



Prisoners Aid Committee
c/o 142 Drummond Street
London NW1

BULLETIN

October/November 1976

NOEL JENKINSON

Noel Jenkinson was found dead in his cell in the security unit of Leicester prison at 8.30 on the morning of Saturday, 9 October. According to the "official" version of his death produced at the inquest on 11 October, he had died of a heart attack during the night and only been discovered some hours later by a fellow prisoner. The barrister representing the PAC applied for an adjournment in order that another pathologist might be able to examine^{ed} the body. This was refused as, the Coroner said, because of "security reasons" the body had to be handed over to the family that day. And as the inquest had been conveniently timed for 4pm it was impossible for another pathologist to perform a second autopsy. Noel's body was flown to Dublin the following day and arrived there about mid-day. He was buried the same afternoon in Kill of the Grange cemetery, Dublin. Only the family attended.

The PAC remains totally unsatisfied with the result of the so-called inquest and the reasons put forward for his death. Noel had been in prison for 4½ years. He should not have been there at all and was fighting the police frame up by taking his case before the European Court of Human Rights. We can imagine how the Brits must have hated him for that. In addition, Noel, as a forceful and articulate political thinker fought the prison system all along the way. At the time of his death he was, like Frank Stagg, refusing all cooperation in a bid to get the security unit closed down. The unit had been ruled by Mountbatten ten years ago to be unfit for habitation. If these were not reasons enough for the Brits to want to see him out of the way, Noel had over the last few months begun to produce and publicise through his published letters his thoughts on the Irish struggle. His personal disgust with the way the Stickies were using his name to collect money was accompanied by a growing disillusion with their politics of compromise with Imperialism. This had been evident to him for some time but in August he decided that whatever little influence he had in prison should be used to call for support for the Provisionals and a letter to this effect was published in Republican News on 28 August. This was followed by other letters which analysed political events and which proved, beyond even his greatest hopes that he could, from behind bars, play a role on the struggle. It was at this point, when he had shown like many imprisoned Revolutionaries before him, that he could not be silenced by prison walls, that Noel began to represent a dangerous threat to the Brits. They had tried to kill him before. He had been attacked and beaten, ostensibly by other prisoners. An attempt had been made to break his mind by holding him in solitary confinement for six months. Far from being intimidated by all this, Noel had become more and more determined to speak out and he had made his political position clear on numerous visits. All overheard by screws. He had decided to apply formally for membership of Sinn Fein. He was dead before his application could be dealt with. In order to know how Noel died we only have to ask ourselves the simple question, "Who benefitted from his death?"

All responsibility for his death rests with those who unjustly imprisoned him and who were the ones who set up the so-called inquest into his death. Many prisoners die in prison under mysterious circumstances which Coroners juries are usually too complacent to uncover. At the inquest in Leicester the jury showed great impatience with the questioning of screws by the PAC barrister. They obviously thought it did not matter - after all Noel was only an IRA bomber as their wonderful papers had told them. The pathologist who carried out the autopsy, Dr Pugh, is a Home Office employee ie an employee of the very people responsible for Noel's treatment in prison and who had just refused to allow him to see a solicitor with a view to bringing a prosecution against them. Dr Pugh had also on his own admission not examined the contents of Noel's stomach and refused to be pinned down to a time of death. The prisoner who found his body, John Joyce, said that Noel's bell had been rung at 2.30am. The screw's version of that was that Noel had asked for a headache power - a blatant lie as Noel made a point of never taking painkillers from the prison for if he was given drugs, especially tranquillisers. Joyce also said that Noel had previously complained of pains in his chest, but all the screws who gave evidence denied this. The only verdict possible in Noel's case is that he was murdered - murdered for daring to speak out against British Imperialism; murdered for refusing to be cowed into silence by prison bars and beatings; murdered for being a Revolutionary and a Socialist and an Irishman. Although Noel is dead, the things he stood for can never die. His name will be remembered wherever the fight for Ireland's freedom known. On Sunday, 17 October Noel was granted posthumous membership of Sinn Fein by the Ard Fheis in Dublin.

Strasbourg: The PAC, in accordance with his wishes, intends to continue with taking Noel's case before the European Court. The case has already been mostly payed for from individual donations and we intend to continue in our attempt to expose British injustice; We are disgusted at the Stickies fraudulent use of Noel's name to collect money for their own purposes. Not only was Noel in total disagreement with their policies but they had totally reneged on their responsibility in Noel's case because they find Aldershot an embarrassing reminder of a past they would rather forget. Earlier this year the PAC asked the Official IRA Army Council to allow those members who had carried out the Aldershot bombing and who were now safe from prosecution to make affidavits to be presented to the Strasbourg Court to absolve Noel from the act. This request was promptly refused. Not only publically but privately the Sticks had absolutely no intention of doing anything to help free Noel or to publicise his case. It is a different matter when it comes to using his name to make money for themselves. They have attacked us with lies in attempting to deny their actions, but the remedy is simple. Let them hand over to us, named by Noel in a letter as the only organisation entitled to campaign for him, all the money they have falsely collected for his case, and let them end the pious hypocrisy of using in their papers the name of a prisoner who detested everything they stand for.

1. Political Show Trials. i) Shane O'Doherty was sentenced to life imprisonment and Thomas Cooper to three years at the Old Bailey on 10 September for sending letter and parcel bombs from Ireland to England. Passing sentence, "Justice" The Siger (of Tobin and Bolger fame) said. "It comes near to treason. It is war on the community which is treason and which still carries capital punishment."

Both prisoners had been kidnapped in Ireland by the forces of "law and order" and brought to England. O'Doherty refused to recognise the court whose jurisdiction he challenged. Since his incarceration in the Scrubs he has refused to wear uniform. When sentence was passed he said, "Justice means Britain getting out of Ireland and I shall never consider any of the verdicts of your courts binding upon me." ii) Peter Joseph Toal was found guilty at Birmingham on 12 October of causing an explosion in the city in a railway signal box and of conspiring to cause explosions between January and August 1974. Toal said he was assaulted and threatened by police to make him sign a confession. On 13 October, Toal along with Donal McLaughlin, Patrick Christie, David Owen and Michael Reilly who had all pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges were sentenced to 10 years in prison.

2. Anthony Cunningham who had been held under the Terrorising Act was charged on 4 October with conspiring to cause explosions between January 1973 and September 1976 when he appeared in court in Marylebone. Amongst those held with him was his 12 year old daughter who had been taken from school, his wife and another couple who were later all released.

3. Vincent Donnelly was charged on 15 September with the murder of Tube driver Joseph Stephen. He was also charged with Patrick Hackett and John Hayes with conspiring to cause explosions. Sarah Donnelly and Hayes are charged with conspiracy to obstruct the course of justice with Brendan Swords and others.

4. Eddie Caughey, awaiting trial on charges of possessing radio equipment, was refused bail on 26 August despite an application by Frank Maguire MP to stand bail in six sureties of £10,000 each. The police, in the person of Det. Sgt Gunn agreed there was no evidence to connect Eddie with "terrorist" offences but said that he had done welfare work for families of those interned in N Ireland on suspicion of terrorism. A fine example of British justice at its best.

5. Donald Anthony Mc Quaid, Bernard McCaffery, Anthony Walsh, William Baker and James Bennett and Anthony Madden appeared in Winchester court on 11 October at the start of their trial on charges of conspiring to contravene the Explosives Act. Among allegations made by Sir Peter Rawlinson which still remain to be substantiated was the headline catching one that the men had plotted to blow up the QE2. Considering the dismal performance of this British boat since it first set sail the only comment on that can be: "The chance would be a fine thing". As in all such cases, once the histrionics of the prosecutions had been fully reported the great British press lost all interest in the case.

6. Joe Gallagher (see item 1 last bulletin). Joe has ended his hunger strike as the bailiffs set on him by Bowling and Co were called off soon after publicity about his dilemma came out. So far the PAC has contributed nearly £70 towards paying his costs and this has brought down his remaining debt to less than £50 when added to the money collected by his local trade union. We would like to thank all those who sent donations to us for this purpose. We would still like to see the debt entirely cleared up but as it stands the Nasties at Bowling cannot now make Joe bankrupt as they had been threatening to do.

7. Keith Farrell had a deportation order served on him on 11 October. He had been detained under Jenkins Law since 30 September.

8. Merlyn Rees said in the Commons on 12 October that since the Terrorising Act had been passed 53 people had been deported to the Six Counties, 21 to the Free State. Although over 2,000 people had been interrogated under the Act, less than 100 have been charged some with serious offences like "wasting police time."

9. Samuel Carson, Alexander Brown, Noel Boyd and Archibald Brown were found guilty at the Old Bailey on 12 October of bombing Biddy Mulligans bar in Kilburn last Xmas. Carson got 15 years; Brown 14 years; Boyd 12 years and Archibald Brown 10 years. Their defence was that the pub was an "IRA pub" and this was faithfully reported in the papers. Compare the sentences with the life and 20 year sentences given to Republicans on the same or lesser charges. The reason of course is that if anyone had been killed or injured it would only have been the odd Irish man or woman, no one important like you get around Mayfair or the Old Bailey.

10. Mary McGowan admitted charges of forgery in court on 6 September and was sentenced to six years in prison. Prosecution said that she had given the money to the IRA, although they also said she had bought two yachts, two cars and a caravan as well as paying for holidays and parties out of the £72,000 she stole. Must be a financial genius. Still the accusation probably helped the jury to make up their minds.

11. BRUTALITY AGAINST REPUBLICAN PRISONERS is increasing with all the signs that there is a concerted effort under way to break prisoners. After the 168 prisoners in Hull surrendered after their roof top protest against brutality on 3 September, those Irish prisoners who had taken part and who had flown the Tricolour from the roof were singled out for special brutality. Paul Hill was beaten by screws on three separated occasions and had to be taken to Leicester hospital to recover from his injuries. In Albany on 17 September, Republican prisoners who protested at Brendan Dowd's being held in solitary. The prisoners who took part in this protest were beaten senseless. Sean Campbell had a broken arm, broken leg, fractured ribs and a broken jaw; Fr Fell had a broken nose; Eddie Byrne was dragged down several flights of stairs and his hair was pulled out in handfuls before he was left unconscious; Liam McLarnon and Con McFadden were beaten about the head. The Home Office then put out a ludicrous statement saying that 19 of their bully boys had got hurt. Stephen Nordonne has been put into a control unit in Wakefield prison where he is locked up 24 hours a day without exercise and in conditions of sensory deprivation similar to those which were condemned by the European Court as torture. After a campaign by prison groups Weasel Words Jenkins said the units would be closed down - except for Irish prisoners who don't count. In Wakefield also both Gerry Conlon and Tony Madigan have been refused medical treatment. Mike McLaughlin was put in solitary twice in one week on his arrival in Wakefield from the Scrubs and Robert Cunningham is being refused all visits on "security" grounds. Guiseppa Conlon was recently moved from the Scrubs to Winchester where he is being held in solitary without radio. Mr Conlon is seriously ill with TB. Fr Fell was refused permission for a move to a prison in Ireland to allow his father, his only relative to visit him. Instead Lord Harris of the Home Office graciously allowed his sick and aged father to travel all the way from Donegal to the Scrubs for his visit - the first in three years and the first time they have been able to meet since the death of Mrs Fell last year. Ronald McCartney has been refused visits from his sister in law and she cannot write to him either; Nine prisoners in the Scrubs who had taken part in a singsong with Irish prisoners there were quickly transferred to other prisons at the end of September.

12. Peter Grimes, IRSP member in London, was raided on 30 September by police who took away a toy pistol. Grimes was arrested and intimidated and bullied by a variety of peelers. Branch then appeared who invited him to tout on his comrades.

13. Diarmuid Breatnach (see item 4 last bulletin) is still in solitary in the Scrubs wearing only a blanket and being refused all visits from his wife. In reply to a series of questions about his condition raised by the PAC, Lord Harris of the Home Office said that he was being refused medical treatment and exercise and visits because he will not wear prison uniform. Breatnach was sentenced to 9 months following a police frame up because he had been fly posting Maoist leaflets during the last elections.

14. PC Edward Hayes has been suspended from duty since 13 September while detective investigate allegations that he helped his brother in law, Kelly, wanted by police for the widespread offence of being an "IRA suspect". It is believed that Mr Kelly is in the Free State. A report is with the DPP & may, like many others, disappear without trace now that Mr Hayes alleged offence has been widely publicised.

15. Pat Arrowsmith, wearing a T shirt with the slogan "Troops Out" was a guest at the Savoy "Women of the Year" lunch on 11 October. She proposed an alternative toast to The Queen the name of Mrs Emma Groves who was blinded by a rubber bullet fired at her point blank by a para. The proposal was not very popular with the relics of the decaying aristocracy who like nothing better than a good natter over lunch about the wicked way people are treated in funny foreign places.

16. European Court ruling that the Brits, Army and RUC, tortured men illegally arrested in the Six Counties should be available from HMSO, Head Office, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1 in two volumes price £6.50 At the moment, funnily enough, they claim to have no stocks. Perhaps if people wrote and asked for it, they might be forced to stock one or two. It is strange how all the Brit papers managed to make the same "mistake" of saying that the tortured men were "IRA suspects".

17. A company director, James Thomson, was acquitted at the Old Bailey on 7 Oct. of a charge of planting a 21lb bomb in a garden in South London in order to collect a debt, James Mackle, who pleaded guilty got a swingeing sentence of FOUR years. Police said that it was one of the biggest bombs found in London. It will be noticed that neither of these men is Irish and that the sentence bears ABSOLUTELY NO RELATION WHATSOEVER to sentences given to Irishmen whether Loyalist or Republican for the same or lesser offences.

18. THE IRISH PRISONER NO 2 will be available from PAC in a month's time. It will cost 30p, plus postage (42 pence through post incl. P&P). This issue will contain articles on major political trials since the last issue; articles on Barnes & McCormack and the Felstead arms case; an article by Joe Stagg on the death of his brother; an inquiry into the death of Noel Jenkinson; and details on the convictions of all Irish Political Prisoners currently serving sentences in Britain. Many people who received copies of the last issue through the post failed to pay for them; NO2 will therefore only be sent to people with whom we are in regular contact and who contribute financially to our work. There will be a full financial report in the next bulletin.

19. Terrorist cases. i) Michael Williams of the Paras appeared in court in Newry on 6 October charged with the "manslaughter" of Majella O'Hare on 14 August. He was allowed bail ii) Gene Palmer, Thomas Woods and Ronald Martin and John McKay of the notorious Black Watch appeared in court in Belfast on 18 Oct. charged with planting evidence. The defence applied for a ban on the publication of evidence which the judge said he would consider. iii) Edward McClafferty was freed on 21 Oct. after a soldier said at his re-trial he had been ordered to lie at the first trial to say that he saw McClafferty with a gun.

Gerard Conlon life Wakefield THE PRISONERS

Billy Armstrong	life Albany	Tony Madigan	10 Yrs Wakefield
Paddy Armstrong	life Strangeways	Anne Maguire	14 yrs Durham
Jimmy Ashe	12 yrs Long Lartin	Patrick Maguire	14 yrs Hull
Stephen Blake	15 yrs Gartree	Patrick Maguire Jr.	4 yrs Aylesbury
Eddie Byrne	14 yrs Albany	Vincent Maguire	5 yrs Aylesbury
Martin Brady	life Hull	John Melia	10 yrs W.Scrubs
Gusiseppe Conlon	12 yrs Winchester	Con McFadden	20 yrs Albany
Joseph Coughlan	7 yrs Long Lartin	Ronald McCartney	life Long Lartin
Martin Coughlan	14 yrs Wakefield	Sean McGourgan	4 yrs Lancaster
Gerry Cunningham	20 yrs hull	John McCluskey	10 yrs Albany
Busty Cunningham	20 yrs Wakefield	Ray McLaughlin	12 yrs Hull
Hugh Callaghan	life Albany	Donal McLaughlin	10 yrs Winson Green
Sean Campbell	10 yrs Albany	Michael Murray	12 yrs Parkhurst
Patrick Christie	10 yrs Winson Green	Richard McIlkenny	life Long Lartin
Thomas Cooper	5 yrs W.Scrubs	Gerry Mealey	10 yrs Leicester
Joseph Duffy	12 yrs Hull	Stephen Nordonne	life Wakefield
Brendan Dowd	life Albany	Paul Norney	life W. Scrubs
Kevin Dunphy	12 yrs Parkhurst	Shane O'Doherty	life W. Scrubs
Fr Fell	12 yrs Albany	Eddie O'Neill	20 yrs W.Scrubs
Hugh Feeney	life Long Kesh	Patrick O'Neill	12 yrs Parkhurst
Bobby Gallagher	6 yrs Wakefield	Sean O'Connaill	life
Ann Gillespie	14 yrs Durham	David Owen	10 yrs Winson Green
Eileen Gillespie	14 yrs Durham	William Power	life W.Scrubs
Patrick Guilfoyle	14 yrs Wormwood Scrubs	Dolours Price	life Armagh
Wally Heaton	6 yrs Walton	Marian Price	life Armagh
Patrick Hill	life Albany	Carole Richardson	indefinite Durham
Paul Hill	life Leicester	Barry Reid	5 yrs
James Harkin		Thomas Rush	7 yrs Long Lartin
Paul Holmes	Life Gartree	Michael Reilly	10 yrs Winson Green
Gerry Hunter	life Gartree	Philip Sheridan	10 yrs Long Lartin
Raymond Kane	life	James Sweeney	7 yrs Perth
Gerry Kelly	life Long Kesh	Michael Sheehan	9 yrs Wakefield
Jimmy Kelly	5 yrs Long Lartin	Gerry Small	12 yrs Parkhurst
Sean Kinsella	life Gartree	Peter Shortt	10 yrs Gartree
Noel Gibson	life Bristol	William Smyth	12 yrs Long Lartin
Anthony Lynch	7 yrs Wormwood Scrubs	Peter Toal	10 yrs Winson Green
Liam McLarnon	15 yrs Albany	John Walker	life Hull
Michael MacLochlainn	5 yrs Wakefield	Roy Walsh	life Long Lartin
Patrick Mulryan	20 yrs Gartree	Judith Ward	life Durham
Andrew Mulryan	20 yrs Parkhurst	Gerry Young	14 yrs Gartree

Note: Prisoners in Hull were moved out after the prison was destroyed in the protest there in August but we have, as yet, been unable to discover where they have been moved.

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