

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



UIMH 281 MEÁN FÓMHAIR – SEPTEMBER 2010 <http://saoirse.info> €2 (£1.50 stg, USA \$35 p.a.)

**WHITELINE PICKET
FOR
MARTIN COREY
POLITICAL HOSTAGE
MAGHABERRY JAIL**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
EDWARD STREET, LURGAN
CO ARMAGH, 2pm**

Breakthrough in prison campaign

FOLLOWING a prison protest in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim which began on April 4 the Republican prisoners secured an agreement which addressed key demands, such as strip-searching and free association, and ended their protest on August 12 last.

The agreement, if fully implemented, will provide the platform for the attainment of full political status.

The mediators involved included the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Creggan Enterprises from Derry and the Dialogue Advisory Group, based in Amsterdam, Holland.

The Republican prisoners began their protest on Easter Sunday, April 4 when they occupied the dining area of Roe House. This lasted for two days following which the prisoners were placed under a 23-hour lock-up. From there the protest escalated into a 'dirty protest' on May 30 when the men smashed toilets within their cells in protest at their continued lockdown.

This resulted in conditions which were a hazard to the health of the men. Their visits were disrupted and blocked because they refused to be strip-searched before taking a visit.

On June 11 the Six-County Prisoner Ombudsman Pauline McCabe called for an immediate review into locking-down prisoners as a response to staffing problems.

On April 25 and again on June 27 the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton visited Maghaberry and met with the OC of the Republican Prisoners. Former President and current Patron of Republican Sinn Féin Ruairi Ó Brádaigh joined him on the second visit.



• Protesters outside Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim on a recent picket in support of the Republican prisoners' campaign for political status.

The protest mobilised Republicans throughout Ireland and indeed in Europe. Protests, pickets and meetings were held. On May 29 and again on August 7 Republican Sinn Féin defied the RUC/PSNI when marches were held in Belfast. Republican activists took to the streets to break down the wall of silence, which Stormont, Leinster House and Westminster attempted to erect around Maghaberry. In Vienna, Austria leaflets were distributed and a picket held. The message was sent out loud and clear that in 2010 there were still political prisoners in Ireland because of British rule.

However, the agreement

brokered by the independent mediators is being undermined by the Six-County Prison Officers Association (POA) who are dragging their heels on implementing the agreement.

The Republican prisoners have refused to rise to such blatant provocation but instead have insisted through the offices of the mediators on the full implementation of the agreement.

The mediators are to continue to monitor the situation in the jail.

All those who joined in the campaign in support of the prisoners are to be commended while the leadership and calm adherence to principle of the

Republican prisoners in the face of the vile and inhumane conditions in Maghaberry must be acknowledged and saluted. In a statement following the end of the protest Des Dalton pointed

out: "By their actions the Republican prisoners delivered a message which reverberated throughout the world, that British rule in Ireland will never be normal or acceptable."

REPUBLICAN RALLY

**EVE OF
ALL-IRELAND
SATURDAY**

SEPTEMBER 18



**Assemble
Garden of
Remembrance**

Dublin

1.45pm



ANNUAL BOBBY SANDS LECTURE

Monday, September 13

WYNN'S HOTEL, ABBEY STREET, DUBLIN

Speaker: Republican Sinn Féin

President DES DALTON

All welcome; Admission free

Martin Corey — political hostage

REPUBLICAN Martin Corey from Lurgan, Co Armagh was sentenced to life imprisonment in December 1973.

He was 19 years old. He spent the next 19 years in jail and was finally released, without signing anything, in June 1992. For the next 18 years he worked in his own business until without warning on April 16 this year he was taken back into custody. No reason was given to Martin at the time or since for his return to jail.

A campaign for the release of Martin Corey is underway beginning with a



• **Martin Corey** picket in Lurgan on September 11. (See notice above.)

Legality of Shell pipeline disputed

A DISPUTE over the legality of a section of Shell's Corrib gas pipeline, which has already been laid, dominated a resumed Bord Pleanála oral hearing in north Mayo on August 24.

Held under the Strategic Infrastructure Act, the hearing is considering Shell's third proposed route for the final section of the Corrib gas pipeline, linking the offshore pipe landfall at Glengad to the gas terminal at Ballinaboy.

It is also considering compulsory acquisition orders to land applied for by Shell on behalf of Corrib gas partners Statoil and Vermilion Energy.

A previous route approval sought by the developers was rejected by the board late last year, as half of the 9km route was deemed "unacceptable" on safety grounds due to proximity to housing.

Almost 40 oral submissions are due to be heard on this revised plan two from local clergy who have opposing views, Fr Michael Nallen of Kilcomman parish who lives in the affected area, and Fr Kevin Hegarty of Kilmore, who is a member of Shell's third-level scholarship board.

Clarification on the legality of a section of pipeline already laid between the high water mark at Glengad and the cliff-face was sought.

When Bord Pleanála turned down Shell's plan late last year, it ruled that this section should have been submitted for planning approval. However, Mayo County Council maintains officially that it is

exempt from planning permission. Shell's legal team agree and say it was laid under consents awarded by the Government in 2002 under the Gas Act.

The controversial section, which Eoin Ó Leithín, an electronic engineer and member of Rosspoint Solidarity Camp, described at the hearing as "probably the most dangerous part" of the high-pressure link, led to a walkout at last year's hearing and subsequent clashes between protesters, gardai and Shell security.

Fr Nallen said that people had been "badly treated by the agents of the State" and added: "We need absolute clarity."

In a presentation on behalf of Shell, Ciarán Butler, technical director of RPS Consulting Engineers, said a major objective in the revised environmental impact statement was "to identify a construction method for Sruwaddaon Bay which would not have a significant impact on this designated conservation site whilst at the same time balancing community and project considerations".

He said: "The route is at least 234m from existing dwellings. There is a significantly greater separation distance between existing

dwellings and the route now proposed than was in the case with the previously approved route (70m) and the pipeline route proposed in 2009 (140m)," he said.

The new route involves



boring a tunnel under the estuary, with an external diameter of 4.2m for a 508mm (20 inch) pipe. The new route will avoid lands at Rosspoint, Mr Butler said.

CORRIB GAS CONSENT TIMELINE

1996: Corrib gas field discovery 83km off Mayo coast confirmed by Enterprise Energy Ireland.

April and May 2002: Development plan for Corrib gas field approved by minister, including construction of gas export pipeline, then exempted from planning, and signs 34 compulsory orders for access to land on the pipeline route. Shell takes over Enterprise Energy Ireland.

April 2003: An Bord Pleanála turns down application for onshore terminal at Ballinaboy, Co

Mayo, due to health and safety concerns.

October 2004: New planning application for Corrib onshore terminal given final approval by planning board.

June 29th, 2005: Residents' concerns over first proposed onshore pipeline route, exempt from planning, lead to jailing of Rosspoint Five for 94 days.

July 30th, 2005: Shell directed to dismantle an illegally constructed 3km section of onshore pipeline.

July 2006: Mediation fails to resolve dispute but subsequent report recommends pipeline route be modified to take it away from houses at Rosspoint.

November 2007: Restoration of special area of conservation ordered at Glengad following unauthorised drilling there during investigative work for revised pipeline route. Environmental Protection Agency issues licence for Ballinaboy terminal.

February 2009: Shell seeks permission for revised pipeline route avoiding houses in Rosspoint.

May 2009: Bord Pleanála hearing opens.

November 2009: Bord Pleanála deems half of modified route unacceptable due to proximity to housing, but gives approval in principle if alterations made.

May 31, 2010: Third route under Sruwaddaon estuary applied for by Corrib gas partners.

Gearrscéalta

Shots fired at RUC in Lurgan

MEMBERS of the British colonial police came under attack from gunfire and petrol bombs in Lurgan on August 14.

Two shots may have been fired at the RUC in the Kilwilkie estate, where a small number of protesters gathered.

There had been a number of security alerts across the town, including one at Brownlow Terrace and another at Lake Street.

Earlier, the railway line between Lurgan and Moira was closed as a precaution and a controlled explosion was carried out at a builder's yard in Kilmaine Street, although nothing suspicious was found.

Elaborate hoax brings city to a standstill

AN alert which disrupted traffic in Derry city ended at around 10pm on August 3, after eight hours of disruption.

Both tiers of Craigavon Bridge were sealed off around lunch time on Thursday causing massive traffic chaos throughout the city.

The device was the size of a lunch box, wrapped in black tape, had a working clock attached to it and a red light at the top.

It was attached to the bridge by magnets close to a gas pipe that runs beneath Craigavon Bridge.

Murder weapon handed back to UDA by RUC

A BRITISH HET (Historical Enquiries team) report into the murders of five nationalists in the Seán Graham's bookmaker's, revealed on September 2 that one of the guns used by the UDA gang had been handed back by the RUC to the UDA.

On February 5, 1992, two UFF gunmen entered Seán Graham's bookmakers on Belfast's Ormeau Road, and in cold blood shot dead four men and a 15-year-old teenager. Jack Duffin, 66; Willie McManus, 54; Christie Doherty, 52; Peter Magee, 18 and James Kennedy, 15, were shot dead in the attack.

The investigation carried out by the Historical Enquiry Team found that a Browning pistol used in the murders had been given back to the loyalist killer gang by the RUC.

That action is heavily criticised in the HET report. The weapon was subsequently used by the UDA in a number of murders.

No-one has ever been convicted with the Ormeau Road murders.

RUC/PSNI complaints at eight-year high

ACCORDING to British Police Ombudsman Al Hutchinson's annual report on September 2, complaints against the British colonial police in the Six Occupied Counties were at their highest in eight years.

More than 3,500 complaints about RUC members' actions were lodged in 2009, an increase of 14%.

Al Hutchinson said the figure mirrored trends identified by the British Policing Board which indicated a declining level of satisfaction with policing service.

He said: "Quite clearly the public who interact with the police are increasingly unhappy and this is reflected in the increasing number of complaints".

Results of Dublin raffle

AUGUST results: 1st prize ticket no 527; 2nd prize no 199; 3rd prize no 414; 4th prize no 271; 5th prize no 545; 6th prize no 409; 7th prize no 619; 8th prize no 422.

SAOIRSE OCTOBER edition published 6/10/2010

Irish prisoner ill in foreign jail

IT was reported on September 6 that Irish Republican prisoner Michael Campbell, who has been held in appalling conditions in Lukiskes prison, Lithuania since early 2008, has now contracted the potentially deadly mosquito-borne disease malaria at the gaol. His condition is not good and his health is deteriorating rapidly.

Conditions at the Lukiskes prison have been described as medieval and one of the worst in Europe, if not the world. Temperatures in the ancient

cells are freezing cold in the winter and stifling hot in the summer.

The jail has reportedly been used for torture of CIA

extraordinary rendition suspects.

During his long internment at Lukiskes prison Michael has endured hellish conditions, including being confined to a tiny and freezing cold cell with open hole in the floor to use as a toilet.

He was held for some time in a cell with prisoners who openly smoked drugs and he was forced to stand beside a

broken window in the depth of winter to breathe fresh air.

Michael is held in his cell 23 hours a day and has not seen any of his family since before his arrest.

As his trial is being repeatedly delayed, he cannot apply for repatriation to Ireland.

He is not allowed phone calls and the only person who can see him is his solicitor.



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

- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

**We need your support. Our website address is:
<http://irishfreedom.net>**

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €1,500

To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive.

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.

Gearrscéalta



• (left to right) Labhrás Ó Murchú, Séamus Leahy, the author Martin Dwyer and Jim O'Donnell at the launch of *Death Before Dishonour* in Cashel on September 1.

Death Before Dishonour

SPEAKING at the launch of Martin (Bob) O'Dwyer's sixth book *Death Before Dishonour* — which deals with the 124 murders committed by Free State forces during the Civil War or Counter-Revolution of 1922/23 — the Patron of Republican Sinn Féin Ruairí Ó Brádaigh said that the brutal events chronicled in the book were something which no Irish person wished to see.

Quoting Brian O'Higgins he said: "There was no condemnation of this terrible deed, [The murder of Joe Bergin on Milltown bridge in Co Kildare] which showed to what depths of degradation Irishmen can fall when they abandon the straight path and follow in the footsteps of Ireland's enemy to whom they have sold themselves body and soul."

Martin O'Dwyer's previous books include *Seventy-Seven of Mine* which tells the story of each of the 77 men executed by the Free State in 1922/23.

26-County police to get powers to police overseas

MEMBERS of the Emergency Response Unit, the 26-County Garda elite squad, could be deployed on foreign streets as a result of a change in the law, according to a report in the *Irish Times* on August 3.

The legislation is being introduced to bring the 26 Counties into line with the law in other countries.

The legislative measure will allow the ERU to be dispatched to another European state to help local police tackle what it terms a "terrorist or criminal-related crisis". It will also allow the authorities here to request the assistance of a special intervention unit from another European force "if this country is confronted by a similar crisis". The measure was initiated in the EU following the 9/11 and Madrid attacks.

A member state can seek such specialist assistance where a "criminal or terrorist offence" poses a serious threat to the security of the country. The change amending the law has been included in the new Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Loyalist parade forced through Rasharkin

A LOYALIST band parade through through the nationalist town of Rasharkin, Co Antrim on August 20 was delayed for three hours because of a security alert.

A British army bomb disposal team carried out an examination of a suspect device found behind the Orange Hall in Rasharkin at around 7pm.

The device was declared a hoax and the parade eventually started at around 10.30pm.

Nationalist residents in Rasharkin complained about the intimidation which took place from the British colonial police. A number of nationalist protesters were pushed back unnecessarily after the parade had passed yet no action was taken against the 1,000 loyalists who were allowed to gather at the bottom of the village.

Originally, the Ballymacconnelly Flute Band was to parade through the village only once, and be permitted to make a return by another route.

However, because of the hoax and the disruption that followed, the bands were directed back the same way, rather than via a new route down Main Street in the village before returning by Moneylock Road, Bann Road and Glebe Road to its originally assembly point as dictated by the British Parades Commission.

There were some scuffles between the RUC and protesters.

Meanwhile a GAA club in Rasharkin was vandalised with sectarian graffiti in an attack on August 16.

Explosives were daubed on the walls and gates of St Mary's GAC at the Townhill Road on the outskirts of the village.

Protest against Blair book-signing

SEVERAL hundred people turned out on Dublin's O'Connell Street, Dublin to protest at the presence of Tony Blair at Eason's Bookstore on Saturday, September 4, despite the pouring rain.

The protesters included members of Republican Sinn Féin, the Irish anti-War Movement, and The Irish Palestinian Solidarity Movement among others.

Tony Blair had to be escorted by a large force of the 26-County police to and from the book signing such was the opposition to his appearance in Dublin.

Those who queued to buy the book were subjected to a full body search and had to pass through an airport-type scanner.

Shoes and eggs were thrown at Blair as he attended the signing. Campaigners also chanted: "Hey hey Tony hey, how many kids have you killed today?" and shouted: "Tony Blair war criminal" and "Blood on your hands".

In a statement headed *British war criminal not welcome*, Kevin Devlin, Publicity Officer, Republican Sinn Féin, outlined the organisations opposition to a visit by Tony Blair to promote his new book.

Kevin Devlin said that "Republican Sinn Féin condemns unreservedly the visit to Dublin of the war criminal and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Given the continued occupation of six of our counties, a man who played a leading role in cementing British rule in Ireland can never be welcome here.

"His legacy of invasion, occupation and subjugation reaches from Ireland to Iraq to Afghanistan.

Kate O'Sullivan, an activist from the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC), made a citizen's arrest of Tony Blair at the book signing in

that come to this country should be prosecuted under Universal Jurisdiction, and if the police are unwilling to act then it is up to ordinary people to make citizen's arrests."



■ Protesters being attacked by police outside Eason's book store in Dublin's O'Connell Street during Tony Blair's book-signing on September 4.

"But like the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, we refuse to be subjected to British rule. Blair is here to make money from a book, money which he intends to donate to the British Legion, an organisation that supports the British Military.

"That same British Military has 5,000 troops in Ireland who are here to protect British interests as they have always done.

"Meanwhile Republicans are harassed, imprisoned, and in the case of Martin Corey interned as a political hostage, all in the name of a crumbling Empire".

He called on people not to buy the book, "Boycott the book: refuse to financially support the occupation forces".

A book of condolences was opened during the week in O'Connell Street and elicited a good response.

Eason's. However the Gardai refused to act on the arrest, instead detaining her for half an hour.

Afterwards she said: "After I went through airport-like security to get to Mr Blair, I told him I was there to make a citizen's arrest on him for war crimes committed in Iraq. Mr Blair looked down and I was immediately grabbed by five security men and dragged away.

"As I was being dragged I cried out that there is half a million people dead in Iraq, that he had broken the Fourth Geneva Convention and that he was a war criminal. Mr Blair refused to even look at me.

"After that I was detained for about half an hour in a stairwell without being charged with anything. I believe that all war criminals

The protest also focused on Tony Blair's key role in launching the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; on Blair's with the war crimes and human rights abuses committed by Israel against the Palestinians; and the continued complicity of the 26-County Administration with the wars launched by former US president George Bush and Tony Blair, in allowing US troops to use Shannon airport.

Four men are to appear in court later this month following the protest.

The four, two aged in their late teens and two aged in their 30s, were taken to Store Street Garda station where they were charged with public order offences and later released. They are due to appear in court on September 30.

Thomas Harte remembered in Lurgan

THE 70th anniversary of the murder of Thomas Harte of Lurgan was marked by the local Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin named after him.

Thomas Harte and his comrade Paddy McGrath were executed by a Free State firing squad on September 6, 1940. He was 25 years old.

On September 6, 2010 up to 40 people gathered at the entrance to St Mary's Cemetery in Lurgan and marched behind a small colour party to the grave of Thomas Harte.

Martin Duffy chaired the proceedings. Seán Moloney laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement and Ashleen McKenna laid a wreath on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

A decade of the rosary was

recited by Nuala Moore and a minutes silence was observed.

Fergal Moore, Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin gave the oration.

He outlined Tom's involvement with the Republican Movement and pointed out that the Fianna Fáil regime at the time under de Valera was ruthless in its attempts to break the Republican Movement.

"On August 16, 1940 Tom Harte, Paddy McGrath and Tom Hunt attempted to escape capture and came out of the house in Rathgar, Dublin firing revolvers and a Thompson sub-machine gun.

Two Special Branchmen were killed.

"They were tried under the new Emergency Powers Act and on September 6, 1940 Lt General Patrick McGrath and Staff Captain Thomas Harte GHQ Staff IRA were shot to death in Mountjoy Jail at 6.45am.

"There are distinct parallels between the Ireland of the 1940s and today. Then as now former Republicans administer power at the behest of Britain and are actively trying to destroy the flame of Republican resistance. But now just as then there are those who are willing to take up this torch and fight on.

"We must fight now or all that has been sacrificed before will have been for nothing. Future generations will not

accept an extinguished flame. Neither will they accept one tainted by cowardice and egotism. We can't tell future generations to fight for us, we must show them that we fought for them.

"We must fight and re-establish the All Ireland Republic to defeat the occupation of Ireland and the corruption of Leinster House. Brian O'Higgins, speaking at the re-interment of Paddy McGrath in 1948 said: Their blood cries out for only one vengeance - the restoration of the suppressed Republic of Ireland."

The proceedings were brought to a close with recently-released POW Ciaran Collins leading the assembled crowd in Amhrán na bhFiann.

For The Record

WED. AUGUST 4: A booby trap bomb was found under a car belonging to a member of the British Army in Bangor, Co Down.

THURS. AUGUST 5: The seasonally adjusted Live Register total (in the 26 Counties) increased from 444,000 in June to 452,500 in July, an increase of 8,500. In the year to July 2010 there was an unadjusted increase in the Live Register of 34,403 (+8.0%). This compares with an increase of 37,420 (+9.0%) in the year to June 2010. There was an increase of 3,900 males and 4,600 females in the seasonally adjusted series in July.

FRI. AUGUST 6: Torrens Knight, the man found guilty of the UFF Greysteel murders in 1993, was released from prison by a decision of the Sentence Review Committee. Knight received 12 life sentences in all for the murders at Greysteel in Co Derry and four other murders. He had his licence revoked last year when he was sentenced for an attack on two sisters in a Coleraine bar.

Ten homes were evacuated in the Campion Court area of Gobnascale, Derry as a van, which was parked suspiciously was examined.

SUN. AUGUST 8: A bomb was found under the car of an RUC policewoman in Kilkeel in County Down.

Houses were evacuated in the Gobnascale area of Derry as a suspect van was examined. There were reports that masked men fired shots in the same area.

MON. AUGUST 9: Six loyalist flags were erected over the new motorway bridge at Newry, Co Down just one week after the road was opened.

The British Secretary of State in the Occupied Six Counties Owen Paterson, denied the government is in discussions with what it terms "dissident Republicans".

Six members of the Gardaí (26-County police force) are to travel to Afghanistan to train the Afghan police. Three of the six are members of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU). The EU launched the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (Eupol Afghanistan) in June 2007 which instructs countries to provide training to the Afghan Police force.

TUES. AUGUST 10: A booby trap bomb partially explodes under the car of a former RUC member in Cookstown, County Tyrone.

WED. AUGUST 11: A fossil find in Ethiopia proves that our ancestors (described as ape-like creatures) were using stone tools to butcher meat 3.4million years ago, 800,000 years earlier than previously thought.

THURS. AUGUST 12: The protest by Republican POWs in Roe House, Maghaberry jail for political status was settled when the prisoners and the authorities agreed to a proposal from mediators.

The family of Majella O'Hare, shot dead with a plastic bullet by the British Army in August 1976 in south Armagh, were "overjoyed" to hear that the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) found that 'there was no gunman near Majella as claimed' and told the British Army to apologise to the family.

Conor Murphy Provo MLA said that the RUC/PSNI was "conservative and male dominated" and he would have "reservations" if his children wanted to join up.

One of three pipe bombs, left in Antrim town over the last 48-hours, partially exploded in Antrim town. There were no injuries. It is believed the bombs were planted by the UFF.

Bonn Orange Hall was gutted by fire during the night.

A cultural boycott of Israel was launched with more than 150 Irish artists stating that they will not perform or exhibit in Israel or accept any funding from institutions linked to the Israeli government.

Up to 100 jobs look set to be lost at the Keith Prowse call centre in Lisfannon, Buncrana, Co Donegal.

Hundreds of workers in the Health Service in the west of Ireland in Galway, Donegal, Mayo



• *Majella O'Hare's brother Michael and mother Mary hold a picture of her. She was murdered by the British army near her home in south Armagh in 1976. On August 12 the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) found that 'there was no gunman near Majella as claimed' and told the British Army to apologise to the family (see August 12 below).*

and Sligo, are to be let go from their jobs.

An Taisce called on the National Roads Authority (NRA) to stop using "false data" to justify its major roads programme.

Martin McGuinness claimed that the British and Irish governments are in secret talks with what he termed "dissident Republicans".

Calls were made for the Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill to be scrapped after some major elements of it had to be dropped, including the one on open-air and other public meetings. There were 420 responses/complaints to the proposed legislation proposed by Stormont.

The job of Governor was advertised for Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim with a salary of £80,550 pa.

FRI. AUGUST 13: Fewer than half of the 2009 undergraduates in the 26 Counties are in employment.

SAT. AUGUST 14: More than 8,000 people attend the Hands Around our Hospital protest at Roscommon hospital.

A bomb in a wheelie-bin exploded in Lurgan. Three children were slightly injured.

MON. AUGUST 16: Eighteen thousand operations were cancelled in the 26 Counties in 2009.

A man appeared in court in Derry charged with possession of firearms in suspicious circumstances and with intent to endanger life. The charges relate to the bomb that was left at Strand Road RUC barracks, Derry on August 9.

A suspicious object found on the railway line at Lurgan turned out to be a hoax.

Politicians and high profile public figures in the Occupied Six Counties are to be issued with mirrors to check for under-car bombs.

TUES. AUGUST 17: Up to 2,000 people protested at Portluncula hospital in Ballinasloe, Co Galway over proposed cuts and the downgrading of the hospital.

Local authorities in the southeast and Midwest called on Iarnród Éireann not to close the Rosslare-Waterford rail line.

The funeral took place in Cork of [housing organisation] Threshold founder Franciscan Friar Fr Donal O'Mahony. In 1975 Fr O'Mahony acted as mediator between the Gardaí and the IRA who kidnapped Dutch industrialist Tiede Herrema.

The chairman of the Policing Board in the Occupied Six Counties is to be quizzed over a controversial land deal.

The SDLP called for the RUC/PSNI to take back intelligence gathering the Occupied Six Counties from MI5.

TUES. AUGUST 17: Two security alerts were dealt with in Belfast and two in Co Derry.

FRI. AUGUST 20: Cuts and a freeze on funding in the education sector in the Occupied Six Counties is leaving school with no money to fix basic problems, including installing wheelchair ramps, proper toilets or hot water.

The Orange parade in Rasharkin, Co Antrim was delayed for three hours after a bomb

warning.

Gary Donnelly, Derry was released on bail, having been charged under anti-terrorism legislation relating to two pipe bombs attacks and a shooting in Derry city last year.

Freelance journalist Eamonn MacDermott had his sim card returned which was taken on Thursday by the RUC/PSNI investigating RIRA activity.

MON. AUGUST 23: The Judicial Council Bill was published in the 26 Counties. The Bill will provide for the establishment of two new bodies, a Judicial Council and a Judicial Conduct Committee.

Rights to land in Rosses Point, Co Sligo are being claimed by a Church of Ireland Vicar and his wife. Some local people received letters from representatives of the Middleton Estate – original owners of the ground rent on the property who left Ireland 90 years ago – telling them they had 28 days to get off the property.

The Mountjoy Square area of Dublin city is to be declared an architectural conservation area by Dublin City Council.

Monica McWilliams, head of the Human Rights Commission in the occupied Six Counties, resigned from her post a year earlier than expected.

TUES. AUGUST 24: Five activists from the group Désobéissance Civile Belgique occupied a crane in the centre of Brussels to protest against the Treaty of Lisbon, which according to them "rejects the European member states and has been ratified without consulting the citizens".

An public inquiry is to be held in the Occupied Six Counties into the Eirgrid plan to link the Six and 26 Counties with electricity after Eirgrid were forced to withdraw its planning application at a public hearing in Monaghan when 'legal flaws' were found.

Prison officers in Mountjoy prison, Dublin walked out after a prisoner was transferred from Castlereagh, shutting down the jail.

The report of the Claudy, Co Tyrone bombing in 1972 was released by Ombudsman Al Hutchinson.

The Brazilian unit of Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell and Basf SE were fined total of 622million reais (279 million euro) after workers suffered health problems because of contamination at a plant in the San Paulo state from the 1970s to 2002.

The Justice for the Forgotten Group in the 26 Counties is to hold a meeting to decide its future. It is also to meet with the British Secretary of State in the Occupied Six Counties Owen Paterson, to discuss the group's campaign for full disclosure of all British files on a number of attacks in the 26 Counties.

THURS. AUGUST 26: The Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) at their delegates meeting in July unanimously agreed to back the ETUC Day of Action on September 29.

GAA Clubs in the Occupied Six Counties were warned of new threats from loyalist organisations.

SAT. AUGUST 28: The Annual H-Block Commemoration took place in Bundoran Co Donegal.

According to the prison service in the Occupied Six Counties almost £200,000 has been spent in Maghaberry jail over the political status campaign by Republican POWs since Easter Sunday this year.

Vandals smashed almost 100 windows in the Garvagh High School, Co Derry during the night.

SUN. AUGUST 29: The death has taken place of Prof Barry Raftery, emeritus professor of Archaeology at UCD. Prof Raftery, who was recognised as the country's leading scholar on the archaeology of later prehistoric societies. He was appointed to the chair of Celtic archaeology in UCD in 1996.

MON. AUGUST 30: Speaking to the *Irish News*, Bishop Edward Daly said that the presumption of guilt in the case of Fr James Chesney, Claudy, is wrong. "The once sacrosanct presumption of innocence has been dispensed with and replaced with a presumption of guilt," he said.

The RUC/PSNI was accused of provoking violence which ended with the arrests of 19 people in Ballycastle, Co Antrim. An independent member of Moyle District Council

said "This was heavy handed policing. They were very aggressive and the batons were out before the arrests", He claimed that the claimed the RUC/PSNI over-reacted and goaded some of the young people, that they "just intimidated the young people".

The Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and the Department of Transport are to increase passenger charges at Shannon Airport by 33% from November 1.

Senator Ivor Callely who resigned from Fianna Fáil on August 24 after a party disciplinary committee found him guilty of "conduct unbecoming" following an investigation into his mobile phone expenses claims, admitted he claimed €87,000 in mileage expenses over two years while he was junior minister for health and living in Dublin. The mileage expenses are not under investigation but his mobile phone expenses and register of interests are being examined.

Video and phone contact was made with the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground since August 5 in San Jose Mine under Chile's Atacama Desert.

TUES. AUGUST 31: The death took place in Dublin after a short illness of actor Mick Lally.

Stormont Regional development minister Conor Murphy is to be quizzed by the Stormont assembly over his handling of the Northern Ireland Water crisis.

Four Israeli settlers were shot and killed in the West bank, Palestine. Hamas claimed responsibility.

The granting of permission to Rose Energy for an incinerator on the shores of Lough Neagh is to be challenged in court by the local community.

Three papers owned by the Alpha Newspapers Group [owned by Unionist John Taylor] are to close. The *Roscommon Champion*, the *Longford News* and the *Athlone Voice* have ceased trading from this week with the loss of 40 jobs.

US President Barack Obama confirmed that the US combat mission in Iraq is officially over. However 50,000 American troops will remain in Iraq in 94 bases.

Asylum seekers housed in Mosney, Co Meath held a demonstration in protest at their forced move to a hostel in Dublin without any consultation. Many of the asylum seekers have been living in Mosney for up to nine years. Demonstrations were held in various towns also in protest at the long delays in processing claims and their poor living conditions.

WED. SEPT. 1: Call-outs at the Eleventh night bonfires cost Fire and Rescue Services almost £900,000 last year.

The number of people signing on the live register in the 26 Counties rose again last month. Unemployment is now at 14%.

THURS. SEPT. 4: The European Commission suspended plans to allow the transfer to Israel and storage there of sensitive personal data on European citizens.

SAT. SEPT. 4: Four people were arrested after eggs, bottles and shoes were thrown at the former British prime minister Tony Blair as he attended his book signing in Dublin. Several hundred people protested outside Eason's bookshop, as O'Connell Street in the city centre was closed for four hours and a ring of steel erected around Eason's bookshop to accommodate Tony Blair.

SUN. SEPT 5: Armed Basque separatist group ETA says it will not "carry out armed actions" in its campaign for independence. It is unclear whether ETA is declaring a permanent or temporary ceasefire. In a video obtained exclusively by the BBC, the group said it took the decision several months ago "to put in motion a democratic process".

A state of emergency has been declared in Guatemala, where days of heavy rain have caused widespread flooding and landslides.

A British police officer is facing the sack after he was caught on CCTV throwing a woman into a cell in Wiltshire police station, badly injuring her.

Israeli aircraft carried out three bombing raids on the Gaza Strip, killing one man and injuring another. The Israeli army said the raids were in retaliation for attacks against Israelis over the past week.

Republican Sinn Féin salutes Republican POWs

FOLLOWING an agreement reached by the Republican POWs in Roe House and the Prison Authorities in relation to the conditions endured by the men over several years, Des Dalton President of Republican Sinn Féin said on August 12:

"Republican Sinn Féin salutes the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry prison on securing their right to political status. This victory for the Republican prisoners was secured as a result of a courageous and single-minded struggle. A protest, which they maintained since Easter Sunday, April 4.

"By their actions the Republican prisoners delivered a message, which reverberated, throughout the world that British rule in Ireland will never be normal or acceptable.

"We would also like to commend the mediators who facilitated this settlement for the diligence, integrity and commitment shown by them over the past number of weeks."

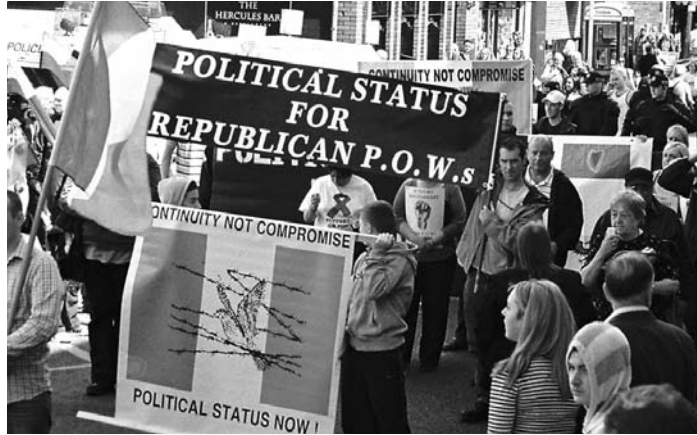
The POW Department of Republican Sinn Féin also welcomed the announcement on August 12, 2010 that the protest

at Maghaberry jail by the Republican POWs in Roe House was finally over.

The conditions that brought about the protest got worse as the protest escalated and the men endured a dreadful few months since they occupied the canteen on Easter Sunday last. This was the result of many years of campaigning for the restoration of political status signed away in 1998.

The POWs showed courage and resilience in their stand against the criminalisation policy of the British government and the petty vindictiveness of the screws. They endured more than any prisoner should be expected or asked to endure and they emerged victorious!

The politicians in Stormont were as unhelpful as the British government they work for. Having signed away political



• Republicans north and south took part in the struggle for political status in Maghaberry jail since the prisoners began their protest on Easter Sunday this year. An agreement was reached with the POWs on August 12 and the protest ended.

status they went on to implement British policy with vigour at the expense of the Republican prisoners. But the prisoners, like James Connolly, believed that Britain never had any right nor

will ever have any right in Ireland and so like many before them had to do, they fought a hard fight to be recognised as political status.

Republican Sinn Féin would

like to thank all those people who worked so hard on the outside to bring about this resolution. We thank the families, relatives, friends, comrades and ex-POWs, and supporters who 'pounded the

pavements' over the years as they campaigned for the political status the men were entitled to. They never lost faith and their hard work is now rewarded. To the families who endured many years of harassment and humiliation a special word of praise. Week after week, in hail, rain, snow and sunshine they visited Maghaberry jail and put up with whatever was thrown at them: hostility, the drugs dog, refusal of visits etc.

And we thank the facilitators who over the last few weeks put in such an effort which was eventually so successful. They gave of their time willingly and we appreciate the amount of effort they put in.

And finally we thank the prisoners themselves for having faith in us to work with and for them. You have shown the world what you are capable of. You took on the British establishment, you never gave in, you saw it through to the end.

Echoing the sentiments expressed by our President Des Dalton WE SALUTE THE PRISONERS!

Connecticut remembers the hunger strikers

ON AUGUST 20, 2010 the Waterbury Ct. AOH (Freedom for All Ireland Committee) held a commemoration at Bobby Sands Circle in Hartford, Connecticut to mark that historic occasion. The event was arranged by Joseph Flaherty of Waterbury AOH.

Two wreaths were laid at the foot of the Hunger Striker's monument by the Waterbury unit of the AOH and by representatives of Cumann Na Saoirse to signify the sacrifices made by Irish Hunger strikers and their families.

The *Star Spangled Banner* was sung by Raymond P Green of the Waterbury unit of the AOH in English and Irish. Following the National Anthem was the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic by Raymond

P Green in Irish, and Emmett McSweeney in English, both representatives of the Waterbury unit of the AOH. Joseph Flaherty read out the names and duration of the ten hunger strikers that died on the 1981 Hunger Strike.

The names of Michael Gaughan (1974) and Frank Stagg (1976) who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of the Irish Republic



were also added to the list.

Susan Kramer read an account from a wife of an Irish Republican Prisoner today. Her reading shed light on the everyday realities that the families of Irish Republican POW's endure.

Following the commemoration in Hartford CT. was a fundraiser for the Irish Republican POW's held in British-controlled jails in Ireland and England. The fundraiser was

sponsored by the Waterbury AOH.

The event which was held at the Local Public House, in Waterbury CT. was a huge success.

A huge thank you goes out to all who were involved in promoting this event, and a video has been produced by Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta for all who could not attend. Pictures and video available on www.irishfreedom.net

Memorial dedicated to women prisoners

THE great-grandson of a young Irishwoman who was transported to Australia after she was convicted of stealing was among the members of the public who gathered in Cobh on August 29 for a memorial service for the thousands of women who were transported out of Ireland and Britain to Australia.

TEACH DÁITHÍ Ó CONAILL RENOVATION FUND

The Trustees and Ard Chomhairle have decided to set up a fund to renovate the Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Oifig, Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Donations will be gratefully received from members and supporters of the true Republican cause. All moneys received will be acknowledged and receipted.

Donations should be sent to:
The Dáithí Ó Conaill Memorial Fund
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

The Roses from the Heart bonnet project is a unique memorial to the 25,566 convict women transported from 1788 to 1853.

The idea of Christina Henri, an artist affiliated with the University of Tasmania, the project involves making a bonnet, similar to that worn at the time, to commemorate the life and contribution each of the transported women made towards the founding of a new nation.

Colin Gray, the great-grandchild of convict Mary Connor, was among those who participated in a quayside ceremony where close to 200 bonnets bearing names of Irish women transported overseas were blessed by a local priest.

Colin Gray and his wife, Lou, travelled from New Zealand for the ceremony and for the launch of Suzanne Voytas' book, *Elizabeth 1828*, which features the story of his great-grandmother.

Mary Connor, a washer, was convicted of stealing a cloak in Castle Street, Cork, and sentenced to transportation on the *Elizabeth*, which sailed to



• Pat Hurley from Cork took part in the Roses from the Heart memorial in Cobh, Co Cork on August 29.

Australia 183 years ago this month.

Another woman, Mary Walsh's story, encapsulated in a letter written by her husband that she left behind in Ireland, formed a central part of the project. James Walsh addressed the love letter to his wife and posted it in 1843, it forms part of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Mary was sentenced to seven years in the penal colony of Van Diemen's Land in Tasmania for allegedly stealing cloth from a local shop in her native Clonmel.

Colin Gray proudly held up a bonnet bearing his great

Tasmania for allegedly stealing cloth from a local shop in her native Clonmel.

Ms Henri said that when she visited Cobh she was struck by how difficult life must have been for the loved ones of those left behind.

"If you keep in mind the image of those who were left behind and it was specifically said to me that fathers would stand and continue walking until the water was almost completely over their heads because they knew that was the last time they were going to sight those dear ones who were leaving. That is what speaks to the heart most."

Ms Henri has already received more than 16,000 bonnets made by people from as far away as Malaysia and South Africa. When 25,000 are collected they will go on worldwide display.

The Australian ambassador to Ireland, Bruce Davies, was in Cobh yesterday for the ceremony. Mr Davies said so much focus has been on men in all of our histories, that to have an event where the focus is on women is particularly apposite.

Dublin Administration targets the vulnerable again

NEW proposal that would see the unemployed "working in the community" for their welfare benefits are being considered by the Dublin Administration, it was announced on August 28. Those who refuse to work would be denied their payments.

Those targeted would be expected to work in areas like after school services, childcare, services for older people, environmental

projects and in the improvement of sports and tourist facilities; would work for 19.5 hours a week and receive around €210 in

return.

Not just are the most vulnerable being targeted and blackmailed into working for next to nothing, but dole recipients are being set against each other. Unlike those on Jobseeker's Allowance, participants will not be means tested, and they can work part-time

outside of the scheme as well.

This would also have an effect on workers seeking employment in the areas mentioned.

Unlike those on Jobseeker's Allowance, participants will not be means tested, and they can work part-time outside of

the scheme as well.

It is expected that the changes will involve up to 10,000 new participants this year, rising to 40,000 over the course of two years.

The Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed said it would be a mistake to make it mandatory for dole

claimants to have to work in order to receive their benefits.

The organisation said that the work that recipients are asked to do must be meaningful, beneficial to the person doing it and improves their prospect of finding a job in the future.

July Live Register figures analysis

THE seasonally-adjusted Live Register of numbers unemployed in the 26 Counties increased from 444,000 in June to 452,500 in July, an increase of 8,500.

In the year to July 2010 there was an unadjusted increase in the Live Register of 34,403 (+8.0%). This compares with an increase of 37,420 (+9.0%) in the year to June 2010.

Other features include: There was an increase of 3,900 males and 4,600 females in the seasonally adjusted series in July.

The average net weekly increase in the seasonally adjusted series in July 2010 was 1,700, which compares with a weekly increase of 1,275 in the previous month.

The standardised

unemployment rate in July was 13.7%. This compares with 12.9% in the first quarter of 2010, the latest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from the Quarterly

In July there were 149,728 Jobseekers Benefit (JB) claimants on the Live Register, a monthly increase of 3,651 (+2.5%). Jobseekers Allowance (JA) applications increased by 9,053 (+3.2%) to 291,594 in the month, while other registrants increased by 1,238 (+5.1%) to 25,502.

In the year to July 2010 JB claims fell by 47,260 (-24.0%), while JA

applications and other registrants both increased by 72,131 (+32.9%) and 9,532 (+59.7%) respectively.

In July there were 60,187 new registrants on the Live Register, which compares with 47,262 in the previous month.

New registrants consisted of 29,643 JB claims (49.3%), 27,625 JA applications (45.9%) and 2,919 other registrants (4.8%). It should be noted that the number of new registrants is not the same as the overall change in the number of people on the Live Register which is also affected by closed claims and the movement of people between schemes.



• The dole queues in the 26 Counties are getting longer and longer. The figures for August were 452,500 and are still rising.

On average 12,037 new registrants joined the Live Register each week in July, comprising 6,285 males (52.2%) and 5,753 (47.8%)

females. In comparison in January 2010 12,384 new registrants joined the Live Register each week, consisting of 7,871 males

(63.6%) and 4,514 (36.4%) females.

Central Statistics Office: <http://www.cso.ie>

IMEACHTAÍ

**WHITE-LINE COREYS
IN SUPPORT OF MARTIN COREY, POLITICAL
HOSTAGE, MAGHABERRY JAIL, CO ANTRIM
EDWARD STREET, LURGAN 2pm
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

ARMAGH, ASSEMBLE SHAMBLES, 2pm
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
MAGHABERRY PRISON

**1798 REMEMBRANCE DAY
FORDTOWN MEMORIAL SITE, CO MEATH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Assemble Fordtown, 3pm
Organised by Republican Sinn Féin, Co Meath
Contact: 086-732 6922**

**ANNUAL BOBBY SANDS LECTURE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7PM
WYNNS HOTEL, ABBEY STREET, DUBLIN
Speaker: Republican Sinn Féin President Des
Dalton
All welcome, Admission free**

**REPUBLICAN RALLY
EVE OF ALL-IRELAND
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 Assemble Garden of
Remembrance Dublin, 1.45pm**

**REPUBLICAN BALLAD SESSION
79R PUB, BALLYFERMOT, DUBLIN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
Doors open 8.30pm
Admission €5**

**POW PICKET
GPO, DUBLIN, OCTOBER 23, 12.45-1.45pm**

**90th ANNIVERSARY
JAMES DALY COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31
TYRELLSPASS, CO WESTMEATH
Speaker: Des Dalton**

**IRISH CLASSES — RANGANNA GAEILGE
TUESDAY NIGHTS 6-15PM — 7.15PM
CONNOLLY BOOK STORE
ESSEX STREET
087-2125068**

**REPUBLICAN BALLAD NIGHTS
THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28
IN AID OF BLUEBELL UNITED FC, NAAS ROAD,
DUBLIN, ACROSS FROM THE RED COW HOTEL.
Music on October 7 by Irish Celts**

THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS MAGHABERRY
are looking for books and publications about Irish history and Republicanism. The books may be sent to Head Office at 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1 or the Ulster office at 229 Falls Road, Belfast or directly to Maghaberry c/o Daire McKenna, Roe House, Maghaberry jail, Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, Co Antrim, BT28 2PT.

**JOIN NA FIANNA ÉIREANN
IRELAND'S REPUBLICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT
Contact for details: 085-824 2617**

**REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN REPUBLICAN
FLUTE BAND
THE TOM MAGUIRE/DÁITHÍ Ó CONAILL RFB
Anyone interested in joining please contact
01-8729747 or 085-8242617**

TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

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

Kerry: 087-747 6142

Waterford: 086-1244158; e-mail: reilain@hotmail.com

Dublin: 01-8729747 or e-mail saoirse@iol.ie Roger

Meath: Niall Fagan/Thomas Allen Cumann: 086-7326922

Wexford: contact Mick at 0876150484

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

Longford: 087-2240061 or 086-3384017

Enniscorthy: 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com

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

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

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 0926420

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Gríofa: Tomás, 087 2933 782 or Seán at 091 525 977, rsfgaillimh@live.ie

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

London: Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann, 0044-7926357676

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

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

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

RSF Italy: rsf-roma@email.it

NATIONALIST YOUTHS CHARGED WITH RIOTING FOLLOWING PROTESTS AGAINST ORANGE MARCHES

A Belfast Chronology

Monday, August 9, 2010. Relatives of those murdered by the British Army in Ballymurphy, Belfast held a vigil to mark the 39th anniversary of their deaths. Emmet Doherty (20) appeared in court on charges connected with rioting over the Twelfth in Ardoyne. He was described as one of the most active and prominent rioters. He was charged with possessing an offensive weapon, throwing a petrol bomb, hijacking a car and attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to members of the RUC/PSNI.

Saturday, August 14, 2010. Members of a Twinbrook social club hit back at comments from the Provisionals saying that their comments that the bar was a den of anti-social elements was politically motivated and came from the fact that the people of Twinbrook have always stood up to the Provo's jackboot tactics.

The Apprentice Boys feeder parade in north Belfast passed off without incident though up to 50 nationalist held a silent protest at the Ardoyne shops.

Sunday, August 15, 2010. Ancient Irish Hibernian (AOH) members from America and Scotland gathered on the Falls Road for the AOH's first march in Belfast for 30 years. Bands from Scotland and Ireland took part in the parade which was hosted by the orders 58th Division in Clonard.

Wednesday, August 18, 2010. Two more people were charged in connection with rioting in Ardoyne over the Twelfth, a teenager and a 34-year-old man. To date 34 people have been arrested and 24 have been charged. A further seven have been released pending reports, two were released on bail and one person was released unconditionally.

The British army were on



• **Leo Martin, Belfast (right), pictured here with Denis McInerney, Clare. Leo spoke at the Hunger Strike commemoration in Bundoran, Co Donegal on August 28.** The streets of west Belfast after two elaborate hoaxes in the St James and Dunmurry areas.

Thursday, August 19, 2010. A 16-year-old youth was charged with making petrol bombs during rioting in north Belfast over the Twelfth of July. Fifty-nine people have now been charged in connection with the trouble over the Twelfth

period. Friday, August 20, 2010.

A woman was charged at Belfast's Magistrates Court with possession of a shotgun and ammunition in suspicious circumstances on Cliftonville Ave, Belfast.

A Belfast woman, forced to leave her home in Dunmurry, called for an end to the campaign of intimidation against her and

her child since Easter. She has been the target for hoax bombs and arson attacks.

The International Brigade Commemoration Committee in Belfast removed the bust commemorating Irish Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War amid fears that someone was trying to steal it. They intend to make it more secure.

Saturday, August 21, 2010. The *Irish News* published a picture of a man the RUC/PSNI want to interview in relation to the 'riots' in Andersonstown, Belfast on over the July 12 weekend.

An unexploded pipe bomb was found at the back of the Woodbourne RUC barracks, Belfast.

Monday, August 23, 2010. A Spanish man appeared in court in Belfast charged in connection with the trouble in Ardoyne on July 12.

Tuesday, August 24, 2010. Four more people have been charged in connection with the trouble in the Ardoyne on July 12.

A 20-year-old man was charged with throwing a pipe bomb at a house during rioting on the July 13 in the Broadway area of west Belfast. He was charged with possessing explosives, criminal damage and possession of an offensive weapon.

Wednesday August 25, 2010. There was a pipe bomb attack on Woodbourne RUC barracks in west Belfast.

Thursday, August 26, 2010. The parents of a Belfast teenager who took his own life after waiting for eight hours to be seen by mental health experts, are to challenge Michael McGimpsey on his efforts to prevent suicides.

It was reported that a Donegal coroner would decide if the inquest into the death of Belfast-born informer Denis Donaldson could go ahead.

Saturday, August 28, 2010. Members of Belfast Republican Sinn Féin attended the 29th annual hunger strike in Bundoran, Co Donegal.

Cornwall protest ends in success

A 24-HOUR protest by the Kernow branch of the League ended on August 22 outside of the BBC Radio Cornwall studio in Truro. The Assistant General Secretary (AGS) of the League, Tony Leamon reports on what was a hugely successful protest by the branch.

Branch Secretary Mike Chappell started his protest at 10 am on Saturday, August 21 to highlight the BBC's perceived lack of awareness of Cornwall's distinct Celtic identity. As part of Mr Chappell's demonstration he tore up his BBC TV licence and told supporters that he

would not be paying his BBC fee until the Corporation changed its colonialist minded and corporate attitude in Cornwall.

In his address Mr Chappell said that 'the BBC is not fit for purpose for the people of Cornwall' and accused the Corporation of either



completely ignoring or only paying lip service to a variety of factors that make Cornwall unique and as distinct as the other Celtic nations. In addition to his own licence, Mr Chappell also ripped up a number of other licence's that had been sent to him by supporters in Cornwall who said that they would be following his suit in protest. Finally Mr Chappell said that he invited the BBC to prosecute him for not paying his licence and added that he would be prepared to go to

court to argue his case further.

The BBC employed extra security for the weekend and at one point Mr Chappell said that he was surrounded by BBC security guards. Mr Chappell said that he was also contacted by the police before the protest, because they wanted to know why they had not been informed of his intentions. Mr Chappell explained that he was under no obligation, according to the law, to contact the police for what he was planning.

The League's General

Secretary (GS), Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, who was also at the protest said that he had the "greatest respect" for Mr Chappell's protest.

On Saturday members and supporters of the League also demonstrated for an hour outside the BBC studios in solidarity with the Kernow Branch protest in Wrecsam/Wrexham, north east Wales."

Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/celticleaguev>

1981 hunger strike documents disclosed

AN article in the *Derry Sentinel* on September 1, disclosed that documents, kept secret since 1981, have been released to the paper under the Freedom of Information Act.

The documents released by the Northern Ireland Office show how the British government was determined to maintain a firm stance in public while trying to come to an arrangement that the IRA would agree to through secret contacts.

The papers show the British government was working on a number of levels, with organisations such as the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace (ICJP), while also using a secret conduit directly to the IRA - believed to be the Mountain Climber initiative.

The documents show offers were made secretly to the IRA

rather than directly to the hunger strikers, and illustrate the central role played by Brendan McFarlane, the IRA leader in the jail. The documents show that the British government consistently believed the prisoners were acting under orders and that McFarlane would not consider anything short of negotiating the "five demands".

They also show how the British government was involved in backdoor approaches and attempts to find a formula and form of words that would allow a solution to be choreographed all the while the hard-line public approach was not being followed

through in private by July. The British government also believed it was fighting a propaganda battle.

Documents show the British took advice from experts on what way a statement could be worded so that the IRA would accept it. Further documents show the "network of contacts" was being followed up.

All 32 of the newly-released documents have been published on the *Sentinel's* website:

www.londonderrysentinel.co.uk as well as a number of those supplied to the *Sentinel* which had previously been disclosed.

Many of the documents are available in email form; for a copy of those, email news@londonderrysentinel.co.uk and ask for a copy of the documents available in email form.



• **Na Fianna Éireann held a commemoration in Camden Street, Dublin on August 15 where the inaugural meeting of the organisation took place 101 years ago.**

'Irish Republic purchased on

REPUBLICANS from all over Ireland and beyond gathered in a windy Bundoran, Co Donegal for the annual Hunger Strike Commemoration on August 28.

Several hundred marchers fell in behind the Colour Party from Dublin, a piper from Antrim and two bands, one from Co Derry and one from Co Armagh.

The parade marched through the town to the Memorial Garden where a minutes silence was observed for the dipping of the flags before the parade made its way back to the East End where Brendan Casey, Ballyshannon chaired the proceedings.

Cáit Trainor, Armagh read a brief but succinct statement from the POWs in Portlaoise jail in which they confirmed their full support for the leadership of Republican Sinn Féin. They sent greeting to their comrades in Maghaberry and wished them well in their continued struggle. They said that we all had "a role to play in a 32-County Government and in order to do that we need a good organisation – that organisation is Republican Sinn Féin". We in turn salute them for their steadfastness in the face of adverse circumstances.

Ciaran Collins, recently-released POW from Maghaberry jail, said he had been honoured to serve time with such men as the POWs in Maghaberry despite the dreadful conditions they have endured for many years. He stressed their commitment and disciple: "The spirit of the Irish Republican Army exists in that prison", he said as he sent them solidarity greetings. He outlined the reason behind the protest and why the men had no choice but to act as they did. "We have achieved much but we have yet a lot more to achieve" he said and concluded by asking everyone concentrate their efforts and focus their support on securing the release of Martin Corey, held as a political hostage by the British.

Bob Loughman from the

United States also addressed the assembled crowd. He stressed the need to carry on the struggle for our freedom so long denied us by the British. Bob attends the Commemoration in Bundoran every year and was a member of the NYPD Band that attended for many years. His wife Ann was also a regular visitor up until her death last year.

Veteran Republican and ex-POW Leo Martin from Belfast congratulated the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry on their victory in obtaining political status and reminded everyone that being called a "dissident" by our enemies is in fact a source of pride rather than something to be ashamed of. He spoke of the ten men who gave their lives and the sacrifices they and their families made in order to bring about a free and independent Ireland. He spoke of the example they and others before them gave us and the path we must follow to rid the country of British occupation. Normalisation of British rule and the criminalisation of our struggle are not on our agenda.

Des Dalton, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, was next to speak, and gave a rousing speech which was well received:

"I have no prouder boast than to say I am Irish and have been privileged to fight for the Irish people and for Ireland. If I have a duty I will perform it to the full in the unshakable belief that we are a noble race and that chains and bonds have no part in us." With these words addressed to the people of South Derry and surrounding areas Francis Hughes joined his comrade Bobby Sands on a Hunger Strike, which would end with his death after 59 days on May 12 1981.

There is much debate as to what is the legacy of the 1981 hunger strikers. We will not

speculate as to what their position would be today – we leave that to others. We can only judge them on their words and actions during their lives. Let us not be accused of putting words in

September 14th, 1976, when the blanket protest began, the British government's attempted criminalisation of ourselves and our struggle."

"The words of their leader Bobby Sands written in his



• Recently-released Maghaberry POW Ciaran Collins speaking at Bundoran, with chairperson Brendan Casey.



• Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton and Bob Loughman, USA both spoke at Bundoran.

their mouths but rather let the men speak for themselves: In a statement on the commencement of the second hunger strike the POWs declared "We the Republican POWs in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, and our comrades in Armagh Prison, are entitled to and hereby demand political status, and we reject today as we have consistently rejected every day since

diary as he embarked on his 65 day hunger for justice on March 1 1981: "I believe I am but another of those wretched Irishmen born of a risen generation with a deeply rooted and unquenchable desire for freedom. I am dying not just to attempt to end the barbarity of H-Block, or to gain the rightful recognition of a political prisoner, but primarily



• A well-turned out colour party led the march to commemorate on August 28.



• A section of the crowd at the commemoration.

because what is lost in here is lost for the Republic and those wretched oppressed whom I am deeply proud to know as the 'risen people'.

"The heroism and prolonged sacrifice of the hunger strikers galvanised people in Ireland and throughout the world in support of the men and their cause. Bobby Sands like Kevin Barry for an earlier generation came to personify the struggle for Irish freedom.

"The self-sacrifice, integrity and force of will displayed by these men are

awe-inspiring and commands the respect of all who champion the cause of human freedom. With their bodies lost the only weapon available to them the men in Long Kesh in and the women in Armagh jail pitted themselves against the forces of British imperialism and gave witness to the world that the Irish Nation was unconquered and had no unconquerable.

"Today in Maghaberry prison the Republican prisoners have similarly resisted all attempts by the British Government and their W

...ans will not be 'intimidated'



...ate the 1981 hunger strikers in Bundoran, Co Donegal



uppet regime in Stormont to
iminalise either them or the
use for which they suffer the
ss of their liberty – Ireland's
ght to national
dependence.

"These men by their
ourage and determination in
e face of the brutality of the
ritish state have given the lie
those who claim that a line
is been drawn under Irish
story. That British rule and
rtition are now accepted and
ceptable. The men in
laghaberry give testament to
e lesson of Irish history.
'hile England occupies

Ireland there will always be a
section of the Irish people to
resist that occupation.

"We salute the men in
Maghaberry for their struggle
and call now for the full
implementation of the
agreement secured by the
Republican prisoners.

"Westminster, Stormont
and Leinster House are locked
in an unholy alliance in order
to reinforce British rule and
the partition of Ireland. Over
the past years they have
attempted to sell the big lie to
the Irish people and the world
that British rule is normal.

Next year they intend this
process to culminate with a
visit to the 26 Counties by the
Queen of England.

"The symbolism of this visit
is clear. Its intended message
is that Ireland has been finally
been either purchased or
intimidated into accepting the
writ of the British Crown in
Ireland.

"Republican Sinn Féin will
oppose this visit. We call on
Republicans the length and
breadth of Ireland to come out
and show to the world that
there remains a section of the
Irish people who will never be
purchased nor intimidated into
accepting British rule in any
part of Ireland.

"Recently British Crown
Minister Martin McGuinness
claimed he had knowledge of
secret talks between the
British Government, the 26-
County Administration and
what were described in the
media as "Dissident
Republicans". I can say now
that Republican Sinn Féin has
not engaged in any such talks.
The only basis on which the
leaders of Republican Ireland
will engage in talks with the
British Government will be to
secure a full British
withdrawal from Ireland. We
cannot be any clearer. Mr
McGuinness we suggest is
playing his part in the
machinery of British 'black
propaganda'.

"A full British withdrawal
from Ireland is the essential
first step if a just and lasting
settlement of the war between
the British Government and
the Irish people is to be
achieved. Irish Republicans
call on all sections of the Irish
people to join us in building
the New Ireland we set out in
our proposals ÉIRE NUA.

"We don't want to create a
32-County Free State. We
want to build the 32-County
Democratic Socialist Republic
and we call on those who
would describe themselves as
Unionists to take their rightful
place in the historic Irish
nation and join us in this task.
We believe that ÉIRE NUA
provides the framework within
which this can be done.

"I leave you the last lines of
Bobby Sands' diary 'One Day



• The Kevin Lynch Memorial Band, from Dungiven, Co Derry at the hunger strike commemoration in Bundoran, Co Donegal on August 28.



• The Pride of Erin Band from Portadown, Co Armagh took part in the hunger strike march on August 28.



• Members of the Charles Agnew Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Armagh city.

in My Life' which sums up the
message of heroic sacrifice but
also of hope which Sands and
his comrades have bequeathed
to us: "They have nothing in
their entire imperial arsenal to
break the spirit of one single
Republican Political Prisoner-
of-War who refuses to be

broken, I thought, and that was
very true. They can not, or
never will, break our spirit. I
rolled over again freezing and
the snow came in the window
on top of my blankets.
'Tíocfaidh ár lá', I said to
myself. 'Tíocfaidh ár lá'."

A fitting tribute to the 10

men who gave their lives in
the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in
1981 ended with the playing of
Amhrán na bhFiann by piper
Seán Doyle, after Brendan
Casey thanked all those who
attended and sent warm
wishes to Joe O'Neill who was
unable to attend on the day.

ETA announces ceasefire

THE Basque separatist group ETA announced a ceasefire in a video released to the BBC on September 5.

In the video ETA said it would not “carry out armed actions” in its continued campaign for complete independence of the Basque region, which borders France and Spain.

ETA said it had taken the decision several months ago “to put in motion a democratic process”.

ETA's campaign began over 40 years ago which began when Basque nationalism was severely repressed under the Franco regime. In subsequent decades, the region has acquired a significant degree of autonomy.

ETA has previously announced, and then abandoned two ceasefires, the first lasting 14 months and ending in late 1999. In March 2006, the group – the full name of which is Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (Basque Homeland and Freedom) – announced a permanent ceasefire, despite a huge bomb explosion nine months later which destroyed a car park at Barajas airport, in Madrid, in which two people died. That ceasefire was formally ended the following June. ETA has been weakened recently by the arrests of several key leaders.

Batasuna, a Basque separatist party that was outlawed in 2003, proposed a “permanent” ETA ceasefire supervised by international observers in documents quoted by El Correo, the Basque newspaper, on September 3.

Batasuna's document presented a plan to end the conflict of more than four decades. Its proposals, included cancelling the ban on its activities and preparing a launch of negotiations between ETA and the Spanish government.

However, the Spanish government rejects any talks on Basque independence. It has insisted on ETA's unconditional military surrender after a previous attempt at talks failed in 2006.

Book on Cuba launched

THE Cuba Support Group co-sponsored the visit of Canadian author Keith Bolender to Ireland from 8 /11 September 2010 to launch his book “Voices from the Other Side” which deals with the 50-year “undeclared terrorist war” that has been waged against the people of Cuba by the government of the United States of America – controllers of the most powerful military machine ever assembled in human history.

This book blows the lid on possibly the greatest media cover-up in history.

(Read Chomsky's full introduction to “Voices from the Other Side” here: http://www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk/cubasi_article.asp?ArticleID=121)

Homeless take on Israeli Forces

PALESTINIANS recently made homeless after two villages were razed by Israeli security forces and hundreds left homeless are taking on the Israelis according to a report from Ramallah on August 10, 2010.

Over several weeks from the end of July thousand heavily armed Israeli riot police, soldiers and police, at times accompanied by helicopters and bulldozers clashed with the expelled Palestinians and their supporters as the Palestinians attempt to rebuild the villages.

Al-Araqib, a Bedouin village in Israel's Negev desert, was destroyed in a pre-dawn raid at the end of July to make way for a Jewish National Fund forest. The razing of the village was carried out despite pending legal action on land ownership that Al-Araqib residents have launched in the local Beer Sheva District Court.

During the destruction hundreds of Palestinians, including at least 200 children, were left homeless. At least 45 homes, chicken co-ops, animal pens, carob trees and fruit orchards were levelled, and about 800 olive trees uprooted.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW) Israel “has demolished thousands of Negev Bedouin homes since the 1970s and over 200 since 2009.”

HRW says that in the 1950s and 1960s Israel passed laws enabling the government to lay claim to large areas of the Negev where the Bedouin had formerly owned or used the land. Planning authorities ignored the existence of Bedouin villages when they created Israel's first master plan in the late 1960s.

Tens of thousands of Bedouin live in “unrecognised” villages in the south of Israel. Israel considers them “illegal”, and has refused to connect them to basic services and infrastructure.

However, Israeli authorities granted large tracts of land and public funds for Israeli Jews to establish ranches in the area, and connected them to national electric and water grids despite the absence of proper planning permits, according to Israeli rights group Adalah. The ranches were legalised a month ago.

Meanwhile, across the Green Line, the internationally recognised border between Israel proper and the occupied Palestinian West Bank, many Palestinians were recently made homeless as Israeli authorities declared the decades-old village Farasiya in the northern West Bank a closed military zone, and razed it.

In the middle of July Israel's Civil Administration, which



• **Omar Khadr, who is on trial in Guantanamo Bay, in what has been described as the first trial of a child soldier in history.**

controls large swathes of the West Bank, demolished 55 structures, including animal shelters and agricultural buildings.

Farasiya falls within Area C of the West Bank, which is under full Israeli control. Under the 1993 Oslo Accords Area C, which comprises approximately 60 percent of the territory, was meant to be slowly handed over to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Instead, Israel has been enlarging and establishing new Israeli settlements and expropriating Palestinian land for the benefit of Israeli settlers in the area in violation of international law and UN resolutions.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that more than a hundred structures in the Jordan Valley have been demolished in the last month.

Israel's shameless mouthpiece

IN yet another revealing speech, this time delivered at a symposium at IDC University in Herzliya, Tony Blair has exposed himself for what he truly is; not a “peace envoy” by any stretch of the imagination but a shameless mouthpiece for the State of Israel.

Just days before direct negotiations are due to take place in the Middle East, in which he is supposed to be taking a neutral stance representing the Quartet (UN, EU, Russia and the USA), Blair has taken it upon himself to set aside any pretence of impartiality and reaffirm his “passion” for Israel.

He has taken on the role of Israel's defence attorney to plead with the world to try to empathise with Israel and to understand Israel's point of view when it commits atrocities, human rights abuses and breaches of international law. He acknowledged that Israel is often perceived as “arrogant, overbearing and aggressive” but instead of examining why that might be such a widespread perception he went on to defend Israel's crimes.

His whole speech was geared towards defending Israel and condemning the critics of Israel. (He has already declared whose side he is on and has said, “I am a passionate believer in Israel”). He referred to peace and the concessions that the Palestinians need to make but not once did he mention the internationally-accepted and UN-accepted framework for peace which must include Israel giving back stolen Palestinian land.

(August 29, 2010.)

Irish ship to Gaza campaign

UP to 50 Irish campaigners are expected to join a coalition of pro-Palestinian supporters on a second aid flotilla to Gaza, it was announced on August 30.

Seven groups came together to bring public figures, members of the media and activists on cargo ships and passenger boats in late autumn, late October, early November.

Campaigners say the sea mission is a second attempt to end the four year-long Israeli blockade of Gaza.

Dr Fintan Lane, a campaigner who traveled on the first flotilla in May, said “It is important that we show our solidarity with the people there. It is not enough to care – we must act,” he said.

“The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is appalling and entirely man-made. Israel could end this tomorrow by lifting its illegal siege.”

The group, known as the Irish Ship to Gaza Campaign, is planning to join the “Second Freedom Flotilla” being overseen by

the Free Gaza Movement, IHH (Turkey) and the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza.

Organisers said between 10 and 15 boats are being lined up for the repeat trip with ships from Britain, the United States, Canada and continental Europe expected to take part.

The Israeli Government has imposed a blockade on Gaza since 2006 amid claims that arms shipments were being brought into the port.

Trial of ‘child soldier’ opens at Guantanamo

OMAR Khadr was only 15 when he was captured by US forces in 2002 in Afghanistan. Now, eight years later, the 23-year-old is on trial in Guantanamo Bay, in the first military commission trial since the beginning of the Barack Obama administration.

The Pentagon-appointed defence attorney, Lt. Colonel Jon Jackson, has called the case “the first one against a child soldier in history”.

Khadr, a Canadian citizen, is accused of throwing a hand grenade and killing a US Special Forces soldier during a US bombardment of an al Qaeda compound in the eastern Afghan city of Khost.

The statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) states that no one under the age of 18 should be tried for war crimes. Prosecutors in other international tribunals have also used their discretion not to prosecute children in the past.

Khadr's lawyer claims that the accused was interrogated in at the US-run Bagram air base while still recovering from serious injuries, which included two gunshot wounds and shrapnel in his face and eye. He was also threatened with rape in a US prison, one interrogator confirmed, and promised a return to Canada if he told the interrogators what they wanted to hear.

Earlier this month Khadr's lawyer filed a petition with the US Supreme Court, claiming that commissions are unconstitutional because they offer a lower standard of justice to foreign citizens, whilst US nationals also get the protection of a federal court.

“The United Nations continues to insist that children accused of crimes, as distinct from war crimes, must be tried in accordance with the rules and procedures which respect and respond to his minority at the time of the alleged offence”.

(UNITED NATIONS, August 10, 2010, Inter Press Service).

Climate justice means gender justice

THIS was the resounding call of participants who attended the recently concluded Isis Activist School on Engendering Climate Justice: The Southeast Asia Experience, in Manila, Philippines from 3-5 August 2010.

Attended by twenty-eight grassroots women leaders from the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia and Nepal, the three-day training conducted by Isis International, served as a venue for interactive and dynamic exchange on climate change issues, its impact on women, as well as current responses and climate change discussions where women's voices are often not considered or heard. It culminated with People's Communication for Engendering Climate Justice, a public forum and festival held on August 6, 2010, where participants learned about alternative media and communication tools and celebrated the knowledge gained.

The Activist School on Engendering Climate Justice is part of a year-long project where Isis endeavoured to raise awareness on Southern women's experiences of the impact of climate change, its impact on women and its linkages to other gender issues. The project is aimed at surfacing southern women's perspectives and feminist analyses on climate change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as strengthening feminist positions on gender and climate change in NGO-led processes.

Climate change is a reality faced by people and countries everywhere with women being the most affected due to their gender. However, women are also active agents in addressing immediate and strategic solutions to climate change. Through the recently concluded training, participants gained theoretical understanding of climate change from a feminist perspective, allowing them to appreciate the importance and necessity of integrating gender in interventions at the community, national, regional and international levels. The training also provided participants with practical skills on crafting effective messages on gender and climate justice, as well as on the use of various communication tools to help them strategies more effective advocacy campaigns.

Donna Switi Hardiani Hamidi, Leader of the Executive Community Body of Solidaritas Perempuan Aceh (Women Solidarity Aceh) in Indonesia shared, “In Aceh, only men as the head of the family, received aid. How about widows, single parents, orphans? It is important to bring gender into discussions of climate justice because policies in place are blind to these nuances.”

Participants were optimistic that the training will help them in their future work in engendering climate justice, particularly in communicating the issues to different audiences.

WHAT THEY SAID

The Bishop of Down and Connor, Noel Treanor yesterday expressed his support for an international, independent inquiry into the 11 killings carried out by the [British] parachute regiment in the Ballymurphy area of west Belfast in 1971.

— Irish Times, July 31, 2010, report by John Heaney in Belfast.

Bishop Treanor said [at a press conference]: “As with Bloody Sunday, the reputations of those who were killed were actively besmirched and the evidence of the reliable eyewitnesses was either ignored or actively disregarded.”

“Indeed the events in Ballymurphy on August 9-11, 1971, would and perhaps should have been considered the necessary starting point for such an inquiry,” he added.

Among the documents handed over to families of the victims was the original typed copy of a report summarising the main findings of several eyewitness accounts taken “about a fortnight after the incident”.

Among those killed was a mother of eight and a priest, Fr Hugh Mulligan, who was shot as he administered Last Rites to another victim.

— Irish Times, July 31. Councillors receive a taxable payment as well as an annual allowance, non-taxable conference expenses And a mobile phone allowance.

— Irish Independent, August 5, 2010, article by Edel Kennedy and Fiach Kelly.

In the Connacht/Ulster councils, the average annual payment for councillors in the Galway Co Council in 2009 was €39,939.

In the Connemara area the payments to Tomás Ó Curraoin, Republican Sinn Féin, was €2,017 for the half year of 2009 he served as councillor.

— Irish Independent, August 5. Incidentally, the Irish Independent on page 12 of its issue of August 5 describes Councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin as an “Independent”. In fact he is a Republican Sinn Féin representative.

You may want rid of the current [26-County] government but be under no illusions: when Fine Gael and Labour get into government they will follow the same course.

— Sunday Tribune, August 8, 2010, article by Shane Coleman.

When Derry was selected as “UK” capital of culture 2013, many dismiss it as a political stunt and fear it will be a ‘red rag to a bull’ for

dissident Republicans.

— Sunday Tribune, August 8, 2010, Northern Editor Suzanne Breen.

To some observers, even those strongly behind Derry’s bid, it was a purely political decision to make it a capital of culture. Coming so quickly after the Bloody Sunday report, it was seen as a way of strengthening the peace process.

— Sunday Tribune, August 8.

“There was a huge political dimension to it,” says former civil rights leader Éamonn McCann. “Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield were never going to win. This is a pat on the back for Derry in what I feel is a benign but patronising indulgence of us. There is a feeling how nice it is that ‘tragic wee Derry’ got an award.”

McCann stresses how much he loves his native city but thinks the hype around the cultural capital status is out of control.

— Sunday Tribune.

Looking to Maghaberry, Republican Sinn Féin claims that “the struggle now is the same as the struggle then” and its charge that Gerry Adams and colleagues are “absorbed into the apparatus of British rule is well-aimed. Few charges carry a more sinister time within Republicanism than that of treachery.”

— Irish Times, August 10, 2010, article by Dan Keenan in Analysis series.

[Stormont] Policing Board chairman Barry Gilligan has postponed his return from sick leave following searches by the PSNI at the board’s head office and at his home.

The PSNI is investigating the role of the Housing Executive, in the development of a site at Nelson Street in Belfast which is owned by Big Picture Developments. Mr Gilligan is a director of that company.

— Irish Times, August 11, 2010, Dan Keenan report.

The [Maghaberry prison] protest began on Easter Sunday when 28 dissident Republican prisoners barricaded themselves inside the prison canteen ... Prisoners had complained about excessive strip-searching and controlled movement.

Among those involved in the negotiations which ended the protest was the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The mediation group included Creggan Enterprises from Derry and the Dialogue Advisory Group, based in Amsterdam.

— Sunday Business Post, August 15, 2010, Tom McGurk column.

Afterwards, this group insisted that the details of the agreement reached were confidential, but it is understood that, during the discussions, the prisoners had put forward a list of five demands and that agreement had been reached on the



• The series on the Normans on BBC 2 was presented by Professor Robert Bartlett, professor of medieval history at the University of St Andrews. He said that the arrival of a few Norman knights in Co Wexford in 1167 would “fix for centuries the way England would look upon colonised peoples” (see quote below).

three demands they considered “most important”.

Apparently it was agreed that there would no longer be any limit on the number of prisoners who could use the recreation room or outdoor football pitch at the jail.

There would be a relaxation on controlled movement inside the Republican wing, and concessions on strip-searching had been secured.

— Tom McGurk column.

The lesson that so many politicians in London and Dublin were tragically unable to learn for over a generation was that, the heavier the security hand on the nationalist population, the greater the support for the IRA.

This time around, a devoted political administration in government [at Stormont] — with many members of the army council of the Provisional IRA at the heart of it — is hardly likely to repeat Britain’s mistakes.

— Tom McGurk column.

At this stage in the North, there are few who don’t recognise the symbolic and political potential of prison protests.

— Tom McGurk.

Des Dalton, the President of Republican Sinn Féin, which the [British] security forces claim is the Continuity IRA’s political wing — said his party wasn’t involved in dialogue with either government [London or Dublin].

“We will talk to the British only when their withdrawal from Ireland is on the table,” he said.

— Sunday Tribune, August 15, 2010, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

The weight of history nears on all of us, as Robert Bartlett, professor of medieval history at the University of St Andrews said in *The Normans* (BBC2).

When a handful of Norman knights and archers splashed ashore at Baginbun in what is now Co Wexford, they were setting up England’s first colony and, Bartlett said, would fix for centuries the way England would look upon colonised peoples, as naked, savage and ignorant of the true faith.

This was largely due to the

writings of Giraldus Cambrensis, a Welsh monk who set out to justify the Norman invasion of Ireland by calumniating the Irish.

— Sunday Business Post Agenda, August 15, 2010, TV Review by Emmanuel Kehoe.

In more of the most audacious attempts at grave-robbing, Republican Sinn Féin quotes Connolly on its web page. RSF does not accept the Good Friday Agreement (sic).

The party quotes Connolly’s words from Easter 1916: “The odds are a thousand to one against us, but in the event of victory, hold on to your rifles, as those with whom we are fighting may stop before our goal is reached.”

— Sunday Tribune, August 22, 2010, article by Michael Clifford.

The site adds: “To those people whom Republican Sinn Féin would consider having ‘stopped before the goal is reached’, I point out that the fact that James Connolly died on a chair should not be seen to infer (sic) that he wanted that chair placed at a table where a compromise would be the outcome.”

— Sunday Tribune, Michael Clifford.

[Raymond] Gilmour (“one of the North’s best known IRA informers”) lives in a secret location in Britain and is battling alcoholism and depression.

He remains a target for dissident Republicans and individual Provisional IRA members, but didn’t give MI5 warning of his trip [to New York to be reunited with his sister] so no security measures were in place.

— Sunday Tribune, August 29, 2010, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

Gilmour’s sister, Geraldine Dametz, hadn’t seen him since he fled Derry in 1983 after giving evidence against 31 Republicans in a supergrass trial.

— Suzanne Breen.

Former IRA Chief-of-Staff Ruairi Ó Brádaigh said the priest [Fr James Chesney] denied involvement in Claudy to him.

“Fr Chesney approached me in 1979 in Sligo after I’d addressed a H-Block rally. He said there were rumours that he was involved in

Claudy but he had nothing to do with it and was on holiday in Donegal at the time of the bombing.”

— Sunday Tribune, August 29, 2010, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor. Fifty years is a long time to go back for a title. Why not former Sinn Féin TD, former President of Sinn Féin or former President of Republican Sinn Féin?

But while the priest’s IRA involvement seems indisputable, he is a convenient character on whom to heap all the blame for Claudy.

— Suzanne Breen, August 29.

“Fr Chesney was never arrested, questioned, charged or convicted. He cannot answer for himself. He has been dead for 30 years.”

— Irish Times, August 31, 2010, former Bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly.

“I am not at all convinced that Fr Chesney was involved in the Claudy bombings. I was a contemporary of his at school. I did not know him very well but knew him reasonably well.”

— Former Bishop of Derry, Dr Daly.

He said reporters nowadays appeared to lack the rigour practised by their predecessors in the early turbulent days of the Troubles in 1972.

He accused reporters of failing to question key aspects of Mr Hutchinson’s report, principally that Fr Chesney was a senior IRA figure and directly involved in the car bombing of Claudy.

— Dr Daly.

“Everyone takes the same unquestioning line and competes to invite the most lurid headline,” he said. “The once sacrosanct presumption of innocence has been dispensed with and replaced with a presumption of guilt,” he said.

— Dr Edward Daly.

“But intelligence and evidence are completely different things.

“He [Al Hutchinson, the Police Ombudsman] found only these “intelligence reports” and 1972-type RUC intelligence at that. In the 1970s there was widespread scepticism about RUC Special Branch intelligence. Hundreds were interned on such intelligence.”

— Dr Daly.

Dr Daly said his experience of the Troubles and of high-profile miscarriages of justice had bred a “constructive scepticism”.

I have seen convictions based on signed admissions and forensic evidence completely overturned years later,” he said.

— Dr Daly.

... he [Tony Blair] will be hopeful that in this country his legacy in that regard [the “peace” process] will outweigh his decision to go to war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

— Irish Times, September 1, 2010, Ronan McGreevy on the launch in Dublin of Blair’s autobiography *A Journey*.

Those who wish to have their copy of his autobiography *A Journey* signed at the store in O’Connell Street will have to check in all bags, including purses and phones into a holding point.

— Irish Times, September 1.

Anti-war protesters say they will demonstrate outside Easons on Saturday and will announce details tomorrow.

— Irish Times.

“Now here he [Bertie Ahern] had to contend with me [Blair] telling him that the North-South part — ie the all-Ireland part, so dear to his constituents — would have to be rewritten.

“It was not the news he wanted, but there’s where Bertie showed his mettle and his character.”

— Irish Times, September 2, 2010, Stephen Collins, Political Editor. Bertie sold out Articles 2 & 3 of the 1937 Constitution.

Mr Blair goes on to describe the ebb and flow of the talks. “When Bertie told the Irish side — for these purposes the whole spectrum of Irish opinion — the concessions he’d made, they revolted.”

— Irish Times, September 2.

“The point which she [Mo Mowlam] correctly identified did matter [when the Provos threatened to walk away] was the IRA men behind bars for various terrorist acts and killings.

She took an extraordinarily forward position on this. Basically, she thought the issue was not of enormous consequences to unionism... She offered [Provisional] Sinn Féin the release of them all within a year.”

Mr Blair agreed and told Mr Adams the prisoners would be released within a year.

— Irish Times, September 2.

In the chapter on the Northern Ireland peace process in his autobiography *The Journey* (sic), Mr Blair admits to “stretching the truth to breaking point” in telephone conversations with Dr Ian Paisley and with [Provisional] Sinn Féin during a critical moment in the power-sharing negotiations.

— Irish Times, September 4 & 5, 2010, Harry McGee, Political Correspondent and Ken Murray.

Mr Blair also had warm thanks of praise for Mr Adams and McGuinness.

“Either would have been a big politician in anyone’s politics. They did not merely understand, they were supreme masters of the distinction between tactics and strategy.

“They knew the distinction and were determined to bring their followers with them, or at least the vast bulk of them.”

— Irish Times, September 2.

Over-the-top Security For Blair Signing

A chara

Walking through Dublin's O'Connell Street on Saturday morning (September 4) one would be forgiven for thinking we had strayed on to the set of a blockbuster in the making.

Gardai everywhere and no Luas travelling; shops closed, aggravation and barely suppressed aggression in plenty on the one side.

On the other side people with the courage of their convictions and the courage to tell it as it is. They got out in the rain and protested at the presence of this war criminal in our country. They had plenty to say and were not afraid to stand up and be counted. Well done to them. Tony Blair is a war criminal and fair play to the girl from Cork to told him she was making a citizen's arrest.

Miriam Lord put it well in the *Irish Times* of September 6 when she said "At this rate, we'll be put under house arrest when the queen arrives".

Couldn't have said it better myself, except I would have said "if the queen arrives". She also reminded readers that just eight years ago 100,000 people demonstrated against the war mongers Blair and Bush. So where were they on Saturday? What short memories most of us have.

Bad enough that my taxes

were abused on Saturday but I dread to think what the cost of a state visit by the English monarch would cost this almost bankrupt country. I am one of the lucky employed with a pay cheque, albeit minus a huge chunk of tax. I have no problem paying tax, it is the duty of every citizen in paid employment to do so, it is the way in which it is spent is that I object to.

ANN MARIE MURPHY
Dublin 4

Make Ireland Truly Green

A chara

Renewable energy could make Ireland truly green. World-leading renewable energy resources could rescue Ireland from its economic and energy challenges if managed properly and allowed to stay in Irish hands. Clean energy could help rescue Ireland from its current economic and energy challenges.

In achieving energy independence, Ireland could become an outstanding world leader and a global beacon for the use of clean energy. Ireland is endowed with winds that are among the strongest in the world and the waves that crash against our western seaboard are some of the most powerful on the planet. Harnessing these and other clean energy sources such as solar and biomass offers Ireland a golden opportunity to overcome the energy challenge



• A protester being led away by 26-County police outside Eason's bookshop, Dublin on September 4 (see quote on right).

it faces.

Ireland has more than three times its total energy requirements available from readily accessible renewable energy sources on our own doorstep. However, it remains heavily dependent on foreign fossil fuels, importing almost 90% of its energy needs.

As they run out, Ireland can develop its own natural resources to become energy independent and a world leader in clean energy use. A comprehensive move to clean energy would also prove an economic boon with the potential to provide almost 100,000 sustainable jobs.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

Boycott Products Of Child Slavery

A chara

The people of Ireland are unknowingly supporting the industries of child slavery by purchasing materials beaten from the bodies of child slaves.

The chocolate industries like Mars corporations are using

child slavery in western Africa to keep production costs down.

The chocolate industry currently employs over 3.6 million children who work on cocoa farms in places like western Africa. These children work as slaves, enduring exploitation and harsh working conditions. Big chocolate companies like Mars are behind this kind of corruption, often using shady business techniques to sidestep regulations and keep labour prices low.

The majority of people would be appalled to learn of the child labour that is taking place on behalf of such companies in western Africa. As large corporations with prominence in the world, they have a responsibility to ensure their employees are being treated justly and with respect. The fact is child labour, especially, which that involves

working long, hot hours in fields, is abhorrent and morally wrong.

Their goal is to keep production costs down and they have no regard for the means that they take to achieve it. In essence, they are exploiting young children for their shareholders financial gain.

Such companies operating or selling within Irish territory should be named so that people can know what the real price of their enjoyments is. Most people would rather do without than use a product that has been tainted with the blood of child slavery. Multinationals and the politicians who support them, need to re-evaluate their business tactics in Africa and wherever else child slavery is used by them to create a profit for their shareholders.

CONNACHT READER

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

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

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

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

Groups to cooperate on motorway campaign

THREE campaign groups, working on different sections of the proposed M2/N2/A5 motorway, which will eventually run from Dublin to Derry, have agreed to work co-operatively.

Save Newgrange will work in co-operation with the Alternative A5 Alliance, based in the Six Counties, and the Don't Bypass the Bypass campaign group in Monaghan, to share information and assist the public in participating in the different consultations under way.

The Alternative A5 Alliance is challenging the need for the upgrade of the A5 primary route, from the Border to Derry, which at 55 miles will be the longest single road project ever undertaken in the Six Counties. Northern and Southern roads authorities are planning this section of the road together, and the Dublin Administration has committed to pay for a share of it.

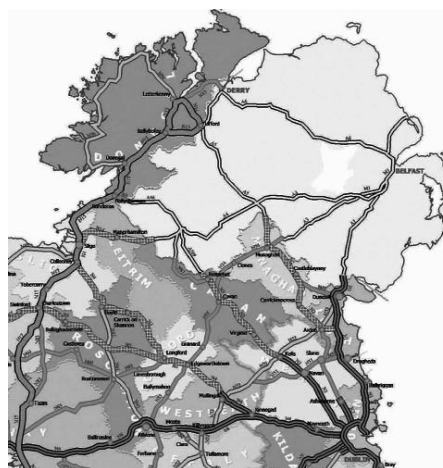
Don't Bypass the Bypass are challenging the need for the new N2 Clontibret to the Border plan, which will bypass the N2 Monaghan bypass, opened just four years ago' by Dublin Minister for Transport,

Noel Dempsey.

Save Newgrange is opposing the N2 Slane Bypass route, which runs just 500m from the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, and will impact over 44 archaeological sites. The groups have challenged the public consultation process as being flawed, since the people of the Six Counties were excluded.

All three groups are currently asking the public to make submissions to Monaghan County Council on the route selection process for the N2 Clontibret to the Border project. Due to public outcry locally, the deadline for submissions has been extended to August 31. The cost of making submissions is free, and they can be emailed to the council's Roads Division. (lmcdonal@monaghancoco.ie)

Lynne Smyth, Secretary of the Alternative A5 Alliance, said:



"The Alternative A5 Alliance is delighted to be able to cooperate with the other campaign groups along the route of this proposed road. Together we must alert the people of Ireland to the catastrophe these 'ghost roads' will cause.

"This is not the time to be tarmacing over our farmland

and natural habitat. It is time to seek a sustainable transport option which will serve our future needs as well as that of our grandchildren – as they will be paying for it.

Noel Murphy, a spokesman for Don't Bypass the Bypass, said:

"It's great to be working in co-operation with the other

groups, and we need to remain so going forward. We are calling on all members of the public to make submissions to Monaghan County Council, and challenge this outrageous waste of taxpayers' money."

Vincent Salafia of Save Newgrange said:

"The people of Northern Ireland should have a say in what happens to the Brú na Bóinne Unesco World Heritage Site, since they are paying for part of the road that will severely impact it."

"We welcome the intervention of Dr Edgar Morgenroth, associate economist with the ESRI, who said the N2/M2 plans are "idiocy", and called for the HGV ban to be implemented in Slane.

On August 11, the Save Newgrange group supported calls by Independent Meath County Councillors for An Taisce to be "stood down" while an investigation into their funding takes place.

Two independent councillors questioned the appropriateness of corporate donations made to An Taisce by the Indaver

incinerator company of €5,000 and Tesco of €25,000. Indaver is building an incinerator in Meath, close to Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site.

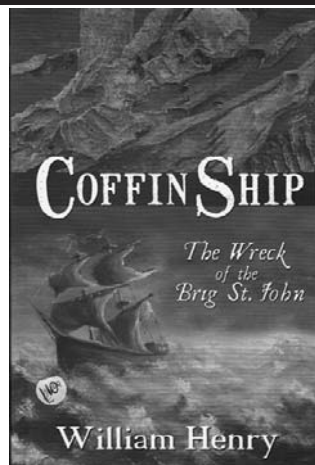
An Taisce became the first Irish environmental charity to receive government sponsorship, in 2001. It publicly expressed support in January for the proposed route of the N2 Slane Bypass, which runs 500m from Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site.

Save Newgrange is opposed to the route, and has made complaints to An Bord Pleanála, UNESCO, and the European Commission. An Bord Pleanála since asked Meath County Council for additional information on the effects of the route on the World Heritage Site, which was due to be submitted on 30 July.

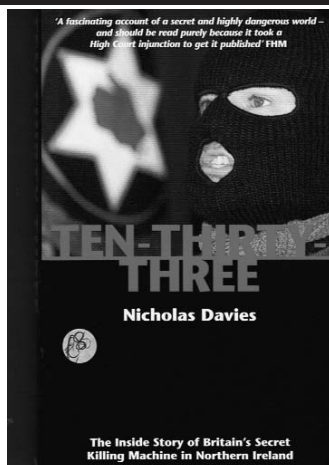
Vincent Salafia of Save Newgrange said they felt "there is a definite conflict of interest with An Taisce taking money from corporate and Government sources".

<http://www.savenewgrange.net> / <http://www.tarawatch.org>

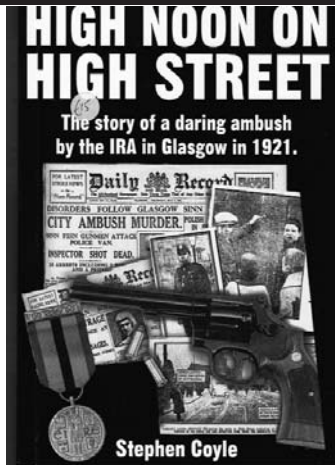
Irish Freedom Press



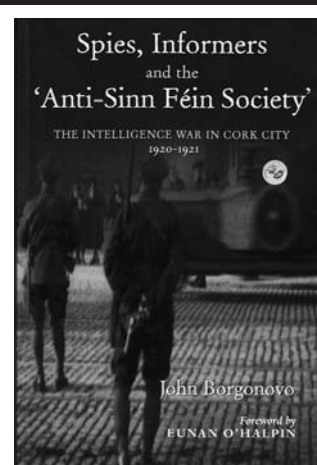
- *Coffin Ship. The wreck of the Brig St John.* By William Henry. Now €10.



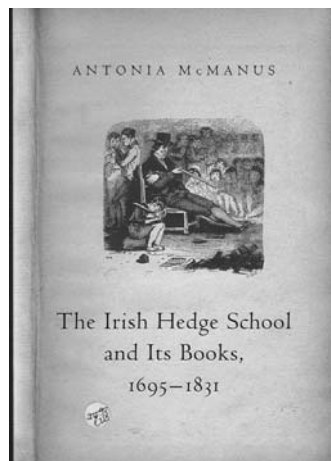
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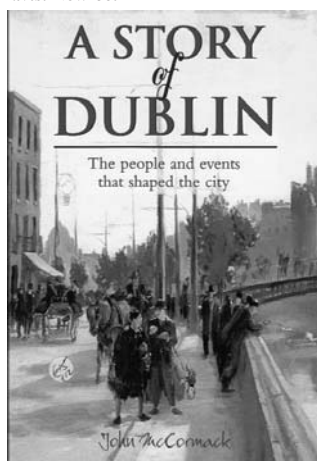
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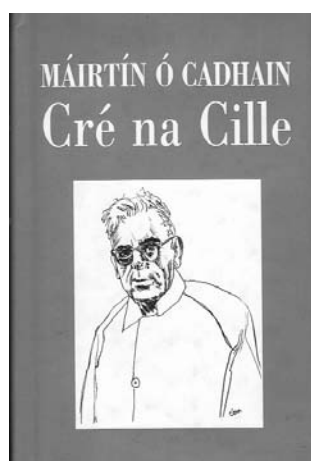
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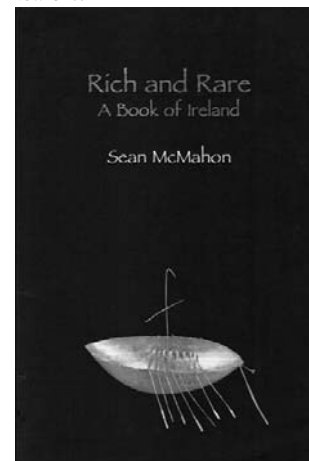
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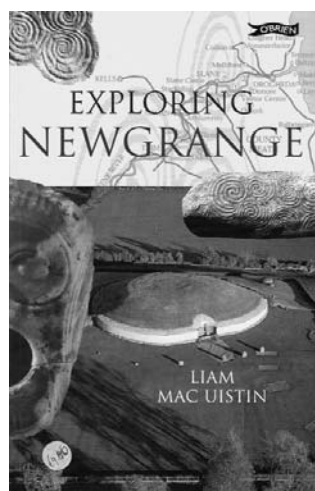
- *A Story of Dublin. The people and events that shaped the city.* By John McCormack. Now €12.



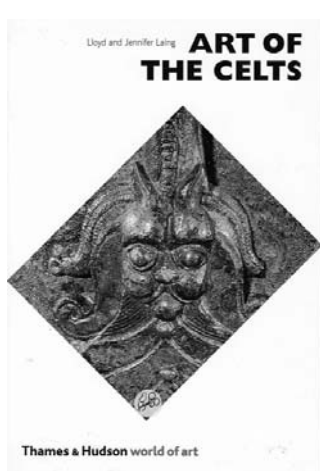
- *Cré na Cille. Máirtín Ó Cadhain.* H/B €40; p/b €25.



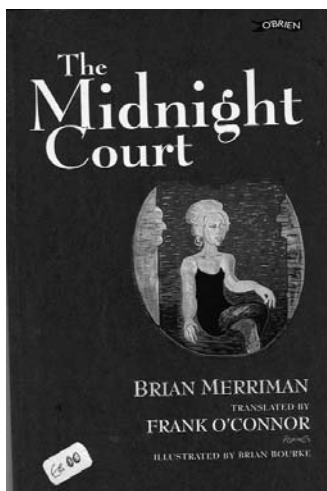
- *Rich and Rare. A Book of Ireland.* By Sean McMahon. €8.



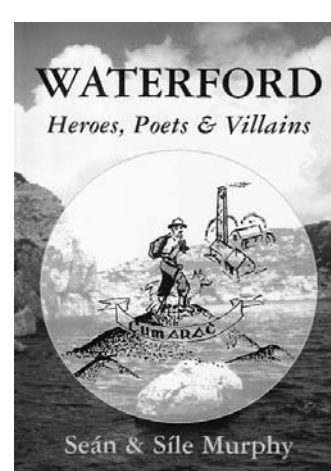
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Sam Maguire crosses Border

50 Years Ago

IN September 1960 Co Down won the All-Ireland Gaelic football championship and the Sam Maguire crossed the Border into British-occupied Ireland for the first time ever.

September 6 was the 20th anniversary of the execution by firing squad of Paddy McGrath, 1916 veteran, in Mountjoy jail, Dublin along with Tom Harte of Lurgan, Co Armagh.

The *Sunday Press* of September 4 fifty years ago announced: "The National Graves Association will unveil a headstone on the grave of Lieut-General Patrick McGrath, Irish Republican Army, in Glasnevin Cemetery (Dublin) on Sunday next. A parade to the graveside will leave Merchants Quay after 10.30am Mass.

"Paddy McGrath joined the Irish Volunteers on their inception in 1913. He took part in the 1916 Rising under Peadar Clancy, who was in command at Church Street Bridge. After the Rising he was interned in Frongoch and was released at Christmas 1916.

"He took an active part in the reorganisation of the Volunteers and was on Headquarters Staff of the Army of the Irish Republic.

"During the Black and Tan war he took part in many important engagements including the attack on Lord French (Lord-Lieutenant) and the rescue of Robert Barton (from Mountjoy).

"After a raid on the B and I Steam Packet Co, he received two wounds, one in the arm and the other above the heart.

"This bullet lodged behind the main artery and he carried it until his execution with Staff-Captain Thomas Harte in Mountjoy prison on September 6, 1940."

The ceremony took place on the following Sunday, September 11, at Paddy McGrath's grave in the Republican Plot. His family had a business in Augier Street, Dublin, "McGrath and Co, Blinds and Shutters".

It is appropriate at this late stage to quote his own words in a letter to his sister shortly before his death for Ireland. They were omitted from the article in this series *50 Years Ago* in the September 1990 issue of SAOIRSE.

They are taken from *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* of October-November 1948 which covered the reburial of all six Republicans executed by the 26-County State from 1940-1944.

Dated August 21, 1940 – the day after the death sentences were imposed by the Military Court consisting of three Free State Army Officers with no legal training, which had been specially to try Republicans – it deserves to be put on record again:

"I did hope to make a statement yesterday on behalf of Tom Harte and myself, but I did not wish to make it till after we were sentenced. We did not get that opportunity so this is roughly what we wished to say.

"You are all Irishmen – most of you are soldiers. We, too, are soldiers. Now that you have done what you believe to be your duty we wish to say that we have also done what we believe to be our duty, and we regret that these two Irishmen should have lost their lives in conflict with their fellow Irishmen, just as we much regret but with a greater depth of feeling that the great Irishmen and Christians – Tony Darcy and Jack McNeela – should have lost their lives [on hunger strike for political status].

"It is not to you men here before us, nor to members of the Detective branch that we should address ourselves, but to those two men and their immediate associates who are primarily responsible for the deaths of those four Irishmen.

"It is by their misdirecting of you, their obedient servers, those things have come about. The day those men decided to brand as criminals, us, the soldiers of the Irish Republican Army and their former faithful comrades, they made a grave error.

"It is unjust and unChristian to brand those who do not agree with you as criminals."



• The Sam Maguire Cup which was won by Down for the first time in 1960.

That was the address that Paddy McGrath intended to give to a military court which could impose only one sentence on prisoners found guilty, regardless of the charge – death. And there was no right of appeal to any court.

Articulated with great depth of feeling and compassion for his fellow men, it gives an insight into the mind of a true Irish Republican soldier.

The sequence of events was as follows:

January 4, 1940: Tomás MacCurtáin of Cork was charged with the death of a Special Branch man while resisting arrest.

June, 1940: He was sentenced to death by hanging by the Special Criminal Court made up of three Free State Army officers. With three weeks to go before execution, a strong reprieve campaign built up, gathering signatures etc.

July 1940: On the night before execution, with the British imperial hangman at the ready in Mountjoy, MacCurtáin was reprieved. The new Death Court was established.

August 1940: A group of unarmed Republicans tunnelling into Cork jail to rescue internees held there was fired on by Special Branch. John Joe Kavanagh was killed and Roger Ryan seriously wounded. Two others remained in the tunnel until a crowd gathered.

August 16 or 17, 1940: McGrath, Harte and a third resisted arrest at Rathgar Road, Dublin. Harte was wounded and McGrath stayed with him rather than escape. The Death Court procedure was hurried through. Within three weeks both were executed by military firing squad. The same process was rushed through in the case of Maurice O'Neill, Richard Goss and George Plant. No time for reprieve campaigns there.

In Charlie Kerins's case – November 1944 – the original Special Criminal Court (with military officers as judges) was adopted.

Again, for the record, Brian O'Higgins – Brian na Banban of the Wolfe Tone Annual – gave the funeral oration at Paddy McGrath's graveside when the bodies of all six were handed over to their comrades and families in 1948.

However we must return to 1960. It was the Kerry team which opposed Down in the All-Ireland final. The final score was Down two goals and 10 points, Kerry eight points.

The *Irish Times* of September 27 reported: "Carried shoulder high by members and officials of the Down GAA team, the Sam Maguire Cup crossed the Border into Northern Ireland (sic) last night for the first time in history.

"One of the wildest receptions ever afforded to any team of All-Ireland champions was awaiting on the Northern side of the border.

"It [the Sam Maguire] was carried in a procession across the three-quarters of a mile of 'No Man's Land' between the customs posts. Thousands of people were waiting. There were hundreds of cars.

"For two miles outside the town [of Newry] thousands of people lined the roads. The procession was headed by a woman carrying a green, white and orange flag. Several people asked her to put the flag away in case it caused trouble, but she refused.

"Some RUC men were on duty, but they took no action and shortly afterwards the woman put the flag away.

Have you old copies of the UI?

Our files of An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman for December 1959 and from May 1960 to May 1961 are missing. Accordingly writing 50 Years Ago is difficult.

If any reader could oblige us by sending in some of the missing copies, we would be grateful. If you wish to have them returned to you, that will be done. Go raibh maith agat!

"From Newry the team proceeded through Hilltown and Castlewellan to Newcastle, their route marked out by blazing tar barrels.

"At Newcastle the team parades through St Patrick's Park, their home ground and later attended a ceilí in their honour in St Mary's Hall.

In Newry, the lorry [bearing the team] halted in Margaret Square, a number of people made speeches of welcome, all of which went unheeded amid the cheering, blowing of whistles, ringing of bells and lighting of fireworks.

Three brass bands and a pipers' band were in the procession. On the hills around Newry bonfires blazed – several got out of hand and caused serious gorse fires.

In Hilltown a particularly jubilant section of the welcoming party were the pupils from the local national school where Kevin Mussen, the captain of the Down team, is a teacher.

[An uncle of Kevin's, George Mussen, was the Sinn Féin candidate in the South Down constituency in the 1966 Westminster elections.]

At a civic reception on the way home in Drogheda, the mayor, Aloysius Farrell, said that Down's win had an especial national significance: it had demonstrated before the eyes of the world that, in the realms of the GAA, there was no border.

In Dundalk the chairperson of the Louth County Council and the chair of the local Urban Council congratulated the team. Local people said that the reception given to the Down team in Dundalk surpassed even the reception given to the Louth team when it won the All-Ireland championship in 1957.

The sub-heading article in the *Irish Times* on September 26 was headed "Up Down!" It said: "Herein, too, lies proof – if proof is needed – of the essential unity of the country, North and South. The Archbishop of Cashel [patron of the GAA], Dr Morris, described Down's securing of the championship as a historic occasion. There will be few to deny it."

Earlier in the month a further two internees were released unconditionally from Belfast jail. They were Jimmy Drumm and Malachy McBirney, both of Belfast. The *Sunday Review* of September 4 said they had been interned for over three years.

With the August 1960 issue of *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* now to hand we can give the list of Town Councillors elected as Sinn Féin representatives 50 years ago.

They are: Owen Harold, Mallow, Co Cork; Seán O'Sullivan, Youghal, Co Cork; Kevin Barry and Daniel J Conway, Tralee, Co Kerry; Michael O'Leary, Killarney, Co Kerry; Seán Ó Cléirigh, Ballina, Co Mayo; Thomas Boyle, Ballinasloe, Co Galway; Frank McCaughey and Denis McGuigan, Clones, Co Monaghan; Mícheál Ó Treasaigh, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; Tomás Ó Murchadha, Gorey, Co Wexford; Séamus Ó Dubhláin, Sligo Corporation.

All local councillors of Sinn Féin were instructed by the Ard Chomhairle not to vote for any councillor other than those of Sinn Féin in contests for the chair or vice-chair.

Seán Ó Cléirigh (Jackie Clarke) who had headed the poll in the election for Ballina Urban Council was elected chairperson.

In Mountmellick, Co Laois, two Sinn Féin

members of the Town Commissioners were canvassed for votes by Oliver J Flanagan, Fine Gael TD. They voted and were promptly expelled by An Ard Chomhairle.

The final picture emerging from the elections showed that Sinn Féin had consolidated its position by securing representation on the local bodies in 13 counties in the 26-Counties area, including 10 County Councils.

Features of the contest included:

Co Leitrim. In three out of four electoral areas in the county Sinn Féin candidates were returned. These include JJ McGirl, TD, Ballinamore.

Co Kerry. Kevin Barry polled 1,488 first preference votes in Tralee area. He was also elected on the first count to Tralee Urban Council. In Killarney area Redmond O'Sullivan secured 1,079 first preferences while in the Killorglin area Seán Ó Drisceoil polled 918 votes.

Co Galway. Pádraig Ó Ruadháin, the outgoing candidate for Galway area polled 1,182 first preferences, an increase of more than 100% over the 1955 figure. Three Sinn Féin candidates in the Tuam area, where Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh was elected, polled a total of 1,855 first preferences.

Commenting on the Galway results in an editorial of July 9, the *Connacht Tribune* noted: "One may or may not regard it as significant but Sinn Féin alone increased its poll in a substantial way."

Co Donegal. In the Irish-speaking Glenties area, Séamus Rogers was elected to the County Council having polled 961 first preferences.

Co Monaghan. Denis McGuigan was elected to the Council for Clones area without a contest.

In both Leitrim and Kerry Sinn Féin candidates were put forward for the chair and vice-chair. They received only the three votes of the Sinn Féin members. The two big parties carried off what they regarded as political trophies.

In Monaghan alone did the Republican councillors get into subsidiary committees. Denis McGuigan secured a seat on the Vocational Educational Committee and James McElwaine was appointed to the Co Committee of Agriculture.

In Galway, Fianna Fáil had an overall majority of one on the County Council. They took the chair and vice chair and used this position to fill up the various committees with Fianna Fáil nominees – almost entirely to the exclusion of other representatives.

The *Connacht Tribune* of July 16 put it this way: "The procedure was identical for each committee election. A Fianna Fáil member proposed each member of every committee. The chair remarked at the end of each Fianna Fáil nomination 'Agreed?'"

The Sinn Féin councillors fought this each time. Other minority councillors said: "You're only wasting your breath" and "You're only wasting time. They have their men picked".

Nevertheless, the Republican representatives persisted in exposing the situation to the utmost. The net result was that Fianna Fáil took 75% of all committee seats, Fine Gael got 20% and a bare 5% was left for Sinn Féin and Independents, which seldom included the more important committees.

In Kerry and Donegal, the procedure was similar but Galway was the most blatant with its Fianna Fáil overall majority. In other cases like Leitrim, the two big parties combined to divide the 'spoils'.

The Sinn Féin policy was that committee seats should be shared in proportion to the number of seats won in the election itself. [In the next election Fianna Fáil lost its Galway majority and two Sinn Féin Councillors held the balance of power and implemented its policy of proportionality!]

North of the Border, the *Dungannon Observer* of July 16 commented on a publication entitled "British General Election of 1959" by David Butler and Richard Rose: "These authorities do not attempt to explain fully the reason for the low anti-Border poll in Fermanagh-South Tyrone constituency."

It continued: "No mention is made of the fact that after the previous election (1955) a number of elections workers – and notably the Sinn Féin candidates main

Cont on page 15.

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

THE “peace process” was concocted with the REAGAN/THATCHER PROTOCOL and evolved to the present state assisted by covert activities of US and “UK” intelligence agencies. It was a process carefully calculated.

The “peace process” must be declared a failure and an utter sell-out and we must move on to the pursuit of Irish unity which has been intentionally side-tracked by too many people accepting Unionism in the name of peace at any price, which obfuscates justice.

The “peace process” is pure Unionism plain and simple. Those involved, particularly the Provisional Movement (Provos) accepted Stormont, the police and the justice system and the Queen in fact, which is Unionism. Unionism is British not Irish.

Who controls Unionism? The British backed by the Americans. Anyone supporting the “peace process” is a unionist. When the British Ambassador is welcomed to Irish gatherings and the Free State slobbers over a visit from the Queen of England, Unionism is on the rise. Will the Free State join the British Commonwealth? It could well happen if present trends continue.

Accepting the Union with Britain is the litmus test of a unionist and the “peace process” does that. Stormont is its core. So, many people try to spin the process as other than what it is, but the result maintains the link with Britain and is unionist.

The common phrase is that it is a stepping-stone to a United Ireland, but no step to unity has been taken in the almost two decades of the process.

When the Free State was created, it too was called a stepping-stone. Ninety years later and still no steps on the road to unity. The Provos are part of the power structure that is Stormont and unionist, and they embrace it with vigour. They are unionists and are enjoying the trappings of that unionist power.

The effort to bring the Irish to Unionism started with President Ronald Reagan and his right-wing regime that embraced the British right-wing regime, and raised the special relationship between the US and the “UK” to a new level.

He cajoled Congress to look again at the Irish American activities and if they were anti-British they were labelled communist-influenced and

chilled support. It was disgraceful, but that was Reagan.

SOUL-MATES

Margaret Thatcher was the British prime minister when Reagan was elected US president. Philosophically, they were soul-mates with their right-wing ideologies and she saw this as an opportunity to mould a partnership to spread the philosophy of the English-speaking world as dictated by the Thatcher/Reagan partnership.

When Reagan took office, Thatcher had been very concerned about the north of Ireland because it interfered with Britain becoming a greater player on the world stage and to be relevant again.

She believed America was her ticket. She correctly figured the new US president, Ronald Reagan, could be manipulated to her thinking. He wasn't the brightest person to live in the White House.

Thatcher's advisors did their homework on Reagan and were right on the mark. They informed her that he acted humble in public, but had a big ego and saw himself in the realm of American royalty and he and his wife played that role.

From the first, Thatcher deferred to Reagan while being in complete control of their relationship. She did not want to have Ireland as a thorn in her courting the US president to do her bidding.

She saw Reagan as a means to control Irish American activist activity against the British because he flaunted his Irishness during the campaign, but it had no commitment to it. He was a stage Irishman, without substance trying to please his audience and he could be made to please Thatcher.

At their very first meeting, she offered her world-view of a conservative-based English-speaking leadership with a US/“UK” partnership based on their shared principles. She told him she wanted cooperation between them similar to the World War Two model of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt.

Reagan revelled in her flattery and she persuaded him that the world could only survive under their leadership, that they were the model for other nations.

She personalised it to them rather than their nations. Reagan was putty in her hands. She taught him that the world must reflect their political image and influence.



She suggested that they would put up a strong and united front against the Soviet Union and its spheres of influence. They would weaken it economically and defuse its political influence in the world.

They would support any action of any other partner nations and then Thatcher went to the topic of Ireland where she proceeded to sell him a bill of goods which he bought that Northern Ireland was a NATO concern not just a British one.

The two leaders agreed to the REAGAN/THATCHER PROTOCOL (The Protocol) ON NORTHERN IRELAND. It was part of the partnership. The primary assumption was that Britain was a peacekeeper and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was a communist-inspired terrorist group. That was the basis for the Protocol.

Thatcher said the Irish American Community (IAC) was supporting the IRA politically and financially and that had to be stopped. She said real Irish Americans like Reagan did not blame the British for the problem of Northern Ireland because they realised the US/“UK”. Friendship was more important and they were above the need for a British withdrawal.

She said they had to realise the IRA were part of the world communist conspiracy. Because it was NATO territory, it was a US problem just as if it were part of the United States.

REAGAN agreed and said the Irish should be grateful for all the efforts of the British to bring peace to the warring factions in the Six Counties. He accepted her line that the British only wanted the North to be a peaceful stable democracy. Reagan said true Irish Americans admire the British and fought for them in two wars.

She said he was her favourite Irishman, the type who was a unionist who deferred to the British. He was her partner in keeping the Six Counties British and those Irish who fought her fought him. He praised Thatcher to all American leaders as America's greatest friend since Winston Churchill. He thought all of Ireland would be better off under the British.

Thatcher informed Reagan that the British could bring the “terrorism” in

the Six Counties under control if the IAC were stifled in their support of the Republican Movement. They planned a campaign against Irish activists.

Reagan first ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to make their list of Irish organisations and leaders and conduct an investigation of their activities and copy everything to British Intelligence. Many supporters of the IRA worked for the Federal government and they were then monitored by each agency's Internal Affairs office and report to the FBI.

Not one of the Federal workers was found in violation of any law or regulation, in fact they were engaged in ordinary legal political activity. Reagan ordered all of them blacklisted for promotion.

Irish American organisations were infiltrated but nothing illegal was found. What were found were very successful anti-British political issues. They had created animosity towards British policy which enraged and threatened Thatcher and in turn Reagan.

With her urging, Reagan declared political war on those who supported Irish unity and were anti-British. He and Thatcher became very close professionally and personally.

When the ten hunger strikers died, the world was in sympathy with them for their courage. Reagan said they got what they deserved in a heartless condemnation. This showed he was a traitor to his own.

Thatcher backed Reagan's invasion of Grenada and he supported her invasion of the Malvinas. His support of any foreign power within the western hemisphere violated the Monroe Doctrine and was illegal.

That Doctrine was meant to keep foreign powers out of the Americas and was specifically aimed at Britain. By law and treaty Reagan was bound to support Argentina against the British in the Malvinas. Reagan broke the law to help Thatcher.

POLITICAL OFFENSE EXCEPTION

Thatcher was concerned that IRA men could go on the run to the US and as we stated she wanted Reagan to change the Extradition treaty to eliminate the Political Offense Exception which recognised the right of the IRA to kill British soldiers and police and it was not regarded as a crime.

The Exception goes to the very essence of American freedom. It encouraged those in other countries to pursue the fight for freedom and independence that the US fought for. Again Reagan was willing to ditch the essence of American freedom to help his political soul-mate defeat the Irish

freedom fighters.

This action against the Irish to eliminate the Political Offense Exception to the Extradition Treaty with Britain gave Thatcher a badly-wanted victory. Under the exception the IRA men on run in the US could not be sent back to the British for a political offence.

America fought two wars to be free from the British tyrant, and now Reagan wanted to deny others like the Irish the right to their freedom from the same tyrant.

At first, the United States Senators had the right reaction and opposed the removal of the political offence exception, but Reagan went all out to bribe his political opponents and they caved in to Reagan doing Thatcher's bidding. The attack on the Exception was led by Senators Kerry, Dodd and Biden, Senators who would lead the charge to the “peace process”. Unionism was blooming.

Thatcher had also infiltrated the Provos and they were making policy that was against basic Republicanism and they split from the real Republican Movement, now represented by Republican Sinn Féin (RSF), and the Provos were taking steps that would lead to the “peace process” and Unionism.

The Protocol was the beginning of a political war against support for Irish Republicanism. The 1970s saw a great lobbying in the Congress culminating in the proposed Peace Forum for a British withdrawal. This was followed by the 1980s commitment of Reagan to Unionism and the 1990s “peace process” which brought the IAC and the Provos into acceptance of *status quo* Unionism.

THE Protocol was the seed of the coming sell-out. It was a calculated campaign of intimidation to bring people to accept peace in Ireland and full participation for all under Unionism. The next three US Presidents would continue the road to Unionism which is the “peace process”. True Republicans have not been bought off which is the hope for the future.

Reagan began it and Ted Kennedy ended it and both were knighted by the Queen for their service to the United Kingdom. Those who did not accept Unionism and the “peace process” will continue their efforts against all those who sell out.

There is a lesson of Irish history that those who sold out were always our own kind. So-called Irishmen Reagan, Kennedy, O'Neill, Dodd, Clinton and it goes on.

They began embracing the concept of Irish unity and ended in Unionism. The same can be said for Irish groups in America. They should hang their heads in shame.

— Peadar Mac Fhínní

Cont from page 14.

agent, Mr Art McCaughey, sexton, St Patrick's Church, Dungannon, were interrogated, arrested and later interned.

“Some of these men, including Mr McCaughey, are still interned in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast.

“Mr McCaughey, who was prominently identified with the Gaelic League, was never publicly charged with any offences, nor did he ever appear in court.

“On the eve of the last General Election it was reported in the press that many nationalists were afraid to take any part in the election campaign and it was thought that they would also be afraid

to vote.

“The low poll in Fermanagh-South Tyrone was an indication of the extent of that fear.”

The *Longford Leader* in the editorial of June 4 criticised the crack-down on collections for Prisoners Dependents.”

“They [Leinster House Administration] fought for the same cause and why try and penalise the efforts of those who are looking after the dependants of the men who are still carrying on the fight, either advisedly or ill-advisedly. That is a matter of opinion.”

In the August issue of *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* the entire

editorial is given over to the question of 26-County troops being sent to the Congo as peacekeepers.

Then a panel refers to the title given to this mission: “Operation Sarsfield”. “A news announcement says that the sending of 26-County troops to the Congo has been called Operation Sarsfield.” It then quotes that brave Irishman's dying wish on a continental battlefield: “Would that this was for Ireland”. How ironic.

A front page note in the same issue is headed: “UN observers not sought”. It reads: “Special legislation was rushed through both houses in the 26-County Parliament to enable the Free State Government to

send its troops to the Congo as part of the United Nations Forces there.

“In view of this it is with bitter memories that our people in Occupied Ireland recall another UN debate in Leinster House on October 23, 1937.

“On that occasion a motion asking the United Nations to send observers to Occupied Ireland was debated.

“This proposal was defeated by 62 votes to 17. All Fianna Fáil members and nearly all Fine Gael who were present voted against.”

On September 17 the *Irish Times* carried a photo showing 26-County President de Valera entertaining RAF Association members who were in Dublin

for the “Battle of Britain” dinner that night.

On the previous day, September 16, the paper of record reported a 48-hour search of the Roslea Mountains, Co Fermanagh. It was understood that a phone call had been received at Roslea RUC Barracks stating that the outpost was about to be attacked.

“The 300 strong search party [of British military and RUC] was supported by a helicopter and tracker dogs. Mine

detectors were also used”.

It was business as usual north of the Border. South of it collaboration continued.

(More next month. Ref: *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, October-November 1948 and August 1960; *Irish Times*, September 16, 17, 26, 27; *Longford Leader* June 4; *Connacht Tribune*, July 9 and 16, *Dungannon Observer*, July 16 and *Sunday Press*, September 4.)

Beannachtaí

WISHING Derek Jordan a speedy recovery. From the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.

'Another little baby boy was born in the ghetto'

SINCE the "recession" the birth rate has gone up all over Europe, but especially so in the Six-County ghetto. The song which is the title of this article was written at the beginning of the Civil Rights movement here in Ireland.

It was written at a time when young nationalists could expect to be unemployed after leaving school. They could expect to live in rotten conditions after getting married. They could expect that their children would suffer the same disadvantages which they did. It was a spiral of poverty that was created and maintained by a foreign government at Westminster and which the "Authorities" up at Stormont implemented.

When Hitler invaded the countries to his east the first thing he did was set up ghettos.

He then asked the residents to establish an 'Authority' among their own people. He paid the Authority to do his bidding by redistributing some of the taxes they gathered from their people back into the pockets of the members of the legislative 'Authority'. An old trick that is familiar when one looks at the Stormont 'Authority'.

IN the Basque country the Spanish are attempting to have set up a similar 'Authority'. In the West Bank the American/Israeli alliance have similarly set up an 'Authority'. Abbas and his buddies continue to carry out the work started by Arafat and the other corrupt fat cats he maintained. In Gaza when no one plays ball Hamas leaders are simply murdered and their democratic credentials ignored.

There is no secret formula for taking over countries. It is a tried and tested thing that requires only a strong stomach and a poor moral compass. In South America the heads of Junta would be offered loans and bribed to accept them. When the Americans had the country indebted to it they dictated both the local and international policy of those states. When the state stepped out of line they would raise the interest rates on the borrowing which was necessary to pay the original loans. In order to pay the loans the Junta would reduce public spending by closing schools and hospitals...

Here in Ireland the so-called 'Celtic Tiger' was funded in an identical way. After entering the euro currency, paper money with no solid collateral to back it up was printed and pumped into Ireland. Upon

receipt of the second Lisbon vote the gloves came off. The speculators decided it was time to impoverish the people of this and other European countries. The Eurocrats now decide Ireland's financial and international policy and hospitals and schools are closing...

When Hitler set up his ghettos the one thing he insisted on was that all that entered must be from German companies and that the German mark would be the central currency. When American companies lent to South American countries the dollar was the preferred currency. When lenders lent to Ireland the euro was the standard.

To be honest, I am not an economist. Garret Fitzgerald and his son are, so is Alan

Dukes, in the boom times it seemed that half of Ireland was an economist yet all of them claim not to have known how countries are impoverished by corrupt financiers and bankers. Maybe they had a day off school when that lecture took place but it is really likely or possible they all went sick on the same day?

At least the LIGs can't be blamed for this mess — even they admit they can't count. Like, didn't they 'win the war and unite Ireland' (they just forgot to add in the other wee six, a common enough mistake which many before them also made).

SO it's back to the good old days. Brussels will run half of Ireland and Britain will run the other and all the politicians here will form an 'Authority' and

receive some of the taxes they collect from workers as their wages.

Banana republic? No! Never! In a banana republic the peasants might have their own bananas to eat. In a ghetto the master must control the means of production and supply so that he may receive taxes on.

That is why he needs an 'Authority', that is why he must print his own currency and control the rate at which he produces "quantitative easing" and that is why these lyrics are as relevant now as they were forty years ago.

Is there an economist out there who disagrees with this analysis?

Sieg Heil (or whatever it is we will be directed to do next by the 'Authorities').

— Mac Cool

Hospital cuts throughout Ireland

IT was reported on August 30 that the Health Service Executive said 'some patients' in the west of Ireland would be affected by the spending cuts it is being forced to make to avoid a €90m budget overrun this year.

However it said that contrary to local speculation, no decision has been made to remove the oncology service from Portlincula Hospital in Ballinasloe as part of the cost-cutting exercise. Many patients from east Galway and adjoining midland counties receive chemotherapy and other related treatments in the hospital.

In Letterkenny, Co Donegal, thousands marched on August 28 to defend health services at the local hospital. Pensioners and workers most vulnerable to any cuts in health services, brought traffic to halt.

The march began at the station roundabout at 12pm and went through the town.

The 340-bed unit provides a range of acute hospital services on an in-patient, day-case and

out-patient basis.

The Save Donegal Health Services in a statement called upon the 26-County Administration to listen very carefully to the thousands of people who spoke with one voice calling for a change of strategy by the decisions makers in Ireland on the lack of funding for our health service.

Spokesperson for the group Martin O'Rourke said people and Unions are concerned about the savage cuts in Home Support Service, the Review of Lifford, the Shiel and the Community Hospitals, the proposed privatisation of the Laundry Service, the loss of services in the hospital and the loss of around 100 jobs with the resulting loss of many additional services in the county.

In Navan General Hospital, Co Meath, Doctors are advising their patients that not only do they not know how long their patients will have to wait for operations but they don't even know in what hospital they will be treated.

The only thing they can do now in Navan is put on a bandage according to one patient.

On August 14 over 8,000 people united and held hands around Roscommon Hospital to show that people would defend their public service.

Marchers, led by the Castlereagh Brass band snaked around the GAA grounds, over the road and into the grounds of the hospital. Staff and patients waved on at the march until the march doubled back on itself at the entrance, with many more still waiting to join the symbolic holding hands around the hospital.

Organisers had planned maybe one row of people doing this but the crowd was at least ten deep around the hospital.



• Thousands of people protested in Letterkenny, Co Donegal on August 7 to oppose health cuts at the local hospital.

There was a clear commitment to the local hospital as scores of people told Trade Union TV how staff at Roscommon hospital had saved their lives or the lives of those near and dear to them. The threatened government cuts were

a step too far for so many people on the march.

Luke 'Ming' Flanagan, Mayor of Roscommon, tapped into the energy and anger of the march saying nothing was impossible if you believed it. He scoffed at the

pathetic solutions 'offered' by those in the HSE.

There is only one solution for Roscommon hospital and that's to keep it open, well funded and resourced for the fullest of lives for the people in Roscommon.

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