



# BEIR BUA



*The honest voice of Republicanism*



## *“His Master’s Voice”*

### ***New Tricks! Old Tricks! Dirty Tricks!***

Given Martin McGuinness’s refusal to take up the challenge of a public debate, issued by Derry republican Gary Donnelly, to back up his smear allegations against republicans, the 32CSM in Derry wish to put some facts into the public domain so that the people of Derry and beyond can be in no doubt of the agenda being pursued by the Stormont Deputy First Minister. The invitation to Martin McGuinness remains an open one.

#### **Recent Attacks**

Gary Donnelly was already on record in the *Irish News* two weeks prior to the petrol bomb attack on Mitchell McLaughlin’s home, condemning an earlier attack on the same house. Donnelly, in the *Derry Journal*, referred to the young people involved in an attack on the Bloody Sunday Museum and other anti-social activity, as ‘hoods’. Nothing was ‘squeezed’ from him as McGuinness would allege.

At the same time 1,000 *Sovereign Nation* papers were delivered free in the Bogside carrying a strong editorial condemning the attacks and outlining the reasons why we felt they were happening.

Martin McGuinness publicly names Gary Donnelly and demands he apologizes for the attack on McLaughlin’s house. This followed a front page article in the *Derry Journal* by McGuinness, a week earlier, condemning dissidents as criminals and drug dealers.

In response to this Gary Donnelly challenged McGuinness to a public debate in the Bogside in which he could produce his evidence that republicans were somehow involved in attacking McLaughlin’s house and were involved in criminality and drug dealing.

McGuinness has refused a public debate without pre conditions. He is insisting that Donnelly apologizes to McLaughlin for the attack and, bizarrely, insists that Gary Donnelly gets the IRA to remove imaginary death threats against McGuinness and other PSF personnel. If McGuinness had any evidence whatsoever to support his disgraceful allegations there wouldn’t be enough preconditions on earth to stop him putting it into the public domain. Put up or shut up.

McGuinness, rather than welcoming Donnelly's condemnation of the attack and welcoming the support, told BBC Radio that it was "squeezed out" following a public vigil. In fact, the condemnation was issued to the *Derry Journal* some hours before the vigil. Acts of anti-social behaviour occurring in the Bogside the same weekend included: two cars burned out; 80 year old woman subjected to an indecent exposure by a drugged up 21 yr old youth; unoccupied house burned; street drinkers attacked with bottles; fencing and private property destroyed; fire brigade attacked by mobs. None of this warranted a mention or any concern from PSF.

### **Sinister Development**

McGuinness, again on BBC Radio, asked Gary Donnelly to explain his activities in Donegal at the time of his arrest on IRA membership charges. The presenter pointed out that Donnelly was cleared of the charges to which McGuinness answered that he, as a public representative, would like to examine the evidence. Why? Does McGuinness believe that Gary Donnelly should have been convicted? Or is he trying to impugn Donnelly's character because the case was thrown out?

For the record the sole evidence against Gary Donnelly was the word of a Chief Superintendent and the exercising of his right to remain silent. McGuinness needs to clarify his position on this and on the Special Criminal Court given that his colleague, Ray McCartney, called for the release of Gary and the Derry 4. PSF is on record as opposing the Special Criminal Court. Is Martin McGuinness operating under a private policy detached from official PSF policy on this juryless institution? The Derry 4 actually spent more time on remand at the direction of the Special Criminal Court than McGuinness did for two convictions of membership.

### **Community Activism**

Martin McGuinness can produce no evidence of Republicans in Derry being involved in criminality. There are no trappings of wealth that he can point to, no second homes, or ownership of clubs and pubs. We live and work in working class areas where we play an increasingly active role within the community. Examples include: engagement with young people in the Bogside to discourage them from taking part in sectarian attacks on the Fountain Estate; we work closely with a wide range of community centres, resource centres and community activists; we have met with Triax; we play a prominent role in the Amenities Action Group and in the Campaign to Remove the Raytheon arms manufacturer from Derry; we've met with the elected representatives of both nationalist parties including councillors and two MLAs; we have worked proactively with the gay community to prevent homophobic attacks including installing a CCTV on the home of one gay couple; we meet on a daily basis with local communities and residents concerned about drug dealers and anti-social activities; we work with some groups and agencies on sensitive issues which require confidentiality.

### **Political Engagement**

Martin McGuinness's charge that himself and Gerry Adams had sought engagement with republicans and were rebuffed is, like his charges of criminality, blatant lies. The 32CSM sent position papers to PSF in 2005 and 2008 upon which they have not engaged one iota. The invitation to do so also remains open.

Martin McGuinness has no authority to negotiate Irish sovereignty away. No authority to criminalise the Republican struggle. No monopoly on republicanism. McGuinness has engaged in some bizarre actions for someone who claims to be a Republican including sending sympathy to the families of British soldiers killed in imperialist wars, solidarity to a British Army chaplain going to Afghanistan, and taking Custard Creams and Lucozade to the PSNI man wounded in an IRA operation, being photographed with Henry Kissinger and George Bush; calling IRA volunteers who carried out an attack on the British Army 'traitors' for which he received lavish praise from Hugh Orde, Peter Robinson and the UDA; calling some journalists 'dissident journalists', an echo of Douglas Hogg's remarks before Pat Finucane's murder that some solicitors were unduly sympathetic to the IRA.

His outburst that those republicans who honoured Derry's dead at Easter were in some way removed from the fallen Volunteers named on the Republican Monument in the City Cemetery failed to realize that the families of fifteen of those volunteers were present. Are they 'traitors' also? The question must now be asked, not least by PSF members themselves, has Martin McGuinness completely lost the plot? Are his outbursts reflective of the sentiments and beliefs of grassroots PSF members? Are those who disagree with the GFA all to be labeled as 'traitors'?

In "The world According to Sinn Fein", such people are traitors to Ireland, criminals and members of pseudo-gangs run - strangely enough - by the government of which Mr McGuinness is a member (although he's never seriously taken it up with them). If we were to accept the thrust of Sinn Fein logic over recent years we should conclude that if Mitchell McLaughlin's house was attacked by dissidents then ultimate responsibility lies with shady elements of the government Mr McGuinness belongs to. The securocrats seem to be able to act with impunity despite the new era of transparency and accountability overseen by 'policing boards' full of Sinn Fein members who never try to hold the 'securocrats' accountable for the actions of their pseudo-gangs which include killing British soldiers - just to undermine Sinn Fein, of course. If Mr McGuinness was to follow the logic of Sinn Fein's analysis he would be calling on Shaun Woodward to apologise for the attack on Mitchell McLaughlin. The truth is that Mr McGuinness is not stupid enough to believe his own propaganda, but he does expect his supporters to do so, unquestioningly.