

## **IRISH REPUBLICAN INFORMATION SERVICE (no. 208)**

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*Republican Sinn Féin homepage: <http://iol.ie/~saoirse/rsf>*

*SAOIRSE homepage: <http://iol.ie/~saoirse>*

*Release Josephine Hayden: <http://iol.ie/~saoirse/hayden>*

*1798 Ireland: <http://iol.ie/~fagann/1798/>*

### **BRITAIN'S BLITZKRIEG -- OVER 2,500 PLASTIC BULLETS FIRED**

BRITISH Crown Forces fired over 2,500 plastic bullets in the first two weeks of July, the British government revealed at the end of July. Adam Ingram, the 'security' minister attached to the British colonial office in the Six Counties stated in a House of Commons' written reply the move had been taken "in response to the widespread and serious public disorder". Ingram, a Labour Party MP, is a former member of the Orange Order in his home city of Glasgow, Scotland.

Nowhere in this widespread use of plastic bullets has Britain's favourite control weapon been used against the loyalist community during July. 'Parity of esteem' in the light of British jackboot tactics is meant only for the former revolutionary political playboys who are on the road to Stormont Mark II, and the rest of the nationalist community will simply be bullied into fitting into a reformed Six-County colony.

British direct-ruler Marjorie Mowlam had confirmed on June 11 last that the British police (RUC) had known since March 1997 that it had fired plastic bullets which travelled faster than safety regulations allowed. Mowlam's comments in the Westminster parliament followed an admission from the British Ministry of Defence on the same date that 9,000 defective plastic baton rounds had been fired in the Six Counties between 1994 and April 1997. More than 90,000 plastic bullets were found to be faulty and withdrawn.

### **CROWN FORCES ATTACKED IN BELFAST**

IN a recent interview with a Volunteer of the Continuity Irish Republican Army a reporter for the Republican newspaper SAOIRSE learnt that on Sunday, July 6 Volunteers from a unit of the 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade attacked the New Barnsley British police (RUC) barracks with grenades. Fire was returned and a short battle ensued. All Volunteers returned safely.

A unit of the 3rd Battalion opened fire in the Oldpark Road-Cliftonville district on the same day and claimed that one member of the RUC was hit. At Stewartstown Road, Andersonstown a unit of the 1st Battalion opened fire also but no hits were claimed.

It was also learned that on Monday, July 7 Volunteers from the South Antrim Brigade left a booby-trap device aimed at British Crown Forces at the bandstand in the field at Edenderry. Due to the risk to civilians in the area the media were informed. Because the British Crown Forces refused to act a second warning was given.

### **CAR BOMB ATTACK IN FERMANAGH**

A MASSIVE car bomb was placed at a hotel and marina near Lisbellaw, on the Erne River in County Fermanagh on Thursday, July 31.

Colin Beattie, owner of the Carrybridge Hotel, said he received a warning call immediately after the bomb was planted at 9pm. The caller simply said "there is a massive car bomb in the car-park and you should get the place emptied". "This is for real" the caller said about three times and the hotel was cleared. The British army carried out a controlled explosion on the vehicle which burnt out the car and is said to have caused superficial damage to the hotel.

Rumours that the bomb was the work of the Continuity Irish Republican Army were carried in the media who once again tried to link that organisation to Republican Sinn Féin by the device of saying "Gardaí believe it to be the paramilitary wing of Republican Sinn Féin". Republican Sinn Féin has stated

on a number of occasions that it is a purely political organisation and is not the "political wing" of any military group, neither does it have any "military wing".

No claim of responsibility has been made for the Fermanagh bombing.

## **BRITISH FORCE LOYALIST PARADE THROUGH NATIONALIST VILLAGE**

THE nationalist village of Newtownbutler in County Fermanagh came under heavy assault from British Crown storm-troopers who forced a Royal Black Preceptory march through the area on Sunday, August 3.

All traffic coming into the village apart from that belonging to loyalists attending the parade of bigotry was re-routed by the British colonial police (RUC). Despite the fact that Newtownbutler is an almost entirely nationalist village with only four Protestants living in its environs, this did not stop loyalist supremacists from surrounding areas from converging on this small nationalist community.

As over 100 Royal Black Preceptory members paraded from the local Orange hall to Galloon parish church, the British colonial police moved to clear the road of over 100 residents who had mounted a picket against this annual loyalist onslaught on their town. The colonial police (RUC) chopped and hacked their way through protesters as if involved in a forest clearance.

Residents retaliated by stone-throwing. A large number of the inhabitants were injured in this stampede of hatred. Many of the injured were brought to a house for safety and first aid treatment. Six people were taken to hospital, five with head injuries and one with a suspected broken wrist.

Late into the night the Parades Commission, a body appointed by the British to decide who and who should not be allowed to march through the streets of Occupied Ireland, arrived in the village under the leadership of the Rev Roy Magee and held a meeting with the Newtownbutler Area Residents Association (NARA). The 'Black' men, however, refused to meet with NARA.

A further two marches are scheduled for the town on Saturday, August 9, and residents have demanded a meeting with parade organisers beforehand.

## **QUINLIVAN APPEAL CASE SET FOR OCTOBER**

THE Dublin Supreme Court, meeting on July 28, fixed October 29 to hear an appeal against a Special (non-jury) Court decision that Nesson Quinlivan was lawfully detained after temporary release in November 1996. Judge Dominic Lynch, one of the three Special Court judges, was not a member of the court at the time, but had not been informed that he had been delisted. Quinlivan (31), of Ballynanty Beg, Limerick, and whose extradition the British are seeking, was one of a number of people released temporarily from different prisons on November 6-7 last.

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