



# Fuascailt



IRISH political prisoner's campaign

volume 1 issue 1

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## launch of fuascailt

OVER 60 people attended the launch of fuascailt in the hammersmith IRISH centre on 31st may 1996.

Pictured right is Patricia Campbell, prisoners' relative, speaking at the launch. Speakers included Micheal Browne from the Sinn Fein POW dept. who offered support for the new campaign, Jessica Mullen-Payne, daughter of Nick Mullen (Irish POW in Whitemoor), Jenny Payne, friend of Nick Mullen and it was chaired by Shelagh O'Connor from Fuascailt London. A call went out for all the people who supported Saoirse during the last year to join Fuascailt to ensure that the Conditions, Transfer and the eventual Release of all Irish Political Prisoners were kept to the forefront of all campaigns in Britain, especially in the run up to the General Election.



patricia campbell at the launch of fuascailt

Since the beginning of May Fuascailt members have been actively promoting the campaign and taking part in various protests. These have included: "doorstepping" the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party at their Headquarters in Walworth Rd to protest against the renewal and increased powers of the Prevention of Terrorism Act *with Labour's connivance*, pickets of the Home Office prompted by recent admissions about contaminated equipment in the British Government's Forensic Laboratory in Kent. There are now doubts about the safety of up to 38 people charged under the PTA since 1989. Fuascailt members have protested vociferously outside Paddington Green police station against further

recent arrests under the PTA.

Regular monthly events include the expanding picket held outside Downing St on the first Sunday of every month between 12.00 and 1.30pm. Mr Major was visibly shaken to see this colourful display when he arrived to consult with his cohorts over the BSE scandal on a recent Sunday. A monthly social is held on the last Thursday of the month at the Victoria Tavern in Holloway Rd, with live music, buffet and songs. Fuascailt teams have leafleted and helped raise the profile of the campaign at festivals and public meetings throughout London in recent months. Fuascailt members have been active in lobbying Euro-MPs to protest against the continued lack of human rights for Irish prisoners incarcerated in British

WEAR A GREEN RIBBON to show your support for the prisoners



## Aims and Objectives

Fuascailt has been formed to campaign on the issues concerning the continued incarceration of approximately 500 Irish political prisoners held in prisons in Ireland, England and the USA. Conditions for republican prisoners in English prisons have deteriorated dramatically since August 1994. They are as bad as any time since the mid 1970s. Conditions continue to deteriorate on a daily basis and the driving force behind is The Home Secretary Michael Howard. Since he took office there have been at least 16 High Court rulings against the Home Office. Howard has chosen to ignore them all.

With the support of and direction from the Sinn Fein POW Department, Fuascailt will campaign on the following issues.

- For the transfer and repatriation of all republican prisoners to Ireland. Of the 23 republican prisoners held in English jails, 20 have applied for repatriation to the 26 counties.
- The immediate release of Patrick Kelly currently held in Portlaoise prison who is seriously ill with skin cancer. Whilst in Whitemoor prison in England he received medical treatment only after the intervention of Irish TDs.
- The immediate release of all POWs who have served their tariff.
- An immediate end to the barbaric conditions in which Irish Political prisoners are held in English prisons including the immediate closure or the notorious special secure units which have been described as "Concrete coffins"
- On behalf of those incarcerated under the racist Prevention of Terrorism Act. (PTA)
- Against the proposed extradition of Irish people to Britain. Irish people on political motivated charges have no chance of a fair trial in this country.
- For proper visiting conditions for prison visits. For an end to closed visits as these deny family contact, harassment of families and friends travelling to visits and for an end to ghosting (the moving of prisoners to other prisons often hundreds of miles away with little or no notice often during family visits.)
- To raise funds to help in the welfare needs of the prisoners and their families.

Fuascailt will be campaigning over the coming months on the above issues, we have a full programme of work and urge all readers of this newsletter to join in the work of the campaign.

## Colin Duffy;

### Another Miscarriage of Justice.

Colin Duffy is a 27 year old Lurgan man. He is married with a wife and young daughter. On 5th. of July 1995 he was sentenced by a Diplock Court (non jury) to life and 20 years imprisonment on charges of murder and possession of a fire arm respectively. He is currently held in Long Kesh and is appealing his conviction, having consistently maintained that he had no involvement in the incident from which the conviction arose. Below we print a letter from Colin Duffy.

"to date I have served three years imprisonment. Under current rules this is the equivalent to six years. On July 5th 1995, my lengthy trial resulted in a conviction in a Diplock court, primarily on the evidence of Lindsay Robb. This man is currently serving a ten-year sentence in prison in Scotland on charges of gunrunning for the UVF. At the time of my trial Mr. Robb was shielded from the body of the court by a screen. His evidence against me was given great weight by the judge who commended the impartiality of his testimony. At no time was it indicated to either myself or my defence counsel that Mr. Robb may have been involved in paramilitary activities, nor was any documentation to this effect disclosed.

Naturally, upon hearing of Mr Robb's conviction all documents relating to his Scottish trial were immediately requested by my lawyers. I now learn that the prosecution lawyers intend to make a series of ex-parte applications to the appeal court to request permission to withhold what they term 'sensitive' evidence. In God's name how much longer can this continue? How much longer do I and my family have to suffer at the hands of the system before justice is done? The frustration of this situation is indescribable. I have consistently maintained that I am innocent of any involvement in the killing of John Lyness, and yet despite everything remain deprived of my liberty.

I am aware that my case has aroused considerable public concern and am grateful to everyone who has been of assistance to date. Evil is served when good people remain silent and I hope therefore that the diligence and fortitude displayed by my family and friends will ultimately be rewarded. I fervently hope that no other family has to suffer the prolonged ordeal which my family and I are currently enduring.

We are told that justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done. In my case justice is most notable by its absence."

COLIN DUFFY.

If you wish to find out more about Colin's case please contact Fuascailt.



**1st & 3rd THURSDAY EACH MONTH**  
Next meeting Thursday 1.8.96.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.**  
Next picket Sunday 4.8.96.

**LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.**  
Next social Thursday 25.7.96.

Supporters meetings. 7.30pm.  
Camden Irish Centre N.W.1.

Picket of Downing Street.  
12 noon - 1.30pm.

Benefit Social, 8pm - late.  
Victoria PH, Holloway Rd. N.7.

There will not be a social at the end of August  
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

Saturday 20.7.96.

T.U.C. Anti-Racism Festival.  
Finsbury Park. Fuascailt stall.

Saturday 3.8.96.

Roger Casement commemoration  
Wreath laying by Fuascailt.  
Pentonville Prison. 1pm.

Saturday 10.8.96.

Fuascailt Quiz evening.  
Irish theme. Refreshments.  
Roger Casement Centre.,  
St Johns Way N.19.

If you would like more information or would like to help at any of the above events please contact  
Fuascailt P.O. Box No3923, London NW5 1RA..

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE PRISONERS STILL IN JAIL.**  
**FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS.**

7.8.96. Vincent Wood, EN 1049, Full Sutton Prison, York YO4 1PS.

25.9.96. Vincent Donnelly, 274064, Frankland Prison, Finchale Avenue, Braxside,  
Durham DH1 5YD.

## prevention of terrorism act

The Prevention of Terrorism Act introduced in 1974 has been a draconian piece of legislation affecting mainly the Irish community living in Britain. Its powers are indiscriminate and wide ranging and include -

Banning of certain organisations, including The Irish Republican Army and The Irish National Liberation Army making it illegal to be a member or even supporter of either organisation.

Exclusion Powers - whereby the Home Secretary has power to restrict a person to living in Northern Ireland or Britain for a period of 3 years without having had charges made against them.

Powers of Arrest - these allow police to hold a person for up to 7 days, again without charge, and can refuse access to a solicitor for the first 48 hours. Police also have the power to stop & search persons at random together with any article in their possession.

Since the introduction of the P.T.A. up to December 1995 some 7412 people have been detained in connection with Northern Ireland Terrorism -

Only 9.5% of those detained were subsequently charged.

Only 7.5% being found guilty of either P.T.A. or ordinary criminal offences

**MAKING 92.5% OF ALL PERSONS ARRESTED**

### TOTALLY INNOCENT OF ANY CRIME.

The Ceasefire, called in August 1994, brought no drastic reduction in the use of the P.T.A. powers, with 22,691 searches of persons being carried out at British Ports, which allows for their detention for up to 1 hour without any record being required.

The P.T.A. was further extended in April of this year by the British Government, without opposition from the Labour Party, to include amongst other new powers random body searches. These powers could affect anyone of us at any time. You do not need to be an 'Activist' or supporter of organisations just an Irish person in the wrong place at the wrong time. You too could become another statistic !!!

Fuascailt will be producing an information card on your rights should you find yourself stopped, detained or arrested and will be available shortly.

Should you require any further information on the please write to the Fuascailt P.O. Box.No. or P.T.A. and Welfare Association, P.O.Box 4736  
ILG. Tel: 0121 551 0503



## caption competition

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Fuascailt members protest  
outside the Home office in London.

A prize of a historical publication will  
go to the best caption.

Send your entries to the address below  
before the end of August.

## IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS IN BRITAIN

Please send a birthday cards to all POWs listed. Cards are welcome at any time.<sup>1</sup>

NAME	NUMBER	D.O.B.	SENTENCE
<b>Belmarsh Prison</b>			
McGeer Paul (Dingus)	Belfast	BR3783	30/01/48 30 YRS
McCotter Liam	Belfast	LB83693	02/01/63 17 YRS
McNamee Danny	Armagh	L481616	25 YRS
O'Duibhir Liam	Dublin	MT2485	14/12/61 30 YRS
Sherry Peter	Tyrone	B75880	30/06/55 LIFE
<b>Frankland Prison</b>			
McKenney Joseph	Down	L46486	07/02/27 16YRS
<b>Full Sutton</b>			
Butler Eddie	Limerick	334627	17/04/49 LIFE
Doherty Derek	Dublin	EN3887	31 DEC 25 YRS
Doherty Hugh	Donegal	338636	07/12/50 LIFE
Jack Hugh Tommy	Scotland	EN3177	10/09/57 25 YRS
MacFhlainn Paraic	Dublin	EN1946	25 MAR 35 YRS
O'Brien Micheal	Dublin	BR3782	11 JUN 18 YRS
O'Connell Joe	Clare	338635	15/05/51 LIFE
Quinn Liam	San Francisco	49930	06 FEB LIFE
Wood Vincent	Mayo	EN1049	07/08/64 22 YRS
<b>Whitemoor</b>			
Donnelly Vincent	Tyrone	274064	25/09/39 LIFE
Duggan Harry	Clare	338638	31/10/52 LIFE
Hayes Pat	London	EN1978	27 FEB 30 YRS
Kinsella Denis	Dublin	EN1944	12/04/68 25 YRS
McNulty Sean	Tyrone	CL3440	13 OCT 25 YRS
Mullen Nick	Sligo	MR0639	02 FEB 30 YRS
Taylor Jan	London	EN1977	18 JAN 30 YRS

### PRISON ADDRESSES

HMP FRANKLAND  
FINCHALE AVENUE,  
BRASSIDE, DURHAM,  
DH1 5YD

HMP BELMARSH  
WESTERN WAY,  
THAMESMEAD,  
LONDON  
SE28 0EB

HMP WHITEMOOR  
LONGHILL ROAD,  
MARCH,  
CAMBRIDGE  
PE15 QPR

HMP FULL SUTTON  
YORK  
YD4 1PS

HMP MAGHABERRY  
OLD ROAD,  
UPPER BALLINDERRY  
LISBURN, IRELAND.  
BT28 2PT

List Compiled 18 July 1996

## Join fuascailt today

membership is open to all individuals and organisations who support our  
aims. individuals: £10/£5CONCS. ORGANISATIONS:£20.

name.....tel.no.....

address.....

.....post code.....

Fuascailt, PO Box 3923, London NW5 1RA.

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