, community groups, human rights and campaign groups. If you would like to join, affiliate or find out more about the campaign, Please write to Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill Campaign, BM Box D'O'Neill, London WC1N 3XX

The Justice for Diarmuid O'Neill Campaign are organising a benefit social for Diarmuid's family, to be held at the Grosvenor Rooms, 92 Walm Lane, London NW2 on Friday 18 July from 9pm-2am. Tickets £5 door/£2 advance.

WHO SAID WHAT

"The government of the United Kingdom must recognise that emergency laws such as those enforced in Northern Ireland often serve to sustain political violence by creating an environment in which human rights are routinely violated."

New York based Human Rights Watch report into the RUC, *Irish Times*, Thursday 29 May

"We'll be the Republican boys. We'd all be at one on knowing what's needed - and that's a British declaration of intent to withdraw."

Harry Blaney, speaking about himself, Sinn Fein's Caoimhghim O'Caolain and Independent Jackie Healy-Rae, all newly elected TDs, *The Times*, Monday 9 June.

"Our oponents talk about trains leaving stations, but if we aren't on the train it's going absolutely nowhere"
Martin McGuinness MP, speaking on 7 June.

"The DUP doesn't care about the 30,000 people who have voted to destroy this city. Sinn Fein are lepers and will remain lepers."

Sammy Wilson of DUP, *Andersontown News*, Saturday 7 June

"Prior decommissioning smacks of humiliation and does not foster an atmosphere conducive to engaging in negotiation. Few, if any, in Irish history have decommissioned"

Dr David Gallagher, lay secretary of Methodist Church Northern Ireland executive, addressing its annual conference, *Irish Times*, Tuesday 10 June.

"They were almost mesmerised by the behaviour of the NI politicians, by the fear on the part of some of even occupying the same physical space as others."

Professor Padraig O'Malley on the reaction of the South African hosts to the behaviour of Unionists at the recent conference.

FUASCAILT

BENEFIT SOCIAL

Thursday 26 June 1997
8.00pm till late

Irish Ballads from:

Banna Strand

VICTORIA PUB

HOLLOWAY ROAD, LONDON N7

BUFFET INCLUDED

Tickets £3/£2 advance
(from Fuascailt)

All proceeds in aid of Fuascailt and
Irish Prisoners Welfare

CAN YOU HELP?

Fuascailt, which presently operates out of members homes, urgently needs a permanent office to help make our campaign more effective. Can you donate a small office or other space in or around central London which could be used by the group? If so, please contact us. In addition, any offers of donated stationery (envelopes, paper, etc.) and photocopying facilities would be gratefully received.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and letters, as well as articles on prisoner and more general republican issues. Please submit these to Fuascailt at PO Box 3239, London NW1 1RA