

# Extradition -

## A NATIONAL

## BETRAYAL

DECEMBER 1988 marks the first anniversary of the coming into force of the new Extradition Act which finally abolished the last protection for Irish citizens sought by the British government for political offences or offences connected with the political conflict in the North of Ireland. In this month one year ago the Fianna Fail government abolished the right of our people to plead political immunity from extradition to a foreign government and judicial system which has shown nothing but contempt for the civil and human rights of Irish people.

A year after the Extradition Act and 20 years after the Civil Rights movement took to the streets of the Six Counties the British government is still trampling on our rights. Look what has happened in the short space of this year alone.

● The British Attorney-General Patrick Mayhew – the man responsible for operating extradition procedures with Dublin – announced that there were to be no prosecutions of the RUC men involved in the 1982 shoot-to-kill incidents and that the Stalker/Sampson report into them was to be suppressed in the interests of British 'national security'.

● The Appeal Court in London threw out the final appeal of the Birmingham Six. The judges described the convictions as "safe and satisfactory".

● Walking to a GAA match near the British border post at Aughnacloy Aidan McAnespie was shot in the back by a soldier who fired from the observation tower.

● It was revealed that British army Private Ian Thain had been released after serving only two years of a life sentence for the murder of a young Bel-

fast man, Thomas 'Kidso' Reilly. Thain was the only British soldier ever convicted of murder in the Six Counties since 1969.

- In Gibraltar IRA members Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage were shot dead by the SAS in what were, as the Irish government said at the time, "circumstances in which they could have been arrested".

- Another British soldier walked free after Britain's Director of Public Prosecutions in the North announced that there was to be no prosecution against him for the killing of Aidan McAneaspie.

- New evidence confirming the innocence of the Guildford Four was published in the book Time Bomb. Like the Birmingham Six these four people are innocent victims of a British judicial conspiracy against Irish citizens.

This is the system to which the Fianna Fail government is extraditing political prisoners. On August 27th we witnessed the shameful sight of Robert Russell being handed over to the RUC in the corner of a field in the early dawn as gardai sneaked him past hundreds of demonstrators into a British army helicopter.

The same fate awaits many more people if extradition is not stopped. Former election agent for Bobby Sands and MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone Owen Carron, together with H-Block escapers Dermot Finucane, Paul Kane and Jim Clarke, is fighting extradition in the courts. Possibly hundreds more are on Margaret Thatcher's shopping-list of potential extraditees.

The full responsibility for this national betrayal rests on the shoulders of the Fianna Fail government and of its leader Charles Haughey in particular. Remember:

- The so-called safeguards introduced into the Act last year are not safe and guard against nothing. All they amount to is a rubber-stamp from the Irish Attorney-General on British extradition warrants.

- Under Section 50 of the 1965 Extradition Act the Minister for Justice has the power to release any prisoner held on extradition warrants.

The Irish Anti-Extradition Committee demands:

- The release of all prisoners held on extradition warrants for political offences or offences connected with the political conflict in the North of Ireland.

- The repeal of the 1987 Extradition Act.

- The enactment of legislation restoring the political exception in extradition cases.

The Extradition Act is under review this December. Show your opposition.

Contact the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee, 29 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. Phone 366489.

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