

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



UIMH 290 MEITHEAMH — JUNE 2011 <http://saoirse.info> €2 (£1.50 stg, USA \$35 p.a.)

TOM MAGUIRE COMMEMORATION



TUESDAY, JULY 5,
9pm

CROSS CEMETERY
CO MAYO

Protests spoil Brit visit

IRISH Republicans ensured that the carnival of reaction which surrounded the recent visit of the Queen of England to the 26 Counties was challenged both on the streets and in the media (see full reports inside). In Dublin, Kildare and Cork members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin held successful protests.

Through the media the undiluted message of revolutionary Irish Republicanism was broadcast all over the world. From Al Jazeera to Iran's Press TV, to Sky News, CBS, NBC and Fox News in the US, Canadian TV, media from Brazil and Spain all reported on the fact that this visit was being met with protests and importantly why the protests were happening.

The so-called "national" broadcaster RTÉ interviewed the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton but then decided not to broadcast it. It seems that while the Republican message can be delivered to the world the Irish people cannot be trusted with such information. Section 31, the censoring clause of the 26-County Broadcasting Act which prohibited the broadcasting of interviews with Republicans, may be gone but the mindset lives on.

The message given was a simple one: the head of the British State will never be

welcome while that state occupies and partitions Ireland. Protesters ran the gauntlet of baton-wielding riot police, while two members were arrested and held for 30 hours. The estimated cost of the visit varied from €30 to €40 million.

The extravagance of the visit with its itinerary of a lavish state dinner and tours of stud farms contrasts with the savage cuts being applied to the pay and welfare of the most vulnerable in our society.

A recent example is the 10% cut in special needs teaching supports to schools announced by the 26-County Education Department on June 1.

The visit was intended by the political elites in Leinster House, Stormont and Westminster to copperfasten the *status quo* of partition and occupation by giving it an air of normality.

But against a backdrop of deserted streets, armed police (including British police) guard



• **RING OF STEEL:** Republican Sinn Féin protesters at the massive cordon around Dublin city centre during the Queen of England's visit. The protests were successful in highlighting the continued British occupation of the Six Counties.

dogs, soldiers, metal barriers and security fences and helicopters the visit was anything but normal.

The Irish News reported on June 19 that eight of the nine

counties of Ulster did not attend the visit of the Queen of England to Croke Park.

As people are forced once more to confront the harsh political and economic reality

of the new imperialism of the EU/ECB and IMF - following the "bread and circuses" charade of the British Queen's visit - lessons should be drawn from the protests.

In taking to the streets Republicans showed that people can make a difference as we fight the social, political and economic battles in the months and years ahead.

WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION Bodenstown, 2.30pm



SUNDAY, JUNE 12 Sallins, Co Kildare

Buses: Aston Quay, Dublin 12.45pm Táille: €10

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF H-BLOCK HUNGER STRIKE

LIST OF EVENTS
SLIGO: JULY 2.
MOSTRIM: JULY 17.
LEITRIM: CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, JULY 23.
BUNDORAN: AUGUST 27.

SPECIAL 20-PAGE PAPER
With updates on the campaigns in support of Republican Prisoners and against the British Royal visit.

Brits 'ultimately responsible for Rosemary Nelson killing'

THE report of the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry which was published on May 24 found that the British state failed to protect Rosemary Nelson before her murder by loyalists in the Six Counties but did not collude in her killing.

Rosemary Nelson died after a loyalist booby trap device exploded under her car in Lurgan on March 15th 1999 but it was not until April 2005 that an inquiry finally opened. No one has been convicted of her murder.

"This finding is hard to believe," said Geraldine McNamara, National PRO of Republican Sinn Féin on May 25, "but Republicans are not surprised with this outcome".

"How many times before have we seen the British Establishment being exonerated for its part in crimes against Republicans or nationalist civilians in the Occupied Six Counties?"

"By their very occupation of the six north eastern counties the British Establishment is responsible for the actions of those who try to prevent both Nationalists and Republicans from attaining their right to be part of a united Ireland. They are responsible for all the hardship and suffering inflicted

upon the Irish people as a result of their continued occupation.

"It is time the British Establishment realised that until they declare their intent to withdraw from the Six Counties and put in place a mechanism in which this will take place, there will always be decent solicitors like Rosemary Nelson who put their very lives on the line to highlight the continuing injustice inflicted on those who oppose the British presence in the six occupied counties of Ireland.

Many of Rosemary Nelson's clients informed her of threats made against her by the RUC/PSNI but she was not given protection and was subsequently murdered. History will like in the case of Bloody Sunday prove the facts but this will prove of little comfort to her family," Geraldine concluded.

The inquiry, established to examine allegations of collusion, concluded there was no evidence of any act by the

RUC, British army or Northern Ireland Office (NIO), despite finding that some RUC members "publicly abused and assaulted Rosemary Nelson...



• Rosemary Nelson

having the effect of legitimising her as a target". The inquiry also concluded: that "some leakage of intelligence...found its way outside the RUC" and that such a leakage "increased the danger to Rosemary Nelson's life" and that the RUC "negligently failed to intervene to prevent their officers from uttering abuse and threats to defence solicitors, including Rosemary

Nelson".

Several independent non-governmental organisations raised concerns about Rosemary Nelson's safety, but the NIO failed to address these.

The family of the murdered solicitor said their call for an inquiry had been vindicated by what they called the "damning" findings contained in the report.

Rosemary Nelson's brother Eunan Magee said there was evidence against the RUC, the British Northern Ireland Office and the RUC's Special Branch.

He said he believed intelligence about his sister had been leaked and that the British State had failed to take steps to safeguard her despite knowing of the levels of threat she had faced from loyalist death squads.

Loyalist threats against Rosemary Nelson on account of her legal representation of well-known republicans and the Garvaghy Road residents in Portadown were well-known, Eunan Magee said, "and the response from the authorities was wholly inadequate and inefficient."

Gearrscéalta

'No links with criminality'

IN A statement received by media outlets, including SAOIRSE, on May 17, the Continuity IRA said:

"In the course of a lengthy interview with a respected veteran Republican of advanced years carried in the *Irish News* of May 16 it was stated that Republican Sinn Féin has 'links to the Continuity IRA' and had 'links to drug dealing and tiger kidnappings'.

"It would appear that the veteran is not up to date in his assessment of the situation within the Republican Movement. People guilty of criminality of the type mentioned have in recent times been expelled from the Republican Movement and there are no 'links' between the Continuity IRA and Republican Sinn Féin.

"We hope the veteran concerned will see this statement and be aware of the position now obtaining in the Movement.

— B Ó Ruairc."

More people allowed to carry guns in Six Counties

MORE than 1,100 people are allowed to carry guns for their own protection, in the Occupied Six Counties according to an *Independent* on Sunday investigation.

The report identified a "growing opposition to the Stormont Agreement" and this was given as an excuse for rise in numbers. Bombing incidents are at their highest level in eight years. There were 100 incidents in 2010/11.

Some 205 new personal protection weapon (PPW) licences – for people whose lives are alleged to be under threat – were granted by the RUC/PSNI in 2010, a five-fold increase on the 42 issued in 2008. Almost a thousand (948) existing licences were re-approved – up from 375 in 2008.

An estimated 500 "threat notices", known as PM1 forms, were issued last year by the RUC to individuals who were alleged to be under threat and of 272 attacks between 2008 and 2010 just 12 have been solved according to the British colonial police. The number of people claiming to be homeless through intimidation was up by a third (33 per cent) in 2009/10 – with 774 people going to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHA) for help that year. Sectarian intimidation was cited in 85 per cent (652) of the cases.

The *Independent* does not cite the source of these statistics.

Felon-setting by splinter

IN A statement on May 5, Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, Patron of Republican Sinn Féin said that a "new low level in political commentary has been reached by the Limerick splinter from Republican Sinn Féin when they drew attention to President Des Dalton's address to a commemoration ceremony at Easter in New York and in effect called for him to be banned from the United States. This can only be branded as 'felon-setting' of the lowest level."

Sectarian attacks highest in North Belfast

A REPORT in a Belfast newspaper on May 23 said that North Belfast suffered almost four times more sectarian incidents last year than any other part of the city.

Over the past 12 months the RUC recorded: 389 sectarian incidents in North Belfast; 189 in and 101 in east Belfast.

In North Belfast, where the two communities are living cheek by jowl and there are more peace walls than anywhere else in the six counties, sectarian incidents continue to be rife.

Dr John Topping from the University of Ulster's School of Criminology said it is clear the figure is high due to the number of interfaces, but that social factors should also be taken into account.

Derry Easter commemorations

ON Holy Saturday, April 23 the William Orr Society held a commemoration at the grave of Dominic and Mary McGlinchey in Bellaghy, Co Derry. Mickey McGonigle of Derry Republican Sinn Féin laid a wreath on the grave and also on the graves of

Results of Dublin raffle

MAY Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 068; 2nd prize 271; 3rd prize 485; 4th prize 214; 5th prize 506; 6th prize 011; 7th prize 255; 8th prize 064.

**SAOIRSE July edition
published 6/7/2011**

McGurk's Bar families in Baggott protest

ON June 2 it was reported that the families of those who died in the 1971 McGurk's Bar bombing held a protest outside the [British] Policing Board headquarters in Belfast.

Relatives say that Chief Constable Matt Baggott has not met them in three months or given them any explanation for his reaction to the Police Ombudsman's

report into the RUC investigation of the bombing.

The report, which was published by Al Hutchinson earlier this year, found that



• Relatives of the victims of the McGurk's pub bombing held a picket outside RUC/PSNI Chief Constable Matt Baggott's office in Belfast at the beginning of June.

police bias misled the British government into thinking the IRA was behind the bombing and prevented the loyalist atrocity from being properly investigated.

At the time Matt Baggott questioned key aspects of the report, including the finding of "investigative bias".

On Thursday, relatives said: "We met the Chief Constable within days of his statement and asked him to study the report and meet all of the families to let us know exactly which of the 13 findings he rejected and why. Three months later the Chief Constable is still refusing to meet us or give us any

explanation for his deeply hurtful statement."

Families say they no longer seek an apology from or a meeting with Matt Baggott.

"What we do want to hear from the Chief Constable is if he now accepts the report of the Police Ombudsman. No ifs or buts or excuses. And no more delays-delays which have only exacerbated the trauma felt by the relatives," the statement continued.

Fifteen people were killed and another 16 injured, when the no-warning bomb, planted by the UVF, destroyed the north Belfast venue in December 1971.

Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta (National Irish Freedom Committee)

- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible

- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.



**We need your support.
Our website address is:**

<http://irishfreedom.net>

Gearrscéalta

Plan to abolish overtime rates 'outrageous'

ON Saturday, June 4, Republican Sinn Féin PRO Geraldine McNamara said that the announcement by Richard Bruton that he intends to 'reform' the wage system of the poorest sector in the community is outrageous and shows how little a person on his income knows or cares about the workers on minimum wage.

"Richard Bruton's proposals to abolish Saturday and Sunday premiums in the hotel and catering industry will effect up to 200,000 workers and should be fought against by all union workers as it weakens the rights of everyone in the workplace. He said the proposals will only affect new employees but as anyone knows who has worked in the hotel and catering industry most of the jobs are seasonal and by leaving people go and then re-employing them they do not have a contract.

"This disgraceful proposal targets some of the most vulnerable workers in our society, mainly young people, early school leavers and foreign nationals. We all have a duty to protect our fellow workers and should protest at every opportunity at this proposal," Geraldine McNamara said. "By our silence we are guilty."

What price the British bailout of Ireland?

"THE price to be paid by the 26-County State for the British 'bailout' has eventually surfaced," said Josephine Hayden, PRO of Republican Sinn Féin for Leinster.

It was announced on May 14 that up to 120 members of the "London Metropolitan Police's royalty protection force armed with Glock pistols and Heckler & Koch submachine guns will join Gardaí" to operate in Dublin and Cork (at least) "to protect" the British Queen on her visit from May 17-20, "permission granted without hesitation" by the 26-County Administration.

The statement continued: "The visit by the Queen has been flagged as if it were the most normal visit in the world, yet the abnormality of the security measures in force give lie to that.

"Within the last month two state visits have taken place by other countries to the 26 Counties (itself an abnormal state) without a single person being inconvenienced or a street blocked off. That was normality. From May 17 to 20 what will pertain will be abnormality as a ring of steel encircles Dublin.

"As long as there are British troops on Irish streets, as long as British rule is administered by Stormont and as long as British police (RUC/PSNI) patrol, harass, intimidate and arrest Republicans, resistance is our duty," she concluded.

Ballyhea bailout protest run to Leinster House

ON May 31 the people of Ballyhea, Co Cork said they were taking their protest about the bank bailout to a new level.

A number of residents are to run from Ballyhea to Dublin to highlight their continued opposition to the bailout of the banks and bondholders at the expense of the Irish people.

They will speak to people and distribute leaflets in all the towns and villages that they pass through on their way to Dublin and are asking people along the route to come out and join them.

They would also ask people to respect their request that it not be turned into a party political occasion. The Ballyhea campaigners are not affiliated to any group. No party banners or flags.

Singer tells British Queen to hand over Six Counties

SINGER Morrissey said on May 16 that the best thing the Queen of England could do is hand back the "Six Counties to the Irish people" so that Ireland could be a "nation once again".

Morrissey, who sang with the Smiths, said the refusal of the British to do so was "fascism in full flow".

Morrissey, the son of Irish parents who grew up in Manchester, has a long track record of making Republican comments about Ireland. In an article published in *Hot Press* magazine, he calls the visit a "palace PR campaign to reinvent the Windsors". He also refers to the IRA hunger strikes and said the Queen should have dismissed Margaret Thatcher and intervened to save Bobby Sands' life.

"If the Queen had any human feelings for the Sands family or other hunger strikers then she did not express them," he writes.

Morrissey's Republican credentials are well established. The Smiths called one of their albums *The Queen is Dead*. He struck a more conciliatory note about his dual identity in his 2004 song *Irish Blood, English Heart*.

Elderly and vulnerable in society face uncertain future

IN A statement on May 20, National PRO Republican Sinn Féin Geraldine McNamara, called on the public to protest against the continued mismanagement of our finances by the present administration in Leinster House and insist that our older population are cared for properly by the state.

"Today, May 20, when the people are distracted with the English Queen's unwelcome visit to Ireland it has been announced that increases of as much as 50% in the cost of pensions are proposed under a consultation paper produced by officials from the present administration and the regulator. The measures are targeted specifically at private sector defined benefit occupational schemes. Industry sources claim the

measures, if implemented, will effectively mean the demise in the private sector of such schemes, which promise to pay a certain level of income in retirement based on final salary and years of service.

"This, together with the use of pension funds to pay off the national debt and the announcement on May 19 that the 'Fair Deal' nursing home scheme is in crisis, leaves those who have contributed most to society facing a bleak and



• Geraldine McNamara, National PRO Republican Sinn Féin.

uncertain future. People cannot opt out of pension schemes and find their contributions are

worth less and less.

Soon we will see a reduction in state pensions also and with so many of the younger generation having to emigrate the questions has to be asked. Who is going to care for the ageing population of Ireland in the near future?

"This disgraceful situation has come about because of the present financial crisis. The people who have created this crisis, ie the bankers and financial regulator, will not have to worry about funding for their older family member, but the ordinary people of this country who have contributed all their lives to this state will now have to surrender everything they have worked for all their lives just to be cared for in the older years.

UN claims 26-County State's poor hardest hit by low taxes

A SENIOR UN expert has criticised the 26-County Administration's policy of making deep cuts to public expenditure while maintaining low taxes, saying it will hit the poor hardest in the recession.

Dr Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, who was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, has also called on EU states to reduce the interest rate charged on Ireland's EU-IMF loan, warning a failure to do so may leave them in breach of their international legal obligations.

Dr Carmona is the UN's independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty. She conducted a five-day visit to the 26 Counties in January to

examine and report back to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council on the current situation in the country.

In her report to the UN published on May 21, Dr Carmona concluded that the "economic and financial crises have wrought havoc on the country, with grave implications for the Irish people".

The report says unemployment is rising and increasing numbers of people are living in poverty and social

exclusion. The impact of the crisis has been severe, particularly for the most vulnerable segments.

The report criticises the universal social charge, which it describes as a regressive tax while recognising "the difficult situation that Ireland faces in the aftermath of the economic and financial crises, but reminds the State of its continuing obligations to comply with human rights standards."

The report says cuts to the Irish Human Rights Commission, the Equality Authority, the Ombudsman for Children and the National Disability Authority's budgets have substantially reduced their capacity to protect the most disadvantaged in society.

It warns recent drastic budget cuts at the 26-County Department of Health hold the potential to "significantly undermine the effective and efficient functioning of health and education services and the social protection system".

The report calls on EU states to seriously consider according to the 26-County State's request for a reduction in the interest rate, saying they must consider their own international obligations to the poor.

Free Legal Advice Centres called on the 26-County Administration to implement the recommendation calling for a human rights review of all budgetary and recovery policies.

Treatment of prisoners raised with UN

THE 26-County Administration is accused of breaching the human rights of prisoners, asylum seekers and children in a report presented to the United Nations in mid-May.

The report warns of "real concerns about the safe and humane treatment of prisoners" due to serious overcrowding in some old and dilapidated prisons. It says the prison population has doubled since 1997, totalling 4,541 prisoners on January 25 last. Overcrowding is also causing increased levels of inter-prisoner violence in Irish prisons, says the report.

Joint shadow report of Ireland under the UN convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment was written by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and the Irish Penal Reform Trust. They presented the

report to the UN committee against torture on May 20 as part of a UN monitoring process, which for the first time is evaluating Ireland's record on torture and ill-treatment.

The shadow report criticises the detention conditions for prisoners, children and immigrants in the State. It also makes a wide range of suggestions to enable Ireland meet its human rights obligations under various UN treaties.

The report pinpoints the lack of in-cell sanitation in a quarter of prison cells and the widespread use of solitary confinement cells due, in part, to inter-prisoner violence as major issues of concern.



Irish Council for Civil Liberties

It says "special cells", which are used to house prisoners placed on protection, may be necessary but should be adapted for use. The report says some prisoners are being kept in solitary confinement for more than a year. It also criticises the practice of imprisoning people with severe psychiatric disorders, who cannot be properly cared for in a prison setting.

The report strongly criticises the Government for continuing to detain juveniles in St Patrick's Institution in Dublin, which is run on a penal model.

The Government's treatment of asylum seekers is condemned in the report, which says Ireland currently has the lowest acceptance rate of asylum seekers in the EU.

The report recommends the Government implement all the recommendations made by the Ryan Report into child abuse, including the provision of aftercare services to children leaving State care.

It also calls on the State to ban all forms of corporal punishment.

For The Record

WED. MAY 4: Parents of special needs children protested at Leinster House in Dublin as the Minister dodged questions as to the funding of Special Needs Assistants. Protests are expected to take place around the country over the coming weeks.

An interim examiner was appointed to the Xtra-Vision chain of home entertainment stores. Xtra-Vision has 1,300 employees and more than 180 stores across the country. It is understood these stores will continue to trade as normal throughout the examinership process. David Hughes of Ernst & Young was appointed interim examiner.

FRI. MAY 6: Spain's Constitutional Court voted 6-5 to overturn the ban that barred the Basque coalition, Bildu, from contesting local elections.

THURS. MAY 12: Up to 46 people were arrested in Istanbul on charges of membership in the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front, or DHKP-C, and among them were Ali Araci, Ali Papur and Caner Bozkurt, three members of Grup Yorum.

SAT. MAY 14: The 26-County Administration wants the Bank of Ireland to hand over its premises – the former Parliament – at College Green, Dublin for use as a major tourist attraction.

The general public is banned from all streets where the Queen of England will visit next week in Dublin.

The 26-County Administration has begun cutting the welfare benefits if recipients refuse to take up what they deem “a reasonable job or training offers”.

Boston College in the USA have been subpoenaed by the US attorney general's office to release information, provided in confidence, by former Republicans and loyalist “paramilitaries”. The attorney general is acting at the behest of the British government for the RUC/PSNI who want the interviews of Brendan “The Dark” Hughes and Dolores Price.

The Managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dominique Strauss-Khan was arrested in connection with an assault on a female worker in the Sofitel Hotel in Manhattan, New York.

SUN. MAY 15: Twelve protesters, participating in peaceful nonviolent civil disobedient marches, were killed and up to 150 injured by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) as thousands of Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese protested against Israeli occupation of Palestine on Nakba Day – the anniversary of the founding of the Israeli state – on the Golan Heights.

Thousands of people took part in protests across Spain's main cities, defying a government ban on political protest ahead of local elections. In Madrid, some 25,000 protesters occupied a main square. Others gathered in Barcelona, Valencia and Seville.

A Polish family living in Ballymoney, Co Antrim was a victim of a racist attack as men broke his windows, broke into the house, assaulted one of the residents and threatened the occupants with a knife. He also entered another

house in the area and threatened the occupants with a knife.

One Palestinian was killed and 182 injured by Israeli forces and 149 suffered the effects of tear-gas inhalation in Ramallah, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent. At a demonstration in northern Gaza, a teenager was killed, 35 struck by rubber-coated bullets and another 100 hit with shrapnel, the report said.

MON. MAY 16: The 26-County Administration is facing fresh calls to abolish ground rent payments following the latest figures which show the State is making payments for more than 50 properties such as Government Buildings and Dublin Castle. Data compiled by the Office of Public Works shows the State is paying ground rent to landlords such as the Earl of Pembroke for buildings on Merrion Square, and the Duke of Leinster, who owns land where the National Library is situated. Other buildings where the State is paying ground rent include the Customs House in Cork, Dunsink Observatory, and the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum, Dublin.

Up to 280 jobs are at risk in Sligo, Waterford and Galway airports due to losses in revenue.

TUES. MAY 17: Justice for the Forgotten held a ceremony and laid a wreath at the Memorial in Talbot Street, Dublin to remember the victims of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings on that day in 1974. The committee had, two days previously, written an open letter to the Queen of England asking that the files held by the British government on the bombings which were withheld from the inquiry, now be handed over to the 26-County State.

The Queen of England began a four day visit to the 26 Counties and among here engagements laid a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin accompanied by, among others, loyalist leader Jackie McDonald, who is linked to the UDA. McDonald is on record as stating that he was “not just attending in a personal level but as a representative of loyalists” on the very day when 33 people died in loyalist bombs in Dublin and Monaghan 37 years previously.

A Derryman Terry Doherty was granted leave to seek a judicial review of eligibility criteria to work as a bouncer. He was released under the Belfast Agreement in 2000.

WED. MAY 18: Loyalist leader Jackie McDonald attended the banquet in Dublin Castle hosted by the 26-County administration and Mary McAleese for the Queen of England. Also in attendance was the British Prime Minister David Cameron.

MAY 19: Two men are to stand trial at the Old Bailey, London, for the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence who died after a racist attack at a bus stop in south London in 1993.

MON. MAY 23: The RIRA claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Santander bank in Derry city on Saturday last.

A 21-year old non-political male prisoner was found dead in his cell in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

The inquiry into the murder of Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson in a loyalist under-car bomb in 1999 was published. The report stated that there was “no collusion” but that the RUC were “hostile” to Rosemary Nelson and the state has failed to protect her.

A massive tornado killed at least 89 people in Joplin, Missouri, USA.

The US President, Barack Obama paid a one day visit to the 26-County State.



• *The Relatives group Justice for the Forgotten held a wreath-laying ceremony on May 17 at the memorial in Talbot Street, Dublin to those killed in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings on May 17, 1974, as the British Queen was laying a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance.*

WED. MAY 25: The move by up to 600 jobs in Paddy Power's bookies in Tallaght, Co Dublin to Clonskeagh in September was described as “economically devastating” by Tallaght traders.

Over 8,000 farmers took part in a protest march in Dublin over their treatment by retail chains and a raid by the Competition Authority on the offices of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA).

The 26-County Administration indicated that the British will not hand over file relating to the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

THURS. MAY 26: Ratko Mladic was arrested in northern Serbia and will, if extradited to The Hague, face charges of war crimes including the slaughter of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in 1995 in Srebrenica.

Writing in the *News Letter*, retired detective chief superintendent Norman Baxter who led the investigation into the Omagh bombing said that Rosemary Nelson has “crossed the line between representing IRA men and assisting terrorists.” Several public figures have condemned the comments.

FRI. MAY 27: The Strand Road in Derry was closed for over four hours as a suspicious device was found near a hotel.

An Eastern European man, living in Coleraire, Co Derry was beaten with baseball bats in a racist attack.

Gaelic football and hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín was awarded the Freedom of the City of Cork.

Leaders of the G8 powers warned of an “intensification” of military action against Libya and committed \$20b aid to Egypt and Tunisia.

WED. MAY 25: Spending by a schools body in the Six Counties is under investigation as a newspaper revealed their spending over a six year period, ie, £2,176 was spent on drinks at a single conference at the Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal in 2005 by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). Also in 2005, they spent

£4,500 chartering an aircraft to fly 30 people from Belfast to the Connemara Coast Hotel in Galway.

SAT. MAY 28: Egypt opened its Rafah border crossing with Gaza. The Rafah crossing is the sole gateway to the world for Gaza's 1.5 million citizens. The price Egypt exacted for opening the border was Hamas's signature on the reconciliation deal with Fatah and agreement to form a unity government composed of technocrats. Delegates from both sides have been meeting to discuss candidates for posts in this cabinet, which is expected to serve until fresh elections for president and parliament are held.

TUES. MAY 31: 200 law firms in the Occupied Six Counties earned almost £70m in legal aid in a year

Ten Special Branch officers and civilian workers have resolved their legal actions over the break-in at Castlereagh security base. A total of 69 compensation claims gave been paid out to those who claimed their security was compromised by the break-in. They sued the chief constable for personal injury, financial loss or breach of data protection.

WED. JUNE 1: The seasonally adjusted figures given by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the live register for May 2011 is 443,400. The standardised unemployment rate in May 2011 was 14.8%, up slightly from a rate of 14.7% in April.

THURS. JUNE 2: Two men were killed in an explosion when a tanker exploded at Chevron's oil refinery in Pembroke Dock, Wales.

Four houses were damaged in the Brandywell area of Derry city when a device left at one of them exploded. No one was injured.

SAT. JUNE 4: According to WikiLeaks, Denis Donaldson was outed by the British Government as a spy to send a message to the Provisionals that it had another, more valuable informant within its leadership ranks, the United States was told by former justice minister in the 26 Counties Michael McDowell.

SUN. JUNE 5: Israeli troops killed thirteen people when they opened fire on pro-Palestinian protesters on Syria's side of the border as they attempted to gain entry to the occupied Golan Heights, and at least 220 injured, according to Syrian television.

The pilots branch of IMPACT trade union (Ireland) IALPA, will resume talks at the Labour Relations Commission in an attempt to broker a deal in the dispute at Aer Lingus; Strike action is currently scheduled to begin on Tuesday, in a row over rostering at the airline.

Two petrol bombs were found in Larne in County Antrim. A local resident found the devices alight outside his home in the early hours of this morning.

MON. JUNE 6: Planned industrial action involving Aer Lingus pilots was called off.

Mycroft Inc, A US-based computing company, is to create up to 50 jobs in Waterford.

The United Nations Committee Against Torture has called for an independent investigation into the Magdalene Laundries in Dublin and allegations of abuse there. It also called on the Government to “prosecute and punish” the perpetrators of the alleged offences at the laundries.

A farm in northern Germany has been identified by officials as the most likely source for many of the infections in the deadly E.coli outbreak which killed 22 people and over another 2,000 are ill.

Figures on live register up again

LESS than a month after the 26-County Administration published its Jobs Initiative, the Live Register is on the increase again.

According to figures from the Central Statistics Office at the beginning of June, there are now 443,400 people on the seasonally adjusted Live Register, which is an increase of 2,600 people.

“Looking back over the past few months, this is the single biggest increase since August last year,” said Brid O'Brien, Head of Policy and Media with the INOU. The unemployment rate has risen

to 14.8%: a year ago it was 13.2%.

Another striking figure is the growing number of people on the Live Register for more than a year. In May 2010 there were 126,065 people on the register for more than a year: this figure has now increased by 40% to 176,334. A year ago this figure represented 29% of the Live



Register: today it represents 40%.

The INOU refutes recent calls from the OECD that the best way to address increasing long-term unemployment is to cut social welfare payments to people who find themselves caught in this position.

“Ireland has lost a staggering number of jobs

over the past few years, what unemployed people need is hope, hope of finding decent employment,” said Brid. “Threatening to cut unemployed people's payments will not get people back to work; it will just make life much harder for an increasing number of people.”

<http://www.inou.ie/>

News from the Occupied Six Counties...News from the Occupied Six Counties...News from the Occupied Six Counties...

Harassment continues in Lurgan/Craigavon

May 11. A known drug dealer who has been trying to ply his trade in the Meadowbrook and Drumbeag estates paid the price when he received a punishment beating and was told never to return to the area.

May 12. In the Drumbeag estate, Republican Sinn Féin was made aware of two men dressed in black military style fatigue acting suspiciously outside a member's home. They were spotted crouched down beside his vehicle at 4am and it appeared one was working at the driver's door while the other was carrying a rucksack. They soon disappeared after a member of the public switched on a light in a nearby house. The Republican Sinn Féin member checked his vehicle to see if anything had been tampered with. Republicans are urged to check their vehicles for bugs and tracking devices as you will know from recent court cases that this sort of intelligence gathering is very much real.

May 13. The trial of Patrick Joseph McDaid, Meadowbrook, commenced in the non-jury Diplock Court in Belfast. He is charged with possession of a firearm and bullets in Newry in January 2009. Joseph McDaid claimed he was "acting under duress" in having the pistol.

May 15. A confrontation between the RUC and young men in the Drumbeag area of Craigavon saw the RUC come under attack from rocks and bricks. The windscreen of the RUC car was smashed in the confrontation.

May 16. A Lurgan man and an Armagh woman appeared in court charged under legislation

introduced in 2006 under the British Terrorism Act 2006 to deal with "Islamic terrorism". They were arrested on May 14 and held in custody. It is the first time anyone has been charged in the Occupied Six Counties under this legislation. The RUC claim that both of them "encouraged terrorism" during an interview with Channel 4 News last year. Both deny the charge and were released on bail which restricts their freedom of speech.

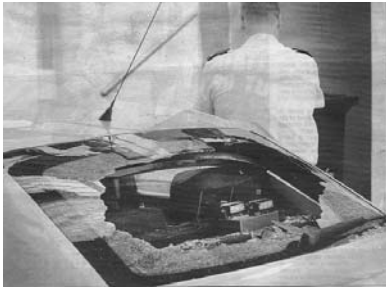
May 17. A military spotter plane was in the vicinity of Craigavon and Lurgan area for most of the day.

May 20. In Ardowen, Craigavon, while walking their dogs, three Republican Sinn Féin members (one carrying a two-year-old child) were stopped and searched by tactical response under Legislation 2, Justice & Security Act 2007 Section 24 Sch 3 (Stop and search for munitions, wireless apparatus).

May 26. At 10pm when five Republican Sinn Féin members were driving down the lakes road in Craigavon, they were stopped at a RUC/PSNI checkpoint. They were taken out one at a time to give their details and have the vehicle searched under the legislation as stated above. This was done in full view of the public as if to humiliate the members, but some members give their details in Irish thus frustrating the RUC/PSNI.

An RUC/PSNI checkpoint was situated at the crossroads in Meadowbrook, Craigavon.

May 27. At 1.30am, a silver RUC/PSNI 4x4 was spotted outside the homes of Republican Sinn Féin members. The vehicle



• The window of a RUC/PSNI vehicle was smashed during a confrontation between the RUC and young men in the Drumbeag area.

drove in and out of the Drumbeag estate three times in ten minutes.

May 29. An RUC/PSNI helicopter hovered in the Craigavon/Lurgan area while a checkpoint was in progress.

May 31. As the RUC/PSNI were harassing local residents in Meadowbrook, they were met with resistance when they came under attack from improvised explosives and petrol bombs. As they left the area a further device was thrown at their Land Rover.

June 1. The RUC/PSNI carried out a series of raids on the houses of Republican Sinn Féin members. There were in excess of thirty Land Rovers in the Drumbeag and Meadowbrook estate throughout the day. Four homes belonging to Republican Sinn Féin members were searched.

In one of the houses the front and back doors were smashed in; the kitchen doors nearly taken off its hinges (it now won't close) and every

room was left in total disarray. A painting of Bobby Sands (painted in Maghaberry jail by a POW) was broken in two halves. The peelers were in the house for nearly three hours and they took two cameras and a piece of metal piping. In another house they broke in the front door, ransacked it before arresting a member of Republican Sinn Féin in front of his young children. He was brought to Antrim Road serious crime suite for a series of interviews before being released unconditionally later that evening.

One member was on holidays but the peelers still raided the house. The following statement is from three family members who were on the premises at 14.50pm when the RUC/PSNI approached them with a search warrant under the Terrorism Act:

"They (RUC/PSNI) were aggressive and hit my dad outside the front door. I heard

them saying to each other that 'he' wasn't here. I then asked them who they were talking about and they asked were 'he' was."

"I told them that he was on holidays and they didn't believe us. They then carried out a search of the whole house, smashing a Bobby Sands framed picture and a Celtic plate, given to my dad by a young friend who has since passed away."

"They would not let us in or out of the house. They took the family computer, five mobile phones, three cameras, a memory stick with all my brother's school coursework, CDs and copper piping, to which they referred to as a pipe bomb. The piping was actually leftover from the Housing Executive putting the gas in."

"They kept asking where my brother was, who he went with and what airport he was arriving at. We told them nothing and they left the house at 17.20pm. They broke a bodhrán, a chair and a photo of my child. They took all the numbers off my phone and they took Dad's phone away."

An eyewitness to the raids said:

"I witnessed at first hand the 'NEW PSNI' and how they continue to demonstrate the same policies the RUC used many years ago. They continue to use the same brute force and ignorance to the people living in the Occupied Six Counties."

"As the RUC/PSNI raided several houses they made smart remarks and gestures to myself and other young Republicans. They also went up to a number of youths and pushed them, this

resulted in abuse being hurled at them. As I used some bad language they arrested me for disorderly behaviour."

"They grabbed me with extreme force. I posed no threat to their security but they tried to push me into a police Land Rover. I refused so they threw me up against a fence. A number of members had a hold of me in which they were all aggressive in their actions. As I was not struggling or fighting off the RUC/PSNI, the way I was held it was like I was not human. As the members let go to block off the surrounding area, two members came over and one took a grab of the inside of my arm causing it to bruise."

"The other officer then began to question me about my details. I give them my date of birth, address and name in Irish - they refused to accept this. They then called the sergeant over and told him that I would not speak English to confirm my details. The sergeant then replied "if he refuses to speak the language of this country for us to understand, take him in".

"As a young person I remember little about the RUC. However I was around long enough to witness how they conducted themselves and how they terrorised the nationalists."

"The 'NEW PSNI' is in fact just the RUC with a different name and sign. As a Republican all I have to say to the PSNI (RUC) is "we will never go away and you will never win, we live unity, breath unity, die unity".

"Tíocfaidh ár lá."

Name and address will be published in the Editor.

BOMB WARNINGS CAUSE MAJOR DISRUPTION

A Belfast Chronology

Tuesday, May 3, 2011. Belfast City Council voted to fly the flag of the British armed forces from June 20-25 in lieu of a homecoming parade for the soldiers.

Thursday May 5, 2011. A woman was punched in the face and her van hijacked at knife-point in the Black's Road area in Belfast - the third female victim of a hijacking in four days in Belfast.

The High Court in Belfast ruled that routine body searching of prisoners entering and leaving the prison in the Occupied Six Counties is lawful. The judge also found that forcible body searching of non-compliant prisoners did not breach the European Convention on Human Rights. A legal challenge had been brought by Brendan Conway, a remand Republican prisoner in Roe House,

Maghaberry, Co Antrim

Wednesday, May 11, 2010. A young man from the Lagmore area of west Belfast was attacked by a gang of men chanting "kill the tTig" in a sectarian attack who punched and kicked him as he left the Royal Victoria Hospital after visiting a friend. Gerald Higgins said that a passing motorist saved his life as he blacked out in the attack.

Raymond McCartney and Éamonn McDermott stand to receive substantial compensation after a landmark case in the Supreme Court in Belfast. Both men spent several years in prison before their convictions for the murder of RUC man Patrick McNulty in 1997 were quashed. Up to now only those who could "prove their innocence beyond reasonable doubt" were entitled to compensation. Others who can now apply for compensation include Christie Walsh whose conviction for a coffee-jar bomb was overturned on a third appeal in 2010 and Danny Morrison and seven others convicted of kidnapping were quashed in 2008.

Thursday, May 12, 2011. The British government finally agreed to hold an independent inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane in 1989 by loyalists.

Friday, May 13, 2011. James Kelly, who began his career as a journalist with the *Irish News* in Belfast in 1928,

retired on his 100th birthday from the newspaper.

Sunday, May 15, 2011. A Moroccan man was the target of a racist attack in south Belfast, on the Ormeau Road. He suffered cuts and bruising when he was attacked by two men in a racially motivated attack.

Monday, May 16, 2011. Marian Price, Belfast was taken to Maghaberry Jail as her licence was revoked. She was arrested on Friday (May 13) and was charged Derry with 'encouraging support for an illegal organisation' following a commemoration in Derry on Easter Sunday.

Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Brendan McConville and John Paul Wooten, both from Lurgan, Co Armagh, who deny involvement in the killing of RUC member Stephen Carroll in March 2009, will have their case reviewed in September. They were remanded in continuing custody.

Friday, May 21, 2011. The family of Tommy McAuley shot in his Café by loyalists in north Belfast in 1987 (he died five days later), claimed that suspects were never questioned despite witnesses to the murder who could ID them.

Thursday, May 26, 2011. A pipe-bomb was discovered in Eblana Street, the university area of south Belfast. Some homes were evacuated for a time

Bobby Tohill is refusing to give evidence against Thomas Valliday, the man accused of

trying to kill him in March this year. This is the second time he has refused to give evidence against those who attacked him. In 2004 he made it known that he was not prepared to give evidence against four men who abducted and badly beat him. One of those men, who has been on the run ever since, was extradited from the 26-Counties and taken to Maghaberry jail.

Friday, May 27, 2011. Traffic was brought to a standstill as an abandoned car under the Yorkgate motorway bridge was examined by the RUC. The M2 and M3 and the northbound carriageway of the Westlink was closed. The railway crossing at Dummurry was closed for a time following a bomb warning. Bomb warnings also disrupted several areas in the city including Castlecourt shopping centre, the Glengormley area in north Belfast and on the Antrim Road. An area close to the Sandymount in north Belfast was sealed off. A suspicious device found at Finaghy Road railway station turned out to be a hoax. Stockmans Way in the southside of the city was closed due to a report of a suspicious object.

A pipe bomb was thrown at the headquarters of the Alliance Party in south Belfast.

Saturday, May 28, 2011. The death took place of Sean Reilly (53), stepfather to Karen O'Reilly shot dead by British paras in September 1990 while a

passenger in a stolen car.

Tuesday, May 31, 2011. Six hoax devices were found in Belfast City Cemetery.

Wednesday, June 1, 2011. Coroner Brian Sherrard is preparing a file for the Public Prosecution Service after an inquest found that John Hemsworth died from injuries inflicted by the RUC. John Hemsworth died from a stroke six months after he was beaten by riot police in west Belfast in 1997.

Friday, June 3, 2011. A taxi driver, Francis Carleton, accused of transporting a "suspected bomber" to the HQ of the Alliance Party last week was refused bail. He denies the charge. Also arrested and charged with the incident was Barry Boardman.

The home of a 93-year-old man was damaged by vandals in north Belfast. The front window of Freddie Fusco's home in Ardoyne was smashed as he slept upstairs.

The families of the 15 people murdered in the 1971 bombing of McGurks Bar protested at the Policing Board HQ in Belfast. They are demanding that Matt Baggett, chief constable of the RUC/PSNI accept the findings of the report of "police wrongdoing".

Monday, June 6, 2011. IT company Micro Focus UK Ltd is to create 72 jobs at its base in Belfast over the next three years.

Pat McDermott

REPUBLICANS and GAA supporters throughout the Midlands were saddened to hear of the death of Pat McDermott, Drumraney, Co Westmeath on May 28.

Pat was a life-long Republican. In recent years he still wore the Easter Lily, attended his annual Easter commemoration and got his copy of SAOIRSE by post every month, although advancing in years.

Local Republican Sinn Féin members provided a Guard of Honour at the removal from his son's house in Ballymore to the local church. A GAA flag as well as the Irish tricolour draped the coffin.

For the last 100 metres to the church two GAA clubs, Tang and Ballymore also supplied honour guards in great numbers. Grandchildren of Pat's are playing members of both clubs.

At the funeral next day, Ruairi Ó Brádaigh spoke and said that Pat McDermott was a man of principle at a time when integrity seemed to matter less and less.

He extended sympathy to Ann, Pat's wife of 62 years, to his children Séamus and Ann and particularly his brother Frank who was active in the Movement both in Ireland and New York.

CABHAIR honours five Republican Veterans

THE Annual CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund) Testimonial Dinner took place on May 28, when five Republican Veterans were presented with a piece of inscribed Belfast crystal.

Irish Republican men and women travelled from all over Ireland and from America to Dublin to show their respects to the 2011 CABHAIR Honorees. Fear a' Tighe for the night was Dan Hoban, Mayo.

Donal Varian, Cork made the presentation to Munster

The highlight of the evening was an impassioned speech from Ulster Honoree Joe O'Neill who said that in spite of all the obstacles put in the way of Irish Republicans and in spite of threats and harassment from British and Free State governments and former



• *Walter o'Dunphy, Leinster was presented with the Belfast crystal bowl by Matt Conway.*



• *US Honoree, Maggie Trainor with President of Republican Sinn Féin, who made the presentation.*



• *Donela Varian making the presentation to John Murphy, Munster Honoree.*



• *Joe O'Neill, Ulster Honoree with Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.*



• *Fear 'A Tighe Dan Hoban made the presentation to Neil Chambers, Connacht.*



• *The group Seanachie travelled from Wexford to entertain those present.*

Honoree John Murphy, whose 89th birthday was on May 30. Matt Conway, Kildare made the presentation to Leinster Honoree, Walter O'Dunphy, Kilkenny.

The presentation to the US Honoree, Maggie Trainor was made by Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton. Republican Sinn Féin patron Ruairí Ó Brádaigh made the presentation to Ulster Honoree Joe O'Neill, and Dan made the presentation to the Connacht Honoree Neil Chambers.

Each presentation was preceded by a few words from Dan Hoban, who said a few words about each recipient. Music was provided by the group *Seanachie*, led by ex-POW Dáithí Kavanagh, who travelled from Wexford.

comrades the Republican Movement was here to stay until the objective of a 32-County Irish Republic was achieved.

In conclusion Dan Hoban thanked the CABHAIR Honorees for their service to Irish Republicanism, and gave notice of a few upcoming events, including the Bodenstown commemoration on June 12 and the march and rally in support of the Republican POWs in Maghaberry in Belfast on June 18.

He also reminded people of the hunger strike commemoration in Bundoran, Co Donegal on August 27. He stressed the importance of a large attendance at Bodenstown and at Bundoran.

IMEACHTAÍ

POW CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
SATURDAY, JUNE 18
MARCH AND RALLY, BELFAST
Assemble outside offices of Republican Sinn Féin,
2pm for march to Dunville Park.

TONY RUANE COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 3pm
CARLOW CEMETERY

**90th ANNIVERSARY
O'REILLY BROTHERS/
MCGENNIS COMMEMORATION**
KILLEEN CEMETERY
SUNDAY, JULY 3, 3pm
Organised by Republican Sinn Féin.

TOM MAGUIRE COMMEMORATION
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 9pm
CROSS CEMETERY
CO MAYO

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGER STRIKES
EXHIBITION AND TALKS IN
CONWAY MILL, BELFAST
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7.

**30th ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION**
BUNDORAN, CO DONEGAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 3pm
Assemble East End for march through town.

**JOIN NA FIANNA ÉIREANN
IRELAND'S REPUBLICAN
YOUTH MOVEMENT**
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

Cork: Mac Curtáin/Mac Swiney Cumann:
086-3352006 or rscork@gmail.com

Kerry: 087-097 0835

Dublin: 01-8729747 or e-mail saoirse@iol.ie

Meath: Niall Fagan/Thomas Allen Cumann: 086-7326922

Wexford: contact Mick at 0876150484

Kildare: desdalton@eircom.net, 086-329 1809,
www.rsfcildare.ie

Longford: 087-2240061 or 086-3384017

Westmeath: 086 124 3265;

email: rswfwmeath@gmail.com

Enniscorthy: 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com

Newry: Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann:
rsfnewry@aol.com

Roscommon: Kevin Coen Cumann: Joe Murphy, 086 1281 861

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 0926420

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Griofa: Tomás,

087 2933 782; Seán at 091 525 977, text: 0871496885;

rsfgaillmh@live.ie

Leitrim: Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454

London: Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann,

0044-7926357676; londonecumann@gmail.com

Glasgow: Francis Hughes Cumann,

rsfglasgow@yahoo.com, web: rsfglasgow.webs.com

Dumbarton: John Torley/Séamus McElwaine Cumann

dumbartonrsf@live.co.uk

RSF Germany/Austria: www.irish-solidarity.net

irish-solidarity@gmx.net, 0664 170 02 92

RSF Italy: rsf-roma@email.it

POWs assaulted and threatened

ON May 23, 2011 the POW Department of Republican Sinn Féin expressed the organisation's anger at the continuing ill-treatment of the Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

Since last August (2010) the POWs have abided by the conditions laid out in the Agreement drafted by the POWs, the facilitators and the David Ford's Department of Justice at Stormont. However, the prison wardens, with the connivance of the governor, have refused to implement the Agreement. The current governor was quoted in the press some weeks ago as having stated that as he was not involved in drafting any agreement he does not have to abide by any agreement. The POWs are demanding political status which includes freedom of movement within the wing in Roe House, and an end to strip searches and early lock-up times. The BOSS chair is installed in the prison, the use of which would eliminate the need for strip searching.

For several weeks now the prison regime have been attempting to lock-up the POWs at the earlier time of 7.20pm (even 7.15pm) instead of the normal 8pm lock-up.

From Wednesday night May 18, 2011 up to 40 members of the riot team with five dogs entered the canteen

the POWs sat down and refused to move, so the riot team proceeded to forcibly remove the men one at a time.

The POWs were kicked, punched and stood on. Several

One was cut and bruised and has a suspected broken nose; another a sprained wrist and his arm badly swollen while a third has a broken finger and torn tendons. Another has pulled a

Update on the situation in Maghaberry

THE facilitators held a series of meetings during the last week in May. They eventually got to see four of the POWs in Roe House, Maghaberry Jail, Co Antrim, having received permission from the office of David Forde, justice minister at Stormont.

They were accompanied by two independent witnesses who has not been involve before, a Minister and member of staff from Forde's office who can bear witness to the injuries of the prisoners.

They met with four Republican prisoners, one of whom had a broken nose, his arm in a sling and severe bruising on his face. While in the prison they came in contact with other prisoners with a variety of injuries also.

The meeting with the prisoners concentrated on the lack of implementation of the Agreement of August 2010 by the prison authorities and the and yard at 7.20pm to remove the men to their cells. However

injustices suffered by the Republican prisoners in relation to early lock-up and the injuries sustained during their forced removal from the yard over a two week period.

They were told by the prison authorities that all of the prison was locked down at 7.30pm now "due to cutbacks in cash" but the POWs pointed out that the other prisoners were NOT locked down at 7.30pm.

The facilitators are now seeking a meeting with all the original people who were involved in drawing up the Agreement. They want to go over the Agreement point by point to see where there is a breakdown in

understanding. The current Governor was not part of the agreement, and is not willing to implement it.

The POW Department of Republican Sinn Féin requested the name of the current governor from the prison service, but received a reply to "look up the website" - which only gives the name of the acting governor Pat Maguire. (The POW Dept had looked up the website but it gives no date for his appointment.)

The facilitators also met with representatives of the POWs on the outside and will keep them fully informed of what is happening with them.

of the men have been injured.

muscle in his back, a fifth is



• One of the landings inside Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

bruised round his neck and head, and many more injuries are reported. All prisoners were handcuffed in the process, which in itself inflicted injuries.

Once inside the prison the riot team with their shields and batons, tried to intimidate the men with their sectarian screaming and shouting at them "we will fix you, you Fenian b*****s" as they put the boot in [literally].

On May 24 the warders issued the POWs with warnings that they were "now" on lockdown under Rule 32. Under Rule 32 the POWs were on lock-down initially for 48-hours which can/will be extended to 72-hours and from there up to 28 days if the POWs "do not comply with an earlier evening lock-up time".

The situation should never have been allowed to reach this point again. The prison authorities are denying the facilitators entry to the prison at the moment, requested by the POWs. The facilitators are forced to go through David Ford's office for permission to enter the jail.

As the prison staff faces cuts of up to 500 warders, it looks as if the prison authorities want a continuing confrontation with the POWs to justify their overtime and high staff ration to prisoners.

These men in Roe House are Republican political prisoners; in jail because of their political beliefs and not for criminal activity as some of the media would have people believe.

Billy Phillips

WEXFORD Republicans were shocked and saddened at the recent sudden passing of their friend and comrade Billy Phillips at the age of just 50.

Billy had been a committed Republican for over 30 years. He joined Na Fianna Éireann as a teenager in the late seventies and had been at the forefront of Republican activity from that time up to his untimely death. Only days before he passed away he had been organising and participating in the annual Easter commemorations.

It is a testament to Billy's dedication that following his release from Portlaoise Prison where he served more than three years as a political prisoner he continued to play a full role in every aspect of the Republican

struggle. This despite almost constant harassment and serious health problems.

Billy is survived by his sister Kathleen, his nephews Benny, Ciarán and Ian and his nieces Hazel and Shannon. The heartfelt sympathy of all Wexford Republicans goes out to them at this time. At recent meetings of Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, of which he was the Chairman, and of the Wexford Republican Graves Association, of which he was a long-serving member, tributes were paid to Billy and votes of sympathy were passed to his



• Billy Phillips

family.

Billy was a dedicated and determined Republican who never deviated from his principles and ideals and was always ready to do whatever was necessary to bring about the

establishment of a 32-County socialist Irish Republic. He will be sadly missed both as a friend and a comrade.

In his oration at the graveside Jimmy Kavanagh, a longstanding comrade of Billy, spoke of his personal and political involvement with Jimmy "a true and loyal friend" and the love Billy has for his country.

"Billy's life was in my ways defined by the two principle commitments in his life; his dedication to his family and his involvement with the Republican Movement. With Billy you just knew he would be there for the long road, his commitment to the cause was total".

Jimmy spoke of the harassment Billy suffered at the hands of the Special Branch and his time in Portlaoise Jail as a



• The funeral cortege was accompanied by a Guard of Honour of Billy's comrades.

POW - those difficult times just made him stronger.

"Because of his shy nature Billy never got the credit for the years of unwavering service he gave to the Republican Movement. We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

"On behalf of Billy's comrades in the Republican Movement I promise his family that one day Billy will rest in a country that is free and united and where there is justice and fairness for everyone."

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Neil 'Plunkett' O'Boyle remembered

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin Kildare held a commemoration on May 15 in Knocknadruc, Co Wicklow to honour Neil Plunkett O'Boyle murdered by Free State Forces 89 years ago in

Republicans gathered at the home of May Nolan where a plaque on the side wall of the house reads that Niall Plunkett O'Boyle was shot at that spot when the house was owned by the Norton family, good Republican people. Des Dalton, Uachtarán Sinn Féin Poblachtach, chaired the proceedings while Mark Casey carried the National Flag.

A decade of the Rosary was recited by Kitty Hawkins and a wreath was laid by Michael O'Boyle, Donegal, Scotland and France.

The oration was given by Paddy Tidd who outlined Neil's life and involvement in the Republican Movement and his journey from Donegal to Knocknadruc via Scotland!

"While in Scotland he was sentenced to five years in prison for possession of a weapon. When he returned to Ireland he was arrested in 1922, but he escaped along with 160 prisoners. He made his way to the Wicklow hills and the Norton home in Knocknadruc.

"On the night the house



• Kitty Hawkins, May Nolan, Michael O'Boyle and Des Dalton at Knocknadruc on May 15.

was surrounded Neil walked out in order to save the lives of Mrs Norton and her daughter.

He was shot dead in cold blood by cowardly Free State soldiers."

Paddy also condemned the invitation to the Queen of England while the country is still occupied by "this tyrant's army", coupled with the cost "when thousands are once again forced to emigrate, the poorest in our society fleeced and our health service on par with any third world".

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all were invited into the home of May Nolan for tea and home-made scones where Michael O'Boyle was made particularly welcome. Michael is a nephew of Neil Plunkett O'Boyle.

Neil's brother Michael immigrated to Scotland as a young man. He found work, got married and reared his children there. When his son Michael himself retired

he immigrated to France with his wife, where they now reside with his youngest daughter.

Michael was accompanied on his journey from France by his good friend and neighbour Daniel Pitout.

A presentation was made to Michael by Kitty Hawkins, a well-known Kildare Republican, of a button which came from the coat of Neil and a silver Cladagh ring. The button and ring had been kept all these years by the family of Lena Clarkeof Laken, until she could find a member of the family to give them to.

Michael was overjoyed and said he wished his father was still alive to see them.

Republican Sinn Féin President visits US

FROM April 20 to May 3 the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton had a very successful visit to the US. The visit in itself was historic, marking the first time a President of Sinn Féin had been allowed into the US since Ruairi Ó Brádaigh in 1973.

On April 23 Des Dalton was a guest on Radio Free Éireann.

On Easter Sunday, April 24 a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the grave of Joe Stynes in Woodlawn cemetery in the Bronx followed by a breakfast at the Heritage Lounge 960 Mc Lean Ave, Yonkers. In his address at the breakfast Des Dalton said: "The 1916 Proclamation records the service rendered by Ireland's 'exiled children in America' in support of the All-Ireland Republic of Easter Week. From the days of Theobald Wolfe Tone Ireland has turned to her exiled children in the United States for support and at various times shelter from oppression. The Fenian Movement set down deep roots here and provided crucial material and moral support to the Republican Movement in the years leading up to 1916.

"Writing to his friend and comrade the redoubtable Joe

McGarrity – a man who devoted his entire adult life to the cause of Irish freedom – Tom Clarke wrote of the awakened spirit of nationality: 'Joe, it is worth living in Ireland these times – there is an awakening – the slow, silent plodding and the open preaching is at last showing results, things are in full swing on the up grade – and we are breathing air that compels one to fling up his head and stand erect.' Over the decades Irish America has rendered valued support to the cause of Irish Freedom and long may it continue."

Des Dalton continued: "Today Ireland is faced with a struggle for its right to sovereignty not only from the old imperialism of England but also the new imperialism of the EU and IMF. We restate on this Easter Day that we take our stand on the right of the "people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to

be sovereign and indefeasible."

On Tuesday April 26 a video was recorded at the Fenian Monument in Calvary cemetery

Des Dalton raised the issue of the Republican prisoners in Maghberry and the fact the Stormont regime has reneged on the independently mediated agreement. He also raised

Republican Sinn Féin's designation by the US State department as a "terrorist" organisation. He also spoke widely about Republican Sinn Féin's alternative to British Rule and partition, ÉIRE NUA.

On April 30 Des Dalton was again a guest on Radio Free Éireann. That evening he attended and addressed

16th Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner which was held from 6 to 9pm at Connolly's Pub & Restaurant, 121 West 45th Street in New York City. Again the event was a success with a good attendance.

On May 2 Des Dalton visited the graves of Joe McGarrity and Luke Dillon in Philadelphia where a short video was recorded. The Liberty Bell and Constitution Hall as well as Valley Forge National Historical Park were also visited where further videos were recorded. Other graves visited were Michael Flannery and Pat Mullin as well as Matilda Tone in Greenwood Cemetery Brooklyn.

The visit was an opportunity to meet up with those in Cumann na Saoirse who are doing so much to advance the cause of a free Ireland in the US and also to meet a wide spectrum of people from both within and outside the Irish American community. A message of unequivocal revolutionary Irish Republicanism was once more carried forward.



• President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton, speaking at the Easter commemoration breakfast in New York.

Rededication at Garden of Remembrance

"WHERE desecration takes place, rededication is appropriate," said Ruairi Ó Brádaigh at the rededication ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance on Sunday, May 20, organised by Republican Sinn Féin.

Chairing the ceremony, Fergal Moore, Vice-President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach said:

"I would like to welcome you all here today to this rededication ceremony for this garden that was erected to the memory of all those who have fought and died for Irish Freedom. We feel it is necessary to hold this rededication due to this spot being defiled a few days ago by the head of the very state that those men and women fought a g a i n s t . "While the head of the British State and Army, surrounded by her Free State cohorts, laid a wreath here, supposedly in memory of those Irish Republicans who have fought and died for Irish Freedom, Irish Republicans, a few hundred yards away, were being corralled and attacked by the forces of the Free State."

Fergal called on Maggie Trainor, the US honoree at the CABHAIR Testimonial Dinner the previous night, to lay a laurel wreath at the Children of Lir sculpture (by Óisín Kelly) at the top of the Garden while a minutes silence was observed. She was accompanied by Dermot Douglas carrying the National Flag.

Róisín Hayden, Ard Chomhairle member, then read

the 1916 Proclamation.

Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, Patron of Republican Sinn Féin, was then introduced and he pointed out "that when a desecration takes place, rededication is appropriate and necessary". He said the protests against the Queen's visit showed that "not everyone and not every organisation had been purchased".

Kevin Trainor from Armagh laid some whitethorn which was not in flower – four pieces for the four provinces — in an ancient Irish rededication ceremony.

Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, General Secretary, read the Declaration of Independence of the all-Ireland First Dáil.

Des Dalton, President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach was the final speaker. He said: "By our ceremony here today we are reclaiming this sacred ground from the agents of British imperialism. This garden was built to honour the memory of those who died for a 32-County free Ireland. By bringing the Queen of England here — whose army occupies six of those counties — dishonours the memory of all of those men and women. Irish Republicans take our stand on the essential truth and justice and of Ireland's right to national



• Some of the crowd who attended the rededication ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance on Sunday, May 29.



• Maggie Trainor, US Honoree at the CABHAIR Testimonial Dinner on May 28, laid a wreath at the Óisín Kelly monument of the Children of Lir in the Garden of Remembrance on May 29.

independence. This was best articulated by the father of Irish Republicanism Theobald Wolfe Tone when he declared his object was: 'To break the connection with England the never failing source of all our political evils.'"

Lita Ní Chathmhaoil recited the very fitting poem *The Rose Tree* by WB Yeats.

In conclusion Fergal said: "We hope by our actions here today that we have cleansed this area of Dublin of the aura of British rule and made it a fit place once more for Republicans to come to remember and honour our dead with dignity and respect."

Republican Sinn Féin lead protests against British Queen

This at a time when almost 500,000 people are unemployed and public services are being slashed by a state which has sold out to the IMF and ECB.

On May 17 members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin marched from its Ard-Oifig on Parnell St in Dublin to the junction of Dorset Street/North Fredrick St overlooking the Garden of Remembrance where the Queen of England was due to lay a wreath.

There they were met by a solid wall

of IRISH Republicans led the way with protests opposing the four day visit by the Queen of England -- and the carnival of reaction which surrounded it -- to the 26-County State. A visit foisted on the people of Ireland by the political elites in

pretend that British Rule and the partition of Ireland is normal and acceptable. Our message is that British Rule or Partition is neither normal nor acceptable and as long as the British State occupies Ireland the head of that state will not be welcome in any part of Ireland."

As an indication of the level of intimidation directed at the protesters the 26-County police unceremoniously cut short an interview by a reporter from Sky



• Protestors facing the riot squad on Dorset Street on May 17.

the Secretary of Dublin Comhairle Ceantair Dermot Douglas – for the ‘crime’ of holding aloft the National Flag.

Both spent the night and following day in Cloverhill prison before they were released on bail having successfully challenged attempts to impose restrictive bail conditions on them. There were 20 arrests in all.

In a statement on May 18, Geraldine McNamara, National PRO, Republican Sinn Féin said: “The biggest disgrace and dishonour to the men and women who died in 1916 took place on Tuesday, May 17 when the traitorous 26-County Administration brought Elizabeth Windsor to the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin. One hundred years ago many of these heroes of 1916 would have been amongst the crowd protesting at the visit of George V.

“He was the head of the occupying forces of our country at that time and his granddaughter Elizabeth holds the same position today as her government still rule over the six north-eastern counties of Ireland. How dare they use 1916 to give credibility to the lie that there is normality between our two countries?”

“Those that live in the Occupied Six Counties are live under British rule, although they are Irish citizens, and until Britain leaves Ireland there will be Irish men and women willing to follow in the footsteps of our leaders of 1916 and continue the struggle for Irish unity and freedom. The past cannot be forgotten until the present situation is changed and Britain declares an intent to withdraw from the six north eastern counties and Ireland moves forward as one nation.”

Day one had passed and the Republican message had been delivered.

On the second day of the visit May 18 Dublin City was under a total lockdown as city and intercity buses were diverted or stopped far short of their destinations forcing people including the very young and old to walk long distances — all to facilitate the circus of British imperialism.



• During the protests on Dorset Street as the British Queen was laying a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance, the Garda riot squad arrested a number of people.



• Kildare Republican Sinn Féin read the Proclamation and held a minute's silence at the Republican Plot in Grey Abbey cemetery outside Kildare town on May 19.



• Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin protesting as the Queen of England was entertained in Croke Park.



• On May 20 members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin from Cork, Kerry and elsewhere held a very successful protest against the visit of Elizabeth of England to the Grand Parade market in Cork.

County Police, Special Branch, British-imported secret police and lines of barriers.

Addressing the crowd Des Dalton, President Sinn Féin Poblachtach, reiterated the message of the protesters: “Those who have organised this visit by the Queen of England are trying to

News with Ruairí Ó Brádaigh [Patron, Republican Sinn Féin] – despite this the remaining interview was broadcast that evening.

As it was announced that the message of the protesters: “Those who have organised this visit by the Queen of England are trying to

sirens. Very soon it became evident that the Gardaí were preparing to clear protesters from the street. Firstly an attempt was made to divide and corral protesters which was successfully resisted. When this tactic failed police in full riot

gear were deployed. A large number of people were attacked by these 26-County ‘storm-troopers’ including members of Republican Sinn Féin. Two members of Republican Sinn Féin were arrested, including

Resistance to visit of Queen of Engl

planned to hold a protest in Summerhill at the visit of the British Queen to Croke Park. As the protesters led by Des Dalton made their way to the protest point they were stopped at a Garda checkpoint. First they were told they would have to remove the sticks from their placards before they would be allowed through. As the group conferred on their next course of action they were told that on the instruction of the Superintendent in Store St Garda Barracks Republican Sinn Féin were not to be allowed beyond the barrier.

Undeterred the protesters made their way around to Dorset St and the junction with the North Circular Road where a very successful, colourful and noisy protest was held with a large media presence, who were informed that on November 21, 1920 Croke Park witnessed the murder of 14 Irish people by British Crown forces. As the Queen of England was brought into Croke Park Des Dalton – himself a member of the GAA -- told the assembled crowd and media that the visit to Croke Park was a betrayal of the very ethos of the GAA.

“Croke Park and the GAA represent the essential unity of Ireland as a nation. Bringing the head of the British State – a state which denies this essential unity by its continued occupation of the Six north eastern counties of Ulster -- to this hallowed ground is a betrayal of the very ideals upon which the GAA was founded.” An open letter from Des Dalton to the President of the GAA Christy Cooney had already been sent.

Despite an attempt by the leadership of the GAA to censor dissent within the GAA to the visit it emerged that eight of the nine counties of Ulster were not present in Croke Park for the visit. In a statement Des Dalton said: “Republican Sinn Féin salutes the decision of eight of the nine counties of Ulster not to attend the visit of the Queen of England to Croke Park on May 18. By their actions they have salvaged the honour of the GAA and have spoken for GAA members throughout Ireland who opposed this hijacking of the GAA in order to normalise British Rule in Ireland.

“The GAA and Páirc an Chrócaigh where the All-Ireland Football and Hurling Finals are staged each year embody the essential unity of the Irish Nation. Bringing the head of the British State - whose occupation of six of the nine counties of Ulster is a denial of the Irish Nation’s essential right to unity and freedom - to Croke Park contradicts the principles upon which the GAA was founded.”

Despite the enforced partition of Dublin that evening and the



• The National Flag was treated with ignominy by the 26-County police in Dorset Street on May 17.



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin being manhandled by the police on May 17.



• A protester being arrested in Dorset Street on May 17.



• Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin held a most successful protest in Cork on May 20.

closing of bridges across the River Liffey Republican Sinn Féin took part in the protests at the state

banquet for the British Queen in Dublin Castle which was the centre and symbol of British Rule

in Ireland until 1921.

Day two had passed and the Republican message had been delivered.

On day three May 19 the focus shifted to Co Kildare where the Queen of England visited the National Stud and Giltown Stud farm near Kilcullen. Again draconian security was imposed across south Kildare and many roads as well as the town of Kilcullen were closed off. Kildare Republican Sinn Féin held a very successful demonstration in Kildare Town on Thursday for two hours.

The protest began with a march around the market square where wreaths were laid at the 1798 Monument to the 350 men murdered by British Crown forces at the Gibbet Rath on the Curragh and the monument to the seven men executed by Free State forces on the Curragh on December 18 1922.

Des Dalton, himself a Co Kildare man, addressed the crowd and said the protest was sending out the clear message that while Britain continues to occupy and partition Ireland, its head of state would not be welcome.

At 12 noon the crowd marched out to Grey Abbey Cemetery where a short ceremony was held at the Republican Plot. Here the 1916 Proclamation was read by the General Secretary of Republican Sinn Féin Josephine Hayden, which was then placed at the monument by a local woman. A minute’s silence was held in memory of all the Irish men and women who have died for Irish freedom.

Five members travelling from Dublin were stopped and questioned by the armed response unit of the Gardai. They were threatened with arrest for not giving their date of birth [which they are not obliged to give] and their placards taken from them.

Day three had passed and the Republican message had been delivered.

On day four May 20 the Queen of England travelled to Cashel in Co Tipperary and then on to Cork City. In a statement on May 19, Geraldine McNamara, National PRO said:

“Provisional Councillor Michael Brown has welcomed this visit [by the Queen of England] and said he hoped it would benefit the tidy towns committee. (Tipperary Nationalist, May 12).

“This statement is almost unbelievable coming on the 30th anniversary of Bobby Sands and his nine comrades who died on hunger strike in 1981. Ireland’s freedom has yet to be obtained.

“While Michael Browne may have accepted a divided Ireland and the pretence of normality that we see being created this week, true Republicans hold steadfast to the ideals of 1916.



• The Tricolour being proudly held Rúnai, Comhairle Ceantair Átha Ch 17. Shortly after this photo was taken the National Flag was thrown aside



• More protests in Dorset Street on



• Protesters struggle with gardai in



• In New York ,members of the Nation held a mock trial of the English Queen on

“Republican Sinn Féin will continue to campaign for a 32-County Federal All-Ireland

and throughout Ireland and abroad



led high by Diarmuid Ó Dúbhghlas, *iath, Sinn Féin Poblachtach on May n, he was snatched by the riot squad, and he was arrested.*



may 17.



Dorset Street, May 17.



ional Irish Freedom Committee held n May 17.

Republic in an Ireland free from British rule.”
In a statement following the

visit by the British Queen to Cashel and the shameful actions of the Provos Lord Mayor Geraldine McNamara said that the “Provo Councillor Michael Browne has brought the Provos to an all-time low by shaking hands with the Commander in Chief of the British army Queen Elizabeth.

“To defend his spineless actions he reminded people that a colleague of his Alex Maskey had laid a wreath at a cenotaph in Belfast a few years ago.”

Geraldine said it appeared from Michael Browne’s comments that the Provos do not regard the Six Counties as part of Ireland as the Queen of England has made frequent visits there as recently as March this year.

In Cork Republicans again made their presence felt with a very successful protest at Sullivan’s Quay, opposite the Grand Parade where the Queen of England passed. As protesters gathered to begin their protest the 26-County Special Branch were on hand to take names and threaten people with arrest.

Des Dalton told the large gathering that the British Queen was not welcome in Cork city, a city which was burned to the ground in 1920 by the forces of the British Crown, a city which lost its two lord mayors Tomás Mac Curtáin and Terence MacSwiney at the hands of the British state.

He went on: “It is the same state that today in 2011 continues to divide, partition and continue to occupy the north-eastern corner of our country.” As a cardboard coffin draped in black with the words ‘British Empire’ in white was thrown into the river Lee, Des continued: “Today we symbolically place the coffin of the British Empire here in the River Lee to give a message from Irish Republicanism which continues and will always live on in Ireland, we were the first colony and we are the last but resistance here to British rule will continue.”

A token rally by the Provos was badly depleted by the end of the protest as young people there voted with their feet to join the protest led by Republican Sinn Féin. Schoolchildren were used in a most disgraceful manner to bring up the numbers brought in to ‘welcome the Queen of England’. The children at one point were used to shield any view of the protesters on the opposite bank of the River Lee. A teenage pupil of one of the schools used so cynically to ‘welcome’ the British Queen joined the protest saying her place was with the protesters and not to welcome the Queen of England to her city. Her action shows that despite all the efforts of political elite the fires of Republicanism burns bright in the heart of a new generation.



• More gardai keeping the British Queen safe against Irish Republicans.



• In Rome memebrs of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Republican Sinn Féin held a protest on May 5.



• On May 14 members of Republican Sinn Féin held a protest against the visit in Monaghan town.



• On May 18 Republican Sinn Féin protested against the visit to Kildare

At one point Des Dalton, in comments directed at the adults waving Union Jacks on Grand Parade, said to applause and cheers: “Shame, shame, shame, on those that would bring the Union Jack into the city of Mac Curtáin and MacSwiney, two Lord Mayors murdered by the British State, a city burned by British Crown forces in 1920.”

A member of the public commented that it was not the first time British-sponsored forces had been used to keep Irish people out of the English Market as this had been done during the Great Hunger to keep starving

people away from the hoarded food. Day four had passed and the Republican message had been delivered.

In New York on May 17 Cumann Na Saoirse organised a protest, in solidarity with the protests in Ireland, at the Great Hunger Memorial - 290 Vesey Street and North End Avenue, Battery Park City. WBAI’s Radio Free Éireann and Irish Americans send the message that “Britain has robbed Ireland of its natural resources for the enrichment of the crown. Between 1845 and 1852, the English monarchy

allowed over one million Irish citizens to die by starvation. The Great Hunger Memorial is a stark reminder of the millions who had to choose between death by starvation or leaving their country and families forever.

“The British Monarchy has never acknowledged their role in the Great Starvation, nor have they offered reparation for taking crops, cattle and money out of Ireland, while a million people starved. They have never apologized for their attempts to eradicate the Irish language, culture and religion.

“It is the height of arrogance to assume that Irish people should pay millions of euros to ensure safe passage while the Queen tours the country she and her family have done their best to destroy”.

A mock trial was held and charges were laid before the Queen of England, for of which were: Theft of Property – taking Irish land from Irish people; Labour Trafficking – creating a system of bonded servitude, where farmer/tenants paid huge rents and received little or no profit from their labour; Criminally Negligent Homicide and Reckless Endangerment – exporting grain from Ireland while watching hundreds of thousands of people starve. Allowing coffin ships to leave port overcrowded, without adequate food supply, guaranteeing the death of Irish passengers and Attempted genocide – attempting to destroy the Irish people’s language, religion, culture, education and means of sustenance.”

On May 5 members of Republican Sinn Féin’s International Relations Bureau in Rome held a demonstration against the visit outside of the British Embassy.

Republican Sinn Féin held protests against the visit throughout the month of May in the four provinces of Ireland. Many have been reported on in previous editions of SAOIRSE. However Connacht held protests at several venues: in Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Ballinagare, Lisacul and Castlerea. There were speakers at all venues, one pointing out that “The €30 million being spent on a visit by the Queen would be better spent on Roscommon Hospital or the Plunkett Care Home for elderly citizens which has been closed for the last 18 months.”

In Ireland and abroad the message was delivered loud and clear No English Queen in Ireland while England occupies Ireland.

Resistance to visit of British Queen



• Donal Varian and Des Dalton at the protest in Cork on May 20.



• 26-County police snipers protesting the Queen of England at the Rock of Cashel on May 20.



• Thw scene in Dorset Street on May 17.



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin held a protest in Kildare town on May 19.



• Provo Councillor Michael Browne from Cashel shook hands with the Queen of England and welcomed her to his town.



• The riot squad in place on Dorset Street on May 17.



• The Republican Sinn Féin banner carried here was confiscated during the protest.

Hunger strike commemorations held in May

THE 30th anniversary of the H-Block hunger strike was marked by commemorations during the month of May, in Dublin, Galway, Camlough, Co Armagh, Tralee, Co Kerry and in the United States.

In Dublin Sinn Féin Poblachtach members, supporters and a colour party assembled in O'Connell Street on May 7.

The Chairperson, Andy Connolly named all 22 Irish hunger strikers from 1917 onwards giving a brief history of each man, and highlighted the seriousness of the situation being faced today by Irish POWs, as they are now once again victims of a system which gives them no option but to constantly protest for proper conditions in Maghaberry Jail.

A minute's silence was observed while the paper played a lament and the colour party dipped the flags. Twenty-two black flags and pictures of the ten hunger strikers who died in 1981 were carried by members and supporters. Seán Doyle, the piper from the Glens of Antrim provided music or the occasion.

Geraldine Taylor, Vice-President from Belfast, addressing the rally, spoke of the suffering of the men on hunger strike and their families and the impact of the hunger strikes on the wider community. She said that "the reason these brave men were incarcerated in Long Kesh was because they were fighting for Ireland's freedom and against the continued occupation of the Six Counties.

"The past number of years we have witnessed the surrender of weapons to the enemy and our former comrades now sit in Stormont administering British rule; one of them even stood shoulder to shoulder with two different heads of the British armed police [RUC chief constables] and called Republicans traitors.

"They also called on people to become informers to the peelers, the very same force who led mobs to burn nationalist homes, colluded with loyalist death squads to murder men, women and children.

"The Commander-in-Chief of the British forces is due to pay a visit to the 26 Counties on the very date that 33 people lost their lives in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings by a loyalist death squad. No one has ever been charged in connection with the bombings, and we all know the reason why — there was collusion from the highest level in the British Establishment."

Geraldine concluded by calling on "you the people to join with us to achieve a 32-County Republic".

Martin Duffy from Lurgan spoke of the continuity of struggle from the H-Blocks in 1981 to the present day in Maghaberry — the new H-Block.

"Ten men died on hunger strike in 1981 rather than accept criminalisation by the British Government and eventually gained political status. Today the POWs in Maghaberry are fighting the same fight for political status. A year ago on Easter Sunday they eventually had to take action and they took over the canteen.

"However despite an agreement reached in August

2010 the men are still protesting, the agreement has not been implemented, the men are subjected to the most degrading of strip-searching. The BOSS chair, which would do away with strip searching, is installed in the prison but the screws refuse to use it.

"To David Ford, Finley Spratt and the screws in Maghaberry jail I say to you: the Republican prisoners are not criminals, they are Irish Republican Prisoners of War."

Martin went on to tell the assembled crowd about Martin Corey, now 15 months as a political hostage in Maghaberry.

Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President Fergal Moore voiced opposition to the impending visit to Ireland by the Queen of England and said that while any part of Ireland was occupied by the British, no member of the royal family would be welcome. He called on all members and supporters to join with us in opposing the visit by supporting the protests.

The Chairperson brought the Rally to an end by thanking all present the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by the piper.

On May 14 Republicans in Galway gathered at the Cathedral in Galway city. Led by a colour party and a piper the assembled Republicans fell in behind a banner for political status for Republican POWs and marched from the Cathedral to the Liam Mellows statue in Eyre Square.

The proceedings were chaired by Sinn Féin Poblachtach's Galway County Councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin who welcomed the assembled crowd to the commemoration. There was a minute's silence followed by a decade of the Rosary recited as Gaeilge by Seán Mac an Iomaire. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Brendan Madden. The main oration was given by Dan Hoban from Newport, Co Mayo.

He said: "I am deeply privileged and honoured to be asked to stand here at the statue of a great Irish patriot Liam Mellows, to pay tribute to the men who died in the hellhole of Long Kesh 30 years ago on hunger strike. Ten people whom Maggie Thatcher and the British government left in filth and squalor to die in a lonesome dirty prison cell on hunger strike. We are very proud of the sacrifice made by these ten brave hunger strikers in the fight for Irish freedom.

"We stand here today, as the true inheritors of Irish Republicanism. We are the people who have never changed and who never will change, until the last British soldier has vanished from our shores. For 800 years, we have fought the might of the British Empire, and if we have to fight it for another 800 years, that we will do.

"We are now asked by the British government and by the British Queen to forget everything that happened over the last hundred years but we will not forget...We will not



• Bobby Sands commemoration in Dublin's O'Connell Street on May 7.



• Ruairi Ó Brádaigh gave the oration at the Raymond McCreesh commemoration in Camlough, Co Armagh, May 21.



• Dan Hoban speaking at the hunger strike commemoration in Galway on May 14.



• Poster advertising the hunger strike commemoration held in Yonkers, New York, USA on May 7.

forget about the brave men who fought in the GPO in Easter Week 1916, who were taken out one by one and shot by a British firing squad. We are asked to forget all these things but our history does not allow us to do this as Republicans".

The commemoration came to a close with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

On May 21 Republicans gathered in the town of Camlough, south Armagh and led by a fine colour party and a piper marched through the town to the grave of hunger striker Raymond McCreesh.

Proceedings at the grave were chaired by Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President, Fergal Moore. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Micky McGonigle and the Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann of

Sinn Féin Poblachtach by Sarah Murphy. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Dara Sloane and the list of 22 hunger strikers was read by Oliver White. Ten black flags were carried in the march along with posters of the ten men who died in the H-Blocks on hunger strike.

The main oration was delivered by the Patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, who as President of Sinn Féin in 1981 delivered the graveside oration over Ray McCreesh.

Ruairi said that "Raymond McCreesh came from an area which had a long tradition of resistance to English rule and was a central to the theatre of operations of the IRA's 4th Northern Division during the Tan war and the war in defence of the All-Ireland Republic in

1922/23.

"Raymond Mc Creesh was a young man of 19 years when he took his place in this tradition of resistance. Cardinal Ó Fiach, speaking at a critical stage of the hunger strike said the circumstances of Raymond's arrest in 1976 characterised the political nature of the struggle in the Six Counties when he took 'military action against British military' occupying South Armagh."

He quoted the book *The Irish Hunger Strike* by Tom Collins who described Raymond's "warm and persevering loyalty." He then said that the political status won by the sacrifice of Raymond McCreesh and his comrades had been signed away by the Provisionals under the terms of the 1998 Stormont Agreement.

"Today the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry are engaged in a struggle for the same rights. Beginning on Easter Sunday last year they waged a four month battle against the attempts of the prison regime to criminalise them.

Following the intervention of a joint-facilitation group an agreement was reached on August 12 with the Stormont Department of Justice and the prison authorities which ended the protest. The agreement provided for the ending of strip-searching and controlled movement. It has since been renegeed on by the Stormont Justice Minister David Ford and the prison regime.

"We call for its full implementation."

Ruairi Ó Brádaigh said the actions of the people who protested at the visit of the Queen of England to the 26 Counties showed that the spirit of resistance to British Rule still lived on in the hearts of the Irish people. "We congratulate them on their actions", he said. He also said the use of school children in Cork to support the visit was a "cynical exploitation".

He concluded with a quote from Raymond McCreesh: "Not all the armies of all the empires on earth can crush the spirit one true man, and that man will prevail." The strength of Raymond's spirit has conquered over all material considerations."

On May 7 the National Irish Freedom Committee held a successful hunger strike commemoration at Rocky Sullivan's new location in Brooklyn, NY.

Republicans from NY and NJ gathered to pay their respects and honour the ten young men who died on hunger strike in 1981, struggling for political status. The well-attended event was chaired by Josh Jacobs

Brief biographies of each hunger striker were read by a

series of speakers accompanied by video footage of 1981 protests, including a surprise appearance by Brigid Finn, who as a young girl participated in activism in support of the hunger strikers in 1981 and herself appeared in some of the historic footage.

A message from the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry was read by Pat Williams, tying the struggles of 1981 to the current struggle of Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise.

In Tralee on June 4, 2011, Stephen Brosnan chaired the 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the hunger strikes of 1981 organised by Kerry Comhairle Ceantair.

Led by a lone piper and a colour party who marched from Milk Market Lane, up the Mall and were joined in Denny Street by the main body of the parade, who carried posters of the ten hunger strikers.

The parade made its way to the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall where wreaths were laid by Seán Murphy on behalf of the POWs; Jimmy McCannon on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin Kerry; by Donal Varian on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin Cork and by Geraldine McNamara on behalf of all those who died in the cause of Irish freedom.

Stephen welcomed everyone and called on Matt Leen to read the Roll of Honour of the 22 men who died on hunger strike since 1917, the first of whom was Thomas Ashe.

Jane Enright, (Mayo and New York) gave a brief outline of the work carried out by Cumann na Saoirse in New York on behalf of the Republican Prisoners and the promotion of ÉIRE NUA. She had previously paid a visit to Maitéas Ó Dubhda agus a deirfiúr Máiréad, in Cloghán, with Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton. Their brother Séamus Ó Dubhda is also an active member of Cumann na Saoirse in the USA.

At a function later Jane was presented with a framed picture of Thomas Ashe by ex-POW Matt Leen on behalf of Kerry Comhairle Ceantair.

Stephen then introduced Des Dalton who said that "A 32-County free Ireland is the only fitting monument to the hunger strikers."

Des continued: "Thirty years ago ten young Irish Republicans died for an ideal. They died as so many others before them and since — so that Irish Nation might live in freedom. As Liam Mellows wrote in the hours before his execution 'The Republic lives; our death has made it a certainty.'

"Kerry produced the first hunger striker Tomás Aghas who on September 25, 1917, died as a result of hunger strike whilst being forced fed in Mountjoy prison.

"It is a fitting place to assemble in commemoration of the ten who walked in Ashe's footsteps 30 years ago."

Stephen Brosnan thanked everyone for attending and the proceedings closed with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by the piper and sung by all in attendance. A very enjoyable ballad session was held after the commemoration.

Fawning Free Staters

A chara
Perusing the media recently, I have been struck by the Goebbels-like repetition of the mantra "We Irish are now a mature people".

One would be forgiven for thinking that we had all gone to sleep and woken up in an alternative universe where black is white and white is black.

As Republicans we know that maturity is predicated on independence.

Fawning before the Queen of England who boasts the style and title of 'Queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' is evidence of the most basic childishness.

Thus when 26-County politicians say it is time to grow up, are they projecting their guilt onto others?

TOMÁS Ó CLÉRIGH

Éire Nó Gearmáin Na Naitsithe?

A chara
Bhí beirt againn (sean-phhinsíní) ag siúl abhaile thar Staisiún Uí Chonghaile Déardaoin seo caite, 19 Bealtaine. Bhí na bóithre díreach á ndúnadh ag na céanna agus nil ann ach gur éirigh linn theacht tríd.

Chonac muid scata beag, thart ar fiche duine, déagóirí óga idir chailíní is buachaillí, le cúpla duine fásta leo, ag seasamh le taobh an staisiúin DART, slám beag bratacha, bratach na hÉireann ina measc, ag seasamh le balla acu. Sheas muid cúpla neomat gearr, agus go tobann thosaigh fir i gcuilath galánta ag sáraíocht orthu (shíl muid gur dream an Luas nó an staisiún a bhí ann, ach níobh ea). Rith cailín óg amach agus rug ar an bratach ar fad agus d'ímigh tharainn.

Níor thug muid aon aird go bhfaca muid í á chaitheamh isteach i vean gharda. An chéad rug eile rith cúpla doasena garda isteach sa scata beag agus rug ar chuid acu agus bhru suas in aghaidh an balla iad.

Chúláigh an chuid eile sios an chasán i dtreo príomh-dhoras an staisiúin traenach. Rith na gardaí ina ndiaidh, bhí líon na gardaí ag méadú i gcónaí. Rith na daoine óga trasna ar Shráid Amiens, agus na gardaí ina ndiaidh, rud a bhí thar a bheith contúirteach i lár trácht 6 p.m. sa tráthnóna. Ní raibh aonair ag smachtú an trácht. Lean muid trasna iad, agus rug na gardaí ar roinnt eile des na daoine óga, shúil an chuid eile go sciopthaí suas Sráid Talbóid agus scaoileadh leo. Nuair a thrasnaigh muid an sráid arís bhí gardaí ag stopadh gach duine ar an gcosán trasna ón staisiún, agus rug siad ar fhear óg amháin a tháinig amach as an gcaifé idirlín a bhí

i mbun gnáth-ghnó agus chaith isteach i gceard garda é freisin, tar éis é a chur ag seasamh le balla srl., agus stopadar gach duine eile a bhí ag siúl ar an gcosán ansin.

Nuair a d'iarr muid céard a bhí i gceist acu ag stopadh na daoine óga sin, a raibh cead acu seasamh ansin lena gcuib bratacha, dúradh linn greadadh linn go han-mímhúinte, rud a dhiultuigh muid a dhéanamh.

D'fhan muid ansin ag féachaint go raibh na daoine óga ar fad scuabtha isteach i gearanna gardaí (caranna gan aon mharcáil is mó) agus chonac muid nár thug an pobal thart orainn aon aird ar chéard a bhí ar siúl.

Bhí fhios againn ansin cén chaoi ar airigh na lúdaigh sa nGearmáin aimsir na Naitsithe.

Níl aoinne in Éirinn chun na daoine óga seo a chosaint.

Bhí siad ag iarraidh agóid a dhéanamh an fhad is go raibh na "huaisle" agus a lucht leanúna ag cruinniú sa gCeoláras thíos na céanna, rud a raibh lán-cheart acu a dhéanamh, agus iad cúpla míle ón áit sin.

Dá mba rud é gur de bhunadh áon tír eile ar domhain iad, bheadh cearta acu san 26 Cho. agus daoine measúla réidh len iad a chosaint, tá an mí-ádh orthu gur de bhunadh na hÉireann iad, agus gur daoine bochta iad.

Gearmáin na 30í againn i mBaile Átha Cliath 2011!

Here is shortened version of report sent by two elderly members of our group [Maud Gunne Society] who saw a group of young people hassled, bullied and intimidated, their banners, including Tricolour, taken away and some of the group held against walls, while others were chased down Amiens Street, across fast-moving traffic, past the Dublin-Monaghan Bombings Memorial where others were grabbed and manhandled, where the last few young teenagers were allowed to go away.

This was on Thursday, May 19 just before 6 pm. Pedestrians on the opposite side of Amiens St. were stopped and searched, while at least one young person who came out of an internet cafe was also put up against a wall and arrested. The various young people were then bundled into a lot of cars by Gardaí and driven away.

These young people had been trying to hold a protest against the elite event happening at least one mile away, for the English queen, at the Convention Centre down the quays.

The quays had been closed off and hundreds of Gardaí were present. The display of bullying and intimidation was very horrifying, but even more so was the fact that while all this was happening people went up and down about their business at Amiens St. Luas and train station, showing no reaction at all.

It really sent shivers down the spines of our two members, who wondered whether they were in 2011 Dublin or Nazi



• A collage of world leaders pictured with Muammar Gaddafi (see letter on right).

Germany in the 1930s. F NÍ RAGHALLAIGH S MAC CARTHAIGH Baile Átha Cliath

Only One Comment

A chara
I have only one comment for the "let bye-gones be bye-gones" attitude we have heard from politicians, political commentators and the media about the British Queen's visit to the 26 Counties this week. When England leaves the Six Counties and the Irish Republic of 1916 is re-established, I will consider letting bye-gones be bye-gones.

JANE ENRIGHT
Woodside, New York

US Super-Weapons

A chara
Over 957 extra-judicially killed and over 383 injured in 134 drone attacks were launched by the US in the tribal areas of Pakistan in 2010. What remains unclear is who the greatly "accurate" drones are targeting. It has remained unanswered why so many civilians are killed.

It would be politically incorrect to suggest that civilians are being deliberately targeted or that the US drones would target "militants" when such a large number of civilian casualties are sure to arise. Conversely, with the US carrying out extra-judicial targeted killings with impunity, there is little preventing from them committing such heinous war crimes.

Considering the extreme precision with which the US allegedly operates, one is led to the conclusion: all the innocent women, children, men and elders killed were either accurately targeted or

disregarded as necessary to kill for the sake of the one, possibly two, or four "militants" in their midst.

The problem for the US, however, has come when they really kill the wrong people.

This is precisely what happened on 17 March 2011, and when the truth came out contradicting clearly the earlier reports which claimed militants were among the dead. Rather, not only were the vast majority of the victims accepted to be civilians who were attending a tribal meeting, but more civilians were killed in this attack than in any such attack since 2006. It is clear that the US got the wrong target and showed the world that their super weapons are used to kill and disable innocent civilians.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

Biased news Reports About Libya

A chara
I'm getting really sick and tired of the biased news reports on the current situation in Libya. Of course, you will see a lot of media operatives persuading you to think this is a good and justified war aimed at helping Libyans, but the facts and events just don't add up to that.

To say that "Gaddafi's security forces cracked down ferociously when thousands of Libyans rebelled against his rule" is just a repetition of the western party line, which has no basis in fact.

The Libya War was sold to the public as a humanitarian intervention, but very quickly evolved into an effort to overthrow a government, using drones that bomb civilians, and ignoring pleas for peace. The so called "rebellion against his

rule" was a covert CIA operation.

Both CIA agents and MI6 agents from the UK were already on the ground at the start of this so-called spontaneous rebellion. This I find too coincidental, given both agencies precedents, and given the strategic importance of Libyan oil, to accept at face value. Both agencies, as well as the compliant western media, used the ruse that what had happened in Tunisia and Egypt was what was happening in Libya.

If anyone really wants to know why the west decided to finally attack Libya, go to www.algathafi.org/html-english/index.htm and download the speech Ghaddafi made at the UN on September 23, 2009.

Resolution 1973 was just a ploy to strip Libya of its sovereignty to enable those that have, through the years, been looking for his head on a platter to have their ways. This is the chance of a life time to be rid of him and none of the countries involved is willing to let this golden opportunity slip by.

Who can explain how the dropping of over 3,000 \$400,000 missiles on Western Libya is about saving lives? Until Gaddafi is out, NATO will continue bombing civilians to protect civilians.

Pay close attention to the details, and you will see Western powers moving towards a resolution only when they've figured out how to privatise the Libyan oil.

Libyan rebels will never be in power. They will be minions serving the interests of the foreign multinational corporations. They will have served their purpose.

To most informed people with a sense of history, the Libyan story is no different to the colonial wars of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. None can deny that fact.

Wake up; this is a war, Obama and Company War. He started it by firing 200 Tomahawk missiles into Libya at a cost of \$1.5 million each. The US is the backbone of NATO which was set up to defend a country that might be attacked. Take away US participation, and NATO would fold its tent and go home today.

The US military intervention in Libya was never authorised by the US Congress, and thus violates US law and the US Constitution.

When the 60 day limit expired, Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard law professor who led the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel in 2003/4 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/21/world/africa/21libya.html>) said: "This appears to be the first time that any president has violated the War Powers Resolution's requirement either to terminate the use of armed forces within 60 days after the initiation of hostilities or get Congress's support." President Obama has become the new puppet of imperialism.

Gaddafi consented to a ceasefire and to democratic elections in the African Union negotiations. Obama, the "Nobel Peace Prize" winner, has utterly ignored that deal, and will no doubt refuse to seek a peaceful solution.

There's something very rotten about all of this! Aren't elections the goal? Why would the West reject elections in an agreement established through the African Union? The goal, as stated by Robert Gates, the US Secretary of Defence, is to "kill Gaddafi and the Libyan military".

Real protesters of any cause have disappeared from the streets in this country, and are only to be found on the Web (where their effect is zero or possibly less).

"We have to live today by what truth we can get today and be ready tomorrow to call it falsehood." William James
JOSEPH M CACHIA
Malta

Launch Of song

A chara
This week saw the launch of an historical song by various international musicians called "Freedom for Palestine". The content is the occupation of Palestine by Israel.

This is really more than a song, it is a political statement by some committed artists. We need 25,000 downloads to reach the Top 10 of the British charts and can't do this without you. The single costs only 74 pence!

You can buy the song and see the amazing video here: <http://www.freedomoneworld.com/> If you are on facebook, twitter and other social networks please share, repost, like... We need this link and video to be most shared on facebook/twitter for the next few weeks.

ELAINE
Name and address with editor.

Letters to the Editor should be as short, as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page. Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published.

Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SAOIRSE.

Postal address: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Letters may also be faxed to Dublin 872 9757 or sent by e-mail to saoirse@iol.ie

Please note that all material for publication, articles, features, news reports, comhbhróin, congratulations and good wishes greetings, etc must be accompanied by a name, address, signature and telephone number for verification.

WHAT THEY SAID

The first was the establishment of the Euro currency under the 1992 Maastricht Treaty.

— Irish Times, March 4, 2011, letter to Irish Times by Anthony Coughlan in answer to Dr Garret Fitzgerald. Anthony maintains members states of the EU, above all its bigger ones, France and Germany especially, "try to dominate the smaller ones if it suits them". He cites three developments in the past 20 years that show this.

The second was the 2001 Nice Treaty which allows an inner group of nine or more EU states to integrate further among themselves and to use the EU institutions to do that, even though the other EU members are opposed.

— Anthony Coughlan letter. The third was the Lisbon Treaty of 2009. In power-political terms this treaty's most important provision is that it puts EU law-making on a primarily population size basis for the first time — from 2014.

This means that in three years time Germany's voting weight in making EU laws on the EU Council of Ministers will be doubled from its present 8 per cent to 17 per cent.

France's, Italy's and Britain's vote will go from their present 8 per cent each to 12 per cent each, while Ireland's will fall from its present two per cent to 0.8 per cent. Is not this by any standard a power-grab by the big states?

— Anthony Coughlan. Later, in Kilmainham, she would hear the firing squads executing the leaders of the Rising. Her [Dr Kathleen Lynn] continuing Republican activism and membership of Sinn Féin made her relationship with her family difficult. In 1923, she would be elected to the fourth (sic) Dáil as an abstentionist Republican TD.

— Sunday Business Post Agenda, May 1, 2011, TV Review by Emmanuel Kehoe, "shown on TG4, appropriately enough on Easter Monday": Kathleen Lynn, Dochtúir Reabhóideach.

In 1919, together with her close friend Madeleine ffrench-Mullen, she founded teach Ultán — St Ultán's children's hospital in Charlemont Street — to care for the infants of Dublin's poor. Many of these babies were dying of, among other illnesses, gastroenteritis. The hospital was staffed entirely by women doctors.

— TV Review by Emmanuel Kehoe, Dr Lynn stayed with Sinn Féin and did not go with Fianna Fáil.

This [the European Central Bank] has emerged as the most powerful institution on the European Union plateau. It is entirely unaccountable to anybody or any institution.

We, the Irish people, voted for this in the referendum on the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992 without any appreciation of the consequences of what was entailed.

— Sunday Business Post, May 1, 2011, Vincent Browne column, "Between the Lines".

Some of us were concerned about the erosion of democracy generally by our involvement in the European union, only to be brushed aside by the frenzy of the Eurofans, some of whom,

incidentally, have been rewarded for their frenzy.

But we did not see the scare of the contempt for democracy that was embedded in that Maastricht Treaty.

— Vincent Browne. Éamon Gilmore seemed not to have appreciated the status and independence of the ECB during the recent election campaign, when he went on about "Labour's way or Frankfurt's way".

Gilmore must now appreciate that it is "Frankfurt's way" all the way.

— Vincent Browne. We can fulminate all we like, but we are now in the iron grip of the ECB, and there seems no prospect of any let-up.

— Vincent Browne. The entire article is headed: "We are prisoners of Europe's only superpower."

Tá ullmhúcháin ar bun do chéad Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada a bheith i nGaeltacht Thuaisceart an Oileáin Úir in Ontario idir 1-2 Iúil.

Bunaithe ar fhéile na hÉireann, tabharfaidh an fhéile ardán do na healaíona traidisiúnta Gaelacha i gCeanada.

— Foinse, Bealtaine 4, 2011.

A Eagarthóir "Bhris" beirt Ghardaí (i gnáth cultacha as éide) isteach inniu in oifig Chomhar.

Bhí siad ag lorg ainmeacha, seoltaí agus d'ataí breithe don fhoireann ar fad agus do dhúine ar bith a bhéadh san Oifig idir seo agus cuairt Bhanríon Shasana.

Shiúil na Gardaí isteach gan choinne, gan cnagadh ar an bpríomhdhoras agus baineadh geit as an riarthóir san Oifig.

Máire Ní Chonchubhair. — Foinse, Bealtaine 4, 2011, litir chuig an Eagarthóir.

That book is, of course, 1992's *The End of History*, with its radical thesis that the end of the Cold War meant the big question of how human beings should organise themselves had finally being resolved.

— Sunday Business Post Agenda, May 8, 2011, review of *The Origins of Political Order* by Francis Fukuyama.

Fukuyama identifies three essential ingredients for lasting political order: a strong state, the rule of law and a way to hold rulers accountable for their actions.

— Review by Andrew Lynch of Francis Fukuyama's *The Origin of Political Order*.

If Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau are generally regarded as the greatest scientists of all time, then this book suggests that the name Fukuyama will one day be added to that list.

— Andrew Lynch review.

One notable feature of this reissued collection is to highlight how little we've achieved in relation to three topics that were of great concern to Collins; namely unification, the restoration of the Irish language and a halt to emigration. Required reading.

— Sunday Business Post Agenda, May 8, 2011, review by Fadhna Kelly and Juliam Fleming of *The Path to Freedom* by Michael Collins.

The biggest political winner of the week was the Scottish Nationalist leader Alex Salmond, who is on course to hold a referendum on full independence for Scotland at a time of his choosing, which will not be for several years.

— Irish Independent, May 9, 2011, article by Nicholas Leonard on Salmond's achievement of an overall majority in the Scottish Parliament.



• Singer Morrissey who described the British Queen's failure to use her power to give back the Six Counties to the Irish people as 'fascism'. See quote below.

"I think that the killing of an unarmed man is always going to be a very uncomfortable feeling," he said, "because it doesn't look as if justice is seen to be done."

— Nicholas Leonard, quoting Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the death of Osama bin Laden.

The turnout [in the Stormont election], although comparatively high by UK (sic) standards, was remarkably low for a Northern Ireland election, which should be of concern to parties in an area where the alternative to participative democracy has too often been violence.

— Irish Independent, May 9, 2011, article by Maurice Hayes.

Unionist turnout has been particularly low in the Greater Belfast area, whether among the garden centres or the inner city, leaving the UUP as a rump in rural west Ulster, with a diminishing presence in the urbanised east.

— Maurice Hayes article.

A sad loss has been Dawn Purvis and the party of David Ervine, which leaves working-class Protestants (sic) and loyalists without a political voice (the DUP gone upmarket).

— Maurice Hayes article headed "DUP and [Provisional] Sinn Féin becoming the parties of middle-class voters."

Singer "Morrissey" has described as "fascism in full flow" a failure by Queen Elizabeth to use her power to "give back the Six Counties to the Irish people, allowing Ireland to be a nation once again".

— Irish News, May 17, 2011, article by Simon Cunningham, quoted from Dublin rock magazine *Hot Press*.

Queen Elizabeth has been urged to visit a memorial to the Miami Showband during her trip to Dublin's Garden of Remembrance.

The memorial beside the Hugh Lane Gallery on Parnell Square, close to the garden, was unveiled in 2007 in memory of three members of the popular band murdered by the UVF at Bushkill, seven miles north of Newry, Co Down in 1975.

— Irish News, May 17, 2011.

It also emerged at the hearing that her [Marion Price, former hunger striker] life sentence had been revoked and she was returned to prison.

Her solicitor, Peter Corrigan, said such a move was "unlawful as it rode a coach and horse through the presumption of innocence".

— Irish News, May 17, 2011, (Marion Price was charged at Derry with "addressing a meeting encouraging support" for the IRA on

Easter Monday.

Two people — including a press officer for Republican Sinn Féin — appeared in court yesterday charged with encouraging acts of terrorism after taking part in an interview with Channel 4.

Lisburn Magistrates Court heard that Seán Moloney (25) and Cáit Trainor (26) both allegedly "supported the arms struggle" during the interview.

It was the first time that anyone in Northern Ireland (sic) has appeared in court accused with the offence, introduced as part of beefed-up anti-terrorism legislation which was introduced to deal with Islamic radicals.

— Irish News, May 17.

But UDA "brigadiers", plus associates? A bad idea, and the inevitable outworking of a subset of foreign policy, conducted for years now by the unelected husband of the president.

— Irish News, May 17, 2011, Fionnuala O'Connor article.

The argument is that only total disclosure can lay to rest suspicion that soldiers, spies, and possibly police helped loyalist paramilitaries bomb Dublin and Monaghan 37 years ago today.

— Irish News, Fionnuala O'Connor.

The final version of the royal visit is that it was conceived as the seal upon improved relations with Britain, a ceremonial summation of the process that has settled conflict, mostly, and bedded down peace, largely.

— Irish News, Fionnuala O'Connor.

We object to this visit to any part of Ireland by the head of the British State is inappropriate while that state continues to occupy any part of Ireland.

The purpose of this visit to the 26-County state is part of a carefully-orchestrated campaign designed to normalise the partition and British occupation of Ireland.

— Irish News, May 17, 2011, letter to Editor from Des Dalton, Uachtarán, Republican Sinn Féin.

However, there was controversy after it emerged just one Ulster county sent GAA officials to meet the Queen (sic) at Croke Park yesterday.

It was reported that of the nine Ulster counties only Down was represented at the symbolic visit to the home of the GAA where 14 civilians were shot dead by British forces in 1920.

— Irish News, May 19, 2011.

In what some believe was a revenge attack, British soldiers accompanied by members of the RIC opened fire [in Croke Park in 1920].

They killed 14 people, including a woman, two young boys and 24-year-old Tipperary player, Michael Hogan.

— Irish News, May 19, 2011.

During the Queen's (sic) visit to Croke Park no more than three dozen Republican Sinn Féin supporters staged a protest on Dorset Street.

The demonstrations took place without incident.

— Irish News, May 19, 2011.

Yesterday afternoon a bus was hijacked and set on fire in Co Armagh. It was attacked at the Drumbeag roundabout outside Lurgan at about 4.30pm. Several youths with petrol bombs later gathered in the area but left by 8pm.

— Irish News, May 19, 2011.

"Given that the Queen of England still occupies part of this island, is it not strange that she is honouring those who fought and

died?"

James Connolly-Heron, a great-grandson of Irish Labour Party founder James Connolly, said the historic visit was full of contradictions.

— Irish News, May 19, 2011. Honor Ó Brocháin, grandniece of another signatory of the Proclamation of Independence, Joe Plunkett, said she was initially indifferent to the royal visit but now found the idea ill-judged.

— Irish News, May 19. Train travellers arriving into Dublin's Heuston station were left disgruntled yesterday when they were locked in as the queen's (sic) cavalcade passed.

— Irish News, May 19, 2011, Valerie Robinson, Southern Correspondence.

Hundreds who had travelled in the early morning train from Limerick were forced to remain behind barriers as Gardaí shut down the city centre from around 9.45am.

— Irish News, Valerie Robinson.

Loyalist leader Jackie MacDonald was among those who met Queen Elizabeth at a wreath-laying ceremony at Islandbridge war memorial in Dublin yesterday.

— Irish News, May 19.

But there was no handshake for the UDA leader, one of a number of the organisation's so-called brigadiers to attend the event. Their invitation had excited controversy ahead of the Queen's (sic) historic visit.

— Irish News, May 19.

If the Queen's [of England] visit was the sign of the normalisation of relations between Ireland and Britain, it was a very strange sign indeed. The hordes of Gardaí and bleak empty thoroughfares so obvious on television were about as abnormal as it could get. Would I want to visit a city that looked like it was locked down and given over to the police?

— Sunday Business Post Agenda, May 22, 2011, TV Review by Emmanuel Kehoe.

But the really big moments had already taken place by then [visit to Croke Park] on Parnell Square and at Islandbridge.

It could be argued that after many years of vocal campaigning to have the Irish dead of the First World War recognised, those who fell on the Somme and at Gallipoli had become more respectable than those who rose at Easter 1916 and who fought in the War of Independence.

— TV Review by Emmanuel Kehoe.

In a curious act of national self-denial, many Irish people in recent times have come to accept that the Irishmen at the front in the First World War had been betrayed by the 1916 Rising (an attitude held in establishment circles of the time), whereas those volunteers who declined to enlist then felt, for their part, betrayed by their comrades who listened to John Redmond's exhortations and did.

But opposition to serving in the British army had been a growing part of the thinking of Irish Ireland long before the First World War and the Rising.

— TV Review by Emmanuel Kehoe.

Note: A number of interesting quotes from the papers around the time of the English Queen's visit cannot be included because of lack of space. They will be carried next month. — Editor.

JOHN JOE RICE SPEAKS AT BODENSTOWN

50 Years Ago

"WHEN I am told that the young people today are not as good as the people who went before them, I get annoyed.

"What amazes me is that we have any young people with any spark of nationality left in them after the propaganda of the last 40 years and all the bad example they have got from their elders," said John Joe Rice at Bodenstown, June 18, 1961.

JJ Rice was Sinn Féin TD for South Kerry at the time. A Republican veteran of the 1920s, he had been OC Kerry No 2 Brigade IRA and remained faithful to the All-Ireland Republic ever since.

An *tÉireannach Aontaithe*/The *United Irishman* of July 1961 estimated the gathering at "over 10,000" as he delivered the oration at the annual Republican Commemoration at Wolfe Tone's grave.

Three special trains - from Dublin, Cork and Kerry - and many buses brought people to the ceremonies. Chief Marshal of the parade was Pádraig Ó Maolchatha, Luimneach.

Many of those present were from occupied Ireland. Belfast was strongly represented and the number unconditionally released from Crumlin Road Jail who were in attendance was very high.

Tom Heenan of Belfast, who was himself released during the past year, presided at the ceremonies.

John Joe Rice said in the course of his address: "The Freedom Fighters are actively engaged in armed struggle north of the Border.

"Those who think they can put an end to this fight should remember the words of the Bishop of Limerick, Dr Dwyer, in 1916: 'While water runs and grass grows there will be men in Ireland ready to suffer and if necessary to die for her'.

"Freedom cannot be won by the Freedom Fighters alone. It will take the whole strength of the Republican Movement. We should all be active in countering the propaganda that is poisoning the minds of young and old in Ireland today.

"The two puppet states north and south of the Border are seeking to give the impression that they are free nations and the 26-County politicians that they have achieved what the generations of Irish people have fought for.

"We know that this is wrong but we do not do enough to counteract it. We should speak out freely at fairs, markets or any other gathering without fear of stepping on anybody's corns.

"It is necessary to tell the younger people that all is not well. There are a number of organisations in Ireland today which have the object of bettering the condition of the people. Most of them are good but they all have one fault.

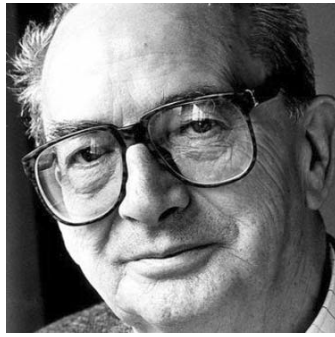
"They are built on the assumption that we are a free nation and this is a very sandy foundation on which to build anything. Organisations like Muintir na Tíre, Macra na Feirme and the Irish Country-women's Association are some of those I think of at present and I think they cannot succeed anywhere but in a completely free 32-County Ireland."

Finally John Joe Rice spoke of the way in which people who fought for freedom in the past were used by the politicians when they die to give the impression that the set-up we have at present is what they fought for in their earlier days.

"They get military funerals and volleys fired over their graves out of Free State rifles. I know that I would hate to think, if I were to be buried tomorrow, that anyone would dare to fire over my grave out of weapons that may already have been used to blast the lives out of my comrades who died opposing the Treaty of Surrender."

At the same time as the Bodenstown commemoration was taking place, Irish exiles in London together with contingents who had travelled from other areas took part in the annual Wolfe Tone Commemoration under the auspices of Sinn Féin.

The parade formed up at Marble Arch at 3.30pm and marched to Trafalgar Square where a public meeting was held. There, in communion of spirit with those assembled in Bodenstown Churchyard, tribute was paid to the memory of Wolfe Tone.



• Seán Cronin

Guest speaker from Ireland was Seosamh MacGráinne, Átha Cliath. In the course of his oration he said: "A small political junta backed by 30,000 British troops and armed police hold the Six Counties for the Empire. In the 26 Counties, the outward signs of the Empire may be gone but the life-blood of the Irish economy - its currency - is still controlled by the Bank of England.

"The bitterness, disillusionment and cynicism which find their way into the hearts of Irish emigrants can be understood but we believe, and we want you to believe, that the land which gave you birth can give you a decent way of life if she is free from the influence and agents of Britain.

"We must tear away the camouflage and the smokescreen that have been set up by the Leinster House politicians and let the people of Ireland see for themselves that our country is bleeding to death.

"Band together, stand together and support the Republican Movement."

Micheál Mac Cárthaigh presided and other speakers were Tomás Mac Ellistrim and Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin.

Page 3 of An *tÉireannach Aontaithe*/The *United Irishman* June issue was devoted entirely to the "Grim conditions in Belfast Jail". An editorial note described the article as a 'condensed version of notes made by a former Republican prisoner on the situation in Crumlin Road Prison'.

In an attempt to gain publicity for the ordeal of the prisoners, a paid advertisement was inserted in the *Sunday Independent* of May 7. This "advert" was eleven inches long and four inches wide (double column).

The full page material of the June UI was again condensed, this time by the former editor Seán Cronin, to fit the advertising space taken.

Cronin's skill as a professional journalist was put to good use.

It said: "When you are told that all internees - men held without charge or trial for more than four years - have been released, bear this in mind: Sixty-one Irish Republicans are serving long sentences in Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast!" That was the lead-in.

Two of the 17 paragraphs are picked to give an idea of the contents of the advertisements:

"The Republican prisoner is watched all through the day - in workshop, dining-hall, exercise yard and even during the night his locked cell. At least 14 hours of every day he spends in solitary confinement; on Sunday this is increased to more than 18 hours.

"The smallness of the exercise yard and the number of men crowded into it - at least 75 - makes keeping the regulation five paces apart a feat indeed. In wet weather the prisoners are enclosed in a shed which which is approximately 40 feet by ten. They can hardly move there, let alone exercise. As a result, on wet winter mornings the prisoners go to the workshops numb with cold."

The advertisement ended with an appeal for subscriptions to the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund, giving the address at 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin.

Then on page 4 of the June issue there was a half-page article in a new series "Forty Years After", entitled "PARTITION - for the better government of Ireland". It covered the period from the setting up of the First (All-Ireland) Dáil on January 21, 1919 to the signing of the Treaty of Surrender on December 6, 1921.

The series was stated to be by a Special Correspondent, who was, of course, Seán Cronin again, beavering away as usual. In the

conclusion, Cronin makes a most important point, which Republicans today would certainly agree with.

He writes, having quoted the wording of the British Premier Lloyds George's letter to de Valera dated September 29, 1921 and the reply, "Already the Declaration of Independence was compromised by the wording of invitation (to a conference in London) and acceptance."

Lloyd George's letter said the conference, to be opened in London on October 11th, "with a view to ascertaining how the association of Ireland with the community of nations known as the British Empire may best be reconciled with Irish national aspirations".

Republicans would say that Irish national demands would NOT be reconciled with association in the British Empire.

Cronin writes: "The reply from Ireland noted that the delegates would meet 'to explore every possibility of settlement by personal discussion'.

"The independence of Ireland was bartered (by the signing of the Treaty as a result of the personal 'personal discussions'); the territorial integrity of the Irish nation was abandoned. Their personal discussions had led to compromise, defeat and betrayal."

Good man Seán Cronin, you hit the nail on the head! Would failure to agree an acceptable formula for discussions have led to a resumption of the Black-and-Tan War? Very possibly.

The alternative resulted in acceptance of Partition, a bitter Civil War and conflict in every decade since 1921 and such divisions among the Irish people...

On May 8, 1961, in broad daylight a party of uniformed guerrillas blocked the main Belcoo - Garrison road in West Fermanagh and mounted an ambush for a Crown Forces patrol.

The position was near the main road bridge over the Black River which had been cratered twice by the Resistance some weeks beforehand.

Occupants of cars, lorries and vans which came along were escorted to a nearby house - out of the line of possible fire. The guerrillas used the commandeered vehicles to strengthen the road-block and lay in wait on high ground overlooking it.

The ambush position was held for over half-an-hour and then the guerrillas withdrew. A local woman told reporters later: "When I saw the men in battledress going on the road I thought it was the British army—I didn't think any of 'them' would be coming in daylight.

"I said to them: 'Clear off away down to the Lough' and they smiled back at me." One of the motorists said: "No one was harmed and the cars and lorries were not touched".

A huge comb-out of the entire area followed but Crown Forces found nothing. Two days later at the Fermanagh Assizes in Enniskillen, a British judge named McVeigh called the guerrillas "a posse...armed and in uniform."

He also pressed the 26-County government to "do something more". "Surely adequate action must soon be taken..." he said. Later he described the Resistance fighters as "felons" which indicated quite a gap in his knowledge of Irish history.

Later on May 17, a bridge on the main Derrylin-Teemore road was severely damaged by explosives. Resistance fighters laid and detonated the charges within an hour after the bridge had been inspected by a Crown Force patrol. A large comb-out of the area by British forces followed, while 26-County police were alerted at Belburtet and Ballyconnell. Nothing was found.

The *Impartial Reporter* (Enniskillen) of May 18 reported that the remaining portion of the bridge was demolished on the instructions of the County Surveyor.

The *Belfast Telegraph's* political correspondent noted on June 1: "...security arrangements are being strengthened rather than eased. I learn that recently the RUC strength in Border areas has been increased to meet any new situation. Security chiefs are aware that the IRA remains active...plans for ambushes are still being drawn up."

Despite the closest and most intensive collaboration ever, the political correspondent continued: "While the civic guards remain active, they have not been able to hamper seriously the IRA activity. Drilling has continued and attempts have been made to launch attacks..."

The Republican paper stated: "The Gardaí

are still not doing enough to satisfy British Imperialism. Nor have the Crown Forces been particularly successful in recent months. What have they to show for their time and energy?"

The *Anglo-Celt* (Cavan) of June 3 reported that over the weekend, spotter planes and helicopters supported British troops, RUC and B-Specials in South Fermanagh.

It continued: "Heavily armed forces travelled in jeeps, tanks and Bren-gun carriers, carried mine detectors and were aided by tracker dogs in the remote mountain areas. Nothing was reported found and no arrests were made.

"Since January last, many bridges in the area were wrecked by bomb explosions. None have yet been repaired with the exception of Gortaree which is situated on the Derrylin-Ballyconnell unapproved Border road."

But the 26-County Special Branch was picking up victims at random. Tomás Mac Giolla was intercepted coming home from work and jailed for four months for not informing on himself. It was his fourth imprisonment in as many years.

Cathal Goulding (39) was spotted driving in the Ranelagh area of Dublin and held. He got three months for not giving information. Seamus Graham was arrested in his home at Bangor Drive, Crumlin, Dublin and was jailed for three months for not answering questions while in custody.

Thomas Nixon (28) Tower Road, Clondalkin, Dublin was arrested at St Gabriel's Road and sentenced to three months for failing to give information. William Walsh, Duffany, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny was arrested at Mullinavat village when he stopped his car at the house of Séamus Ó hUallaigh.

Both Walsh and Ó hUallaigh were held. Ó hUallaigh was released that evening but Walsh got a six month sentence for not giving information.

The June issue of the *United Irishman* carried reports of further attempts to intimidate organizers of Easter 1916 Commemorations. On Holy Saturday evening a member of the 26-County police approached John J McGirl, Sinn Féin TD for Sligo-Leitrim and another Ballinamore man, John Mulvihill, of Convent Road.

He warned them that Gardaí would seize any flag or banner, other than the Tricolour, carried in the parade at Aughnasheelin the following day.

On the occasion of the annual Easter Commemoration parade at Ballylanders in East Limerick, police threatened two of the organisers as they arrived in the village on Easter Sunday.

A man in plain clothes emerged from a car in which uniformed Gardaí were sitting and accosted the organisers. He said they were not to carry any slogans or banners, and if they did he would make it difficult for them. He did not identify himself.

Kerry Co Council adjourned its meeting on April 24 as a mark of respect to the memory of Paddy O'Mahony who had been a member of the Council before his departure to America in 1927.

Commandant Patrick O'Mahony (68) died in New York on April 17, 1961. He had been active as OC 3rd Battalion, Kerry No 1 Brigade which he led in the Lixnaw area. His remains were returned to Ireland for burial in Gale Cemetery, Co Kerry. John Joe Rice spoke at the graveside.

Paddy O'Mahony came home to Ireland in 1951 to unveil the Seán Russell Memorial in Fairview Park, Dublin and was guest speaker.

The Bishop of Cork, Dr Lucey, said in Roscarbery on May 8 that the state must take blame for the depopulation of the countryside. The people of West Cork were vanishing to England, to America, to wherever there was an opening for an emigrant.

"And who will replace them?" he asked, "retired English holiday-makers or land-grabbing Germans? Somebody certainly will. One thing I am sure of is that the planters of the future, like the planters of the past, will not be the equal of the stock they are supplanting." (*Irish Times* report, May 9).

(More next month. Refs: An *tÉireannach Aontaithe* / The *United Irishman* June and July 1961; *Irish Times*, May 9; *Belfast Telegraph*, June 1; *Anglo-Celt*, June 3; The *Impartial Reporter*, May 18 and the *Sunday Independent*, May 7.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was never a friend of Irish Republicanism, but on an individual basis, there were some exceptions and Senior Special Agent Charles Ahern was one of them.

He was serving a work-related detail at FBI Headquarters in 1969, when there were civil rights demonstrations in the Six Counties. It was similar to that in the United States.

Ahern believed in the concept of equal rights and he believed that Catholics in the Six Counties had that same right and privately he supported the campaign for civil rights there as he had in the United States. Neither was popular with the FBI Director Edgar J Hoover, so his views were kept silent.

Ahern was of Irish descent and a very devout Catholic. He was not political, but Catholic equality struck home with him because he grew up in Boston and faced the NO IRISH NEED APPLY signs in the windows of places of employment as he was coming of employable age.

Ahern believed in law enforcement and was a patriotic American. He was recruited by the FBI in what would now be the white-collar crime division. He was an accountant by training, who pursued fraud, money-laundering and unlawful business dealings.

Director Hoover liked to recruit Catholics and Mormons as agents in the Bureau because he believed their religious backgrounds were used to follow authority without asking many questions.

Hoover ironically was himself very anti-Catholic. He opted for the superiority of the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) which he claimed as his own bloodline.

Hoover was sceptical of the Irish Civil Rights campaign just as he was of the same campaign for equality for blacks in the USA that the Irish campaign emulated. It was all part of the radical left that he saw as anti-American and a challenge to US Values, his values.

HOSTILE ATTITUDE

Ahern and other Irish Catholic agents were taken aback by the hostile attitude of Director Hoover which was

set off by the visit of Bernadette Devlin to the United States. Hoover called the Irish campaign another effort of international communism.

Devlin was not a communist, but rhetoric and association with what Hoover designated the radical left fed his venom to criticise the Irish campaign and Devlin in particular.

Ahern would never involve himself in politics, but had a good heart and a conscience and did feel strongly about equal rights for Catholics. When the situation escalated in the Six Counties from civil rights to a war to break the illegal connection to Britain, Hoover formed an Irish Task Force in the FBI to work with the British to prevent it.

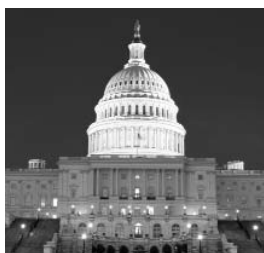
Ahern got himself appointed to the Task Force so he could monitor the activity and hopefully direct it in some way to help the Catholics in the Six Counties and to make sure Irish Americans would not be persecuted as they had been in the past.

Hoover had always cooperated with the British to monitor pro-Irish Republican Army activists in the United States from World War I, II and up to the present. The British feared anti-British activity in the United States. They impressed on Hoover that it was part of a communist plot which played on Hoover's fears and made him pro-British.

Hoover thought to use Irish Catholic FBI agents to pursue Irish American activists in order to show their loyalty and keep their jobs. Ahern wanted to protect the activity any American was entitled to whether he agreed with them or not.

Ahern succeeded in getting himself appointed to the Irish Task Force (ITF). He knew many members of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that were members of Irish organisations and they were supportive of the Civil Rights campaign and would not condemn the activity of the IRA in Ireland who were prepared to challenge the British.

His purpose for being in the ITF was not to spy on fellow citizens for their political beliefs and activity, but to keep the record straight on what was taking place in the Irish community.



He believed in freedom of speech and association, but the Director did not stop from demonising those who so engaged. Ahern wanted to watch the developments from the inside.

There are those who might be involved in illegal activity in the United States and would have to suffer any consequences, but he could respect decisions of conscience. He knew the FBI was going to make extended lists of Irish Americans to investigate, but he did not want any dirty tricks against them.

HE wanted there to be a distinction between legal and illegal activity and he did not want the FBI or British operatives working in the US to be allowed to engage in questionable tactics. He would make sure that it would not happen or be kept to a minimum.

The British operative on the ITF was concerned about funds and guns going to the Six Counties to be used against them. Ahern did not believe the law should be broken, but the British generalised to include not a few, but the entire Irish community.

He knew many of his law enforcement associates were members of Irish American clubs and groups like the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Emerald Societies of various police on all levels of government.

Most were sympathisers to the IRA which was not a violation of any law. They were fine upstanding citizens and good policemen, but they had strong views regarding Ireland.

The FBI were going to monitor these officers as well as other Irish Americans and he felt it his duty that they get a fair shake. He figured the best way to do that was to be the one to interview those on the list that were going to the ITF.

What really disturbed Director Hoover was the number of Congressmen who were sympathetic to the IRA. He directed the ITF to sound out the Congressmen on the issue so he could pass it on to the British. Ahern was asked to meet with some members of the

Massachusetts delegation.

Joe Moakley was from South Boston and told Agent Ahern there was strong support for the IRA campaign in his district. He said those were his views as well. He looked at it that you were with the Irish or you were with the British. He wanted the British out of Ireland.

Ahern said the FBI was interested in individuals or groups that might be engaged in illegal activity such as gun-running. He was not aware of that in his district and would not condone it nor would he want the US to supply the British with weapons to kill the Irish. He said it should go both ways.

Tip O'Neill was the Majority Leader from Cambridge and endorsed the IRA before he was asked and said the Irish in his district felt that way. He also said the British should get out of Ireland and that would solve the problem.

O'Neill said he did not know of any gun-running in his district but if people did it and would take the consequences good luck to them. Ahern did not expect such openness, but the congressmen were reflecting the views of their districts.

Ahern sought out Torbert MacDonald of Malden who he knew personally as his home district representative. MacDonald went to Harvard and was President John F Kennedy's roommate. He was also from a heavily Irish district and was sympathetic to the Irish right to govern and thought it best for the British to leave.

SYMPATHETIC

MacDonald said his constituents were sympathetic to the IRA and there was a big Irish club in Malden where those feelings were manifest. He said his nephew Bob Bateman was involved with the AOH and had strong sympathies while at the same time was a valuable Federal civil servant and what was wrong with that. He wanted the FBI to stick to investigating law-breaking and to stay away from politics.

Ahern did not think the Director was going to be pleased by the Congressional reaction which was the same in interviews conducted by other agents.

He will see some conspiracy which had been fuelled by the British who want the Irish community demonised and under suspicion if they had pro-Irish Republican sympathies.

Ahern's report was that there were strong pro-Irish views in Congress, but not support of a campaign of violence, yet critical of the British. The Director

believed that Ahern was impartial and appointed him to run the task force.

The next assignment for to open files on the list of groups and individuals supplied to the Director and to develop contacts for information in Congressional offices.

One thing the Congressmen said was for Agent Ahern to meet with Senator Ted Kennedy who was the *de facto* figurehead on Irish issues because he was so well known. Many followed his lead. Ahern made contact with Kennedy's office.

Senator Kennedy was more cautious and seemed less sincere than the Congressmen. He said things about the British might be best leaving but he condemned any violence. He admitted the Irish look to him to take the issue and be the leader on it, but that was not going to be.

The Senator would discuss the issue with other members, but not as a leader. He thought the Irish government should be the leader on the issue. He would meet with them to decide on a way to constructively proceed.

He would ask them to appoint someone to work with the Congress. Kennedy said he would keep the ITF in the loop. Ahern expressed his thanks.

AGENT Ahern was put in a position where he was getting many official opinions on what was happening in regard to the Six Counties. What he needed was contact in the community because there were unsubstantiated allegations from a foreign government taken at face value by the FBI Director. He wanted to hear from Irish Americans so the ITF could evaluate if there was a threat to the United States.

He decided to start with active members of federal law enforcement whose jobs would be in jeopardy if they were associated with anyone connected to illegal activity and/or using their government position to assist a foreign entity.

He would be fair and present only facts. The federal agents who were obligated to speak to him thought they would be offended.

The one thing that was positive of Ahern running the task force, he was honest and was not out to set anyone up. He would report the facts without editing them as too often the FBI has done.

The Director was out for a witch-hunt, Ahern was not. This information was taken from a report supplied by a Federal officer who was interviewed by Ahern. Others will follow.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Carmel McNeela

CARMEL McNeela died during May. A life-long Republican activist, she was the daughter of Patsy O'Hagan (née Boyd) of Dundalk who kept open house for Republicans at Seatown Place in the town.

Both Carmel and Patsy were interned in Mountjoy jail in the 1940s, mother and daughter being two of an estimated 37 Republican women being held in the women's prison there.

Patsy lived to a great age and was given a Republican funeral by the Willie Stewart Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin when she died in the late 1980s.

Carmel married Paddy MacNeela of Ballycroy, Co Mayo, a brother of Seán who died on hunger strike in Arbour Hill prison, Dublin in 1940.

Paddy was an active Republican in his own right, was wounded by the 26-County Special Branch and suffered imprisonment and internment in the 1940s. Carmel was noted for her

hospitality to Republicans, and showed a particular interest in the hunger strikers. One of her last activities was to attend the Republican Sinn Féin commemoration in Ballina, Co Mayo of Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg in 2006.

Like her mother, Carmel too lived to a great age and was devoted to the Cause to the end. Her son Pádraic was an active Republican in the 1970s.

The Republican Movement was represented at her funeral by Dan Hoban, Newport, Co Mayo. Sincere sympathy is expressed to her family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam cróga.

Tomás Mac Anna

ABHAR mór bróin do Phoblachtáir bás Thomáis Mac Anna, léiritheoir drámaíochta, Gaeilgeoir agus Poblachtach, ar Bhealtaine 17. Bhí 85 bliain sáraithe aige.

Ba le Amharclann na Mainistreach a chait sé mór-chuid dá shaol ag léiriú drámaí Gaeilge agus Béarla. I 1972 bhí sé gníomhach mar bhunaitheoir ar an ICRA (Irish Civil Rights Association) agus chait sé cúpla bliain ar Choiste Gnóth na heagraíochta.

Léirigh sé taispeántas ag ceiliúradh seachtó bliain ar bhunú na Chéad Dála do Shinn Féin Poblachtach i 1989. Sa Chultúrlann le Comhaltas Cheoltóirí Éireann a rinneadh é a chur i láthair.

Bhí an-mheas aige ar Dháithí Ó Conaill agus bhí sé mór leis ar feadh na mblianta. I 2009 agus comóradh 90 bliain ar bhunú na Chéad Dála ar siúl in Ostan Wynn i mBaile Átha Cliath, bhí a bhean chóir Caroline i láthair agus teachtaireacht aici uaidh féin nach raibh sé ar fónamh aige

bheith i láthair.

Scríobh Mícheál Ó Conoala i *bFoinse*, eagrán Mheithimh I faoi Thomás: "Is cuimhin liom gurb é a léirigh an taispeántas taibhseach faoin aer i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i 1966 nuair a bhí ceiliúradh caoga bliain á dhéanamh ar Éirí Amach na Cásca.

"Ar ndóighe fuair an léiriú a rinne Tomás de *Borstal Boy* le Breandán Ó Beacháin, gradam Tony i Nua-Eabhrach i 1970. Ba i nGaeilge a scríobh sé a dhírbeathaisnéis *Fallaing Aonghusa* sa mbliain 2000."

Bhí Seán Ó Brádaigh i láthair ag na tsocrad thar ceann Ghluaiseacht na Poblachta. Déannann muid comhbhrón ó chroí le Caroline, Ferdia agus a muintir ar fad. Ní bheidh leithéid Thomáis ann arís.

Solus Fhlaitheas Dé dá anam dílis cróga.

Comhbhrón

CRONIN, Deepest Sympathy to family and friends of Seán Cronin who died recently. May he rest in peace. From The National Irish Freedom Committee (USA) and the James Stephens/Roger Casement Cumann, London.

GAFFEY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of John Gaffey, The Whitehouse Hotel, Ballinlough, Co Roscommon. From the Republican Sinn Féin, Connacht.

HORAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Fr Paras O Duill on the recent death of his sister Mrs Angela Horan, Tralee. From the Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin and Kerry Comhairle Ceantair.

KING, Deepest sympathy is extended to Peig King and family on the death in the USA of her sister Attracta, a true Irish Republican. From the Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Comhairle Ceantair Atha Cliath, Lita Ni Chathmhaoil.

Mac ANNA, Deepest sympathy is extended to Caroline, Fiona, Darina, Ferdia, Niall and Naosie Mac Anna on the death of Tomás Mac Anna on May 17. From the Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin.

McDERMOTT, Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Anne, children Séamus and Anne and family and friends on the death of Pat McDermott, Athlone, Co Westmeath who died recently. From the Ard Chomhairle and Westmeath Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

McNEELA, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Carmel McNeela who died in May. Fr Piaras

said Mass at her funeral on May 21. Her son spoke off the altar and other son played the concert flute at graveside. From The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, the McNeela/Stagg/Gaughan Cumann, Mayo, Dan and Teresa Hoban.

MOORE, The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the family of Laurence Moore, Gilford, Co Down who died recently.

PHILIPS, Deepest Sympathy extended to the family and friends of Billy Philips (Wexford). Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. From the National Irish Freedom Committee (USA).

I gCuimhne

RUANE - 20th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Tony Ruane, Honorary Life Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin. From his loving daughters Frances and Nuala, son-in-law James, his grand-children and great-grandchildren.

90th ANNIVERSARY. In proud and loving memory of Capt John Vaughan, Lieut Ned Shannon, Vol Michael McCarty, and Edward Weir, First Battalion, South Roscommon Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, murdered defending the Republic in June 1921. 37th ANNIVERSARY. In proud and loving memory of Vol Michael Gaughan who died on hunger strike on June 3, 1974. Always remembered by members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin Roscommon.

Protesters defy ban with anti-government rallies

THOUSANDS of people took part in protests across Spain's main cities in mid-May defying a government ban on political protest ahead of local elections on May 22.

The result saw the Socialists without a single important mayoralty and only a handful of the 17 regional legislatures. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero conceded defeat was worse than he had anticipated.

The protest began in Madrid's Puerta del Sol on May 15 as a spontaneous sit-in by young Spaniards demanding jobs, better living standards, a fairer system of democracy and changes to the Socialist government's austerity plans.

Unemployment among 16 to 29-year-olds is estimated to be around 45%. The jobless rate for the whole population is 21.3% - the highest in Europe.

In Madrid, up to 30,000 protesters occupied a main square. According to Spanish news agency, Efe, a total of some 60,000 protesters has gathered across Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Bilbao, as well as the capital.

"They want to leave us without public health, without public education, half of our youth is unemployed, they have risen the age of our retirement as well," said protester Natividad Garcia. "This is an absolute attack on what little state welfare we had."

Many of the protesters wore tape over their mouths to imply they felt they were being prevented from speaking.

US uses UN to bypass

Congress for going to war

AT a recent conference on "The Unending Korean War" at New York University, the keynote speaker, Bruce Cumings, a history professor at the University of Chicago, explained that the UN provided the means in 1953 for the then US President Harry S Truman to bypass the US Congress in intervening in the Korean War.

Under Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution, the power to declare war is vested in the Congress. But in June 1950, Truman did not go to Congress for a declaration of war.

Instead, Cumings explained, "The UN was the legislature that the US knew they would get a majority vote in."

The current case of Libya is the most recent instance of a president going to war without the needed constitutional authorisation.

Instead of US President Barack Obama going to the US Congress to ask for a declaration of war against Libya, he went to the Arab League and the UN Security Council, explains Dennis Kucinich, a Democratic congressman from Ohio.

Kucinich is one of several US congressmen objecting to Obama's bypassing Congress with the military campaign against Libya.

In December 2007, before he became president, Obama is quoted as saying, "The president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorise a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

For Congress to determine whether or not to issue a declaration of war against Libya would require not only debate and discussion, but also a process of raising needed questions about the nature and merits of military intervention.

In a speech he made to Congress on March 31, Kucinich recalled the experiences of the Gulf of Tonkin in Vietnam, where a supposed attack on US ships was used as an excuse for war, as well as the alleged "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq.

"We have learned from bitter experience," Kucinich warned, "that the determination to go to war must be based on verifiable facts carefully considered."

— Ronda Hauben, May 9, 2011.

On June 4, NATO forces attacked Libya with British Apache helicopter-gunships, in conjunction with similar French aircraft, firing laser-guided Hellfire missiles.

Fears of depleted uranium use in Libya

THE pattern of deception to gain legitimacy for war in the eyes of the public by now is familiar. In the middle of March, Western powers led by the US, Britain and France initiated actions of war against Muammar Gaddafi's government of Libya. The start of war was preceded by a publicity offensive in which the Libyan leader was depicted as a madman.

The war was defended on the grounds that the Libyan people needed to be protected against their dictator via a 'no-fly' zone, and the public was made to believe the West exclusively aimed at defending the humanitarian interest of Libya's population. Now, the need to camouflage war aims has concomitantly decreased.

It is time to highlight some of the long-term implications of the Western intervention. A difficult test case is the West's use of depleted uranium weapons. Though US and British officials have so far denied their involvement over Libya, from the very start of the intervention to overthrow Gaddafi, speculation has been rife that ammonitions used by the US and NATO contain 'depleted' uranium.

While the very word 'depleted' or impoverished appears to indicate that arms containing this type of uranium are not very dangerous, depleted uranium well exemplifies the intractable nature of nuclear production. For the radioactivity spread by these

WORLD NEWS



• **Thousands of people took part in protests across Spain's main cities in the middle of May ahead of local elections on May 22. The unemployment rate in Spain is 21.3%, the highest in Europe.**

weapons is not just long lasting, it is perennial in a literal sense; it is said to last into the future for nearly as long as planet earth exists: some 4-5 billion years.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has thrice adopted resolutions expressing its concerns over the given weaponry. In the third resolution adopted towards the end of 2010, no less than 148 UN member states demanded from states employing depleted uranium weapons that they frankly 'reveal their use' whenever asked to do so by affected countries. Perhaps not surprisingly, four UN members voted against - the US, Britain, France and Israel. The three countries now waging war against Libya plus Israel stood opposed to an overwhelming majority of states expressing humanity's growing anxiety.

'Libyan rebels will recognise Israel'

LIBYA's National Transitional Council (NTC) is "ready to recognise Israel", according to French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy, who says he has passed the message on to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, it was reported on June 2.

The NTC "will be concerned with justice for the Palestinians and security for Israel" if it takes power, Lévy said after meeting Netanyahu the previous week. Netanyahu's office confirmed the meeting with Lévy but did not comment on the discussion.

Lévy, who helped persuade France to be the first country to recognise the NTC, visited the Libyan city of Misrata at the end of May and went on to Jerusalem. Muammar Gaddafi's regime refused to recognise Israel, even after Egypt's President Anwar Sadat peace treaty with the country in 1979.

Israeli soldiers fire tear-gas

ON June 3 a journalist from Iranian TV and Watan TV was wounded in the weekly march in Bil'in organised by the Popular Committee Against the Wall. Khaled Mansra was one of several injured when Israeli soldiers fired tear-gas canisters at the protestors.

Dozens of Palestinians participated on the 44th anniversary of the Al Nakba. Many suffered from the effects of tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers.

Dozens of residents of Bil'in were joined by international and Israeli activists. In the area above the wall, demonstrators raised two large Palestinian maps. The first map had a 63 written on it representing the years of Al-Nakba, and another had a 44 written representing the years of the Al Nakba. They also flew Palestinian flags.

At the eastern gate of the wall Israeli soldiers sprayed 'stink' water, which is water treated with chemicals that gives it a foul smell which cannot be removed from people's clothing. The soldiers also fired tear gas into the olive groves with the intention of setting them on fire. This led to the burning of many of the olive trees.

Thousands demonstrated throughout Palestine, and indeed throughout the world, during the month of May for what is known as Al-Nakba, "the Day of the Catastrophe" - for Palestinian Arabs commemorating the displacement, dispossession, and disenfranchisement of over 700,000 people during the years 1947-1949 and ever since.

While Al-Nakba itself falls on the anniversary of the declaration of the State of Israel (May 14, 1948), Al-Nakba experience is an everyday reality for Palestinians still suffering the reality of Israeli occupation and apartheid as second-class citizens; as objects of military rule in the West Bank and strategic strangulation in Gaza; or as refugees of the 1947-1949 conflict and subsequent campaigns of ethnic cleansing illegally denied the

right to return to their ancestral districts.

Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes has displaced 149 children in the West Bank so far this year, figures from United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) the UN agency for Palestinian refugees and published on May 15, 2011; between January and April, Israel destroyed at least 193 Palestinian structures, including 78 residential units, forcibly displacing 333 Palestinians. During her visit to the West Bank and East Jerusalem on May 15, EU commissioner Kristalina Georgieva urged Israel to stop demolishing Palestinian homes.

On June 4 Israeli soldiers fired on Palestinian protesters in Syria as they marched on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Syrian state TV says two people have died. The protesters are marking the 44th anniversary of the 1967 Mid-East war.

New Zealand SAS implicated in Afghan war crimes

NEW evidence emerged on May 16, 2011 that New Zealand's Special Air Service (SAS) troops detained prisoners during operations in Afghanistan and then handed them over to US and Afghan forces who tortured them.

An investigation published in the May issue of *Metro* magazine provided damning evidence that the elite force is complicit in human rights abuses, with successive New Zealand governments covering them up.

New Zealand is a signatory to international conventions, including the Geneva Convention, against torture and inhumane or degrading treatment of prisoners. Its military cannot transfer prisoners unless they are satisfied they will not be tortured or treated inhumanely. The *Metro* investigation, by veteran journalist Jon Stephenson, uncovered details of three incidents, one in 2002 and two in 2010, when the SAS defied these rules.

In May 2002, the SAS led a mission in the village of Bande Timur, 80 kilometres west of Kandahar. According to *Metro*, it resulted in the deaths of at least three people, all civilians, and the detention of 55 others. The detainees were transferred to US custody, severely mistreated and, in some cases, tortured.

"They beat us very badly in prison," one of the prisoners, Abdul Wahid, told Stephenson. "They cut off our hair, and they shaved our beards and moustaches." Others said they were bound and hooded, threatened with dogs and paraded naked in front of Americans. One man was said to have been beaten so severely that he ended up disabled and in a wheelchair. The men were later released without charge.

Metro also detailed two incidents last year. An SAS prisoner was handed to the Afghan National Army, who intended to tie the man to a vehicle and drag him for over 100 kilometres of gravel road. The SAS intervened and handed the prisoner to the Afghan Crisis Response Unit (CRU), who then passed him to the Afghan secret police, the notorious National Directorate of Security (NDS). A British court has banned British forces from giving prisoners to the NDS following evidence that hundreds of detainees transferred to its custody were tortured. Allegations included the amputation of limbs, electric shocks, deprivation of sleep, water and food, beatings by rod and cable, scorching and killings.

Afghan police accused of torture and child sex abuse

AFGHAN police are committing crimes such as child sex abuse, torture and killings with impunity, according to a report released by Oxfam May 10, 2011.

The charity has warned that unless the international community acts immediately the country will not be secure enough to hand over to Afghan forces in 2014. The report, titled *No Time to Lose*, claims NATO is not doing enough to prevent abuses by Afghan police and "time is running out" for change.

It outlined a number of abuses that Afghan forces are alleged to have carried out including torture, killings and sexual abuse of children.

As greater responsibility is handed over to the Afghans the report warns there is a "serious risk" that human rights violations will escalate and civilians "will pay the price".

The civilian death toll of the conflict in Afghanistan is getting worse each year with 2,777 killed last year, about 10 per cent of them by security forces.

The report said there are an estimated 40,000 police who have had no training at all and criticised NATO for prioritising quantity over quality. The report calls for further ALP recruiting to be suspended.

Anger over secret EU meeting

A SECRET meeting involving the big EU states, the European Commission and the ECB to discuss the Greek debt crisis took place on May 6 in Luxembourg.

Greece's chronic debt situation was discussed and the need for an extension of its EU/IMF aid package, as it will be impossible for Greece to return to borrowing normally from the financial markets next year, as envisaged in the original plan.

Smaller countries, including the 26-County State, were not told of the meeting and only learned of it through a report in the German paper *Der Spiegel*.

Any move to restructure Greece's debt in this way will inevitably lead to speculation that the same could happen for Ireland and Portugal. Financial markets will react to the news and if talk intensifies on Greek restructuring it could lead to further pressure on the bond prices of other peripheral states, including the 26-County State and possibly also further pressure on the euro.

'A first step towards the Commonwealth'

SO ran the headline (or an approximation of it) on the *Irish Independent* newspaper's front page the day after Liz Battenberg (Mountbatten... Windsor... whatever) returned to her place of dominance over her subjects. Her invitation has been the dream of a certain class of Irish-born for some decades now. Conspiracy theorists read on. Non-believers should open the yellow pages and search

under "counselling". Robinson and then McAleese both came from Trinity College and we are now witnessing an attempt to see that Norris is to be the next graduate to be foisted upon the people of Ireland. Now to be honest his West Brit accent and general demeanour has never endeared him to me. He represents a class of Irish-born who are opposed to all that I hold dear. A class who would

seek to re-impose an element of foreign rule which would only lead to further internal strife on this island. Of course that is exactly the reason the "liberal" press are attempting to foist him upon the electorate of the state. His personal lifestyle and sexual orientation is being used as a weapon against those who would question his questionable opinions in relation to criminal activity.

The "liberal" press are displaying the same contempt for due process as they did when Dominic McGlinchey was kicked over the border one St Patrick's Day. They are displaying the same cynicism as they did in relation to the innocent Birmingham and Guildford convictees. In Ireland the press as always sets aside justice and humanities (and their own much vaunted Constitution) with

alarming regularity. **T**HE murder of people on the streets of Monaghan and Dublin (what has been described as Ireland's Twin Towers or Lockerbie) is forgotten in the rush to have the Commander of the troops who masterminded it walk empty streets, despised as ever by ordinary Dubliners. There is abroad today in Ireland a dangerous and unpleasant species which

is prepared to risk demonising homosexuality rather than challenge the sick of mind. It would seem that unlike priests and schoolteachers and others in positions of authority a certain brand of West Brit intelligentsia is once again above the law. Is this the first step "toward the Commonwealth"? — **Mac Cool**

Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner

ON Saturday, April 30, Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta held its 16th Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner at Connolly's Restaurant and Pub in Manhattan.

This annual event recognises and honours Irish-Americans and others for their contributions to the promotion of Irish history, literature, human rights and the cause of Irish freedom. Proceeds from the dinner and journal go to **CABHAIR** in Ireland, which helps support the dependents of Republican prisoners, and to the support CnSN's educational and cultural programs

The evening began with lively traditional Irish music performed by Mary Courtney on vocals and guitar, Donie Ryan on banjo and Gerry Enright on bodhrán.

Master of Ceremonies was Jane Enright. Veteran Republican Brian Mór Ó Baoighill welcomed the honorees and special guest, Republican Sinn Féin President, Des Dalton.

The first award was presented to CnSN member, Victor Sackett, recipient of the Seán Mac Diarmada Centenary

Award. This award is the second in a series of special awards commemorating the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. Vic spoke about his support for **ÉIRE NUA** to restore the health and wealth of a united Ireland.

Patrick Frawley was presented with the Michael & Pearl Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award. Patrick's dedication to the Irish cause was evident during the 1981 Hunger Strike Campaign in New York when Pat organised a constant stream of buses from the East Bronx to the British consulate in Manhattan.

This year's honouree for the Sr. Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award is Peggy O'Hara. Michaela O'Hara, accepted the award on her great-aunt's behalf. Peggy, a native of Co. Derry, Ireland, is the mother of INLA Volunteer, Patsy O'Hara who was the fourth hunger striker to die (on May 21) in 1981. Michaela spoke movingly about the impact of



• Members of Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta pictured with Reublican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton at the Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner in New York on April 30.

Patsy's sacrifice on the O'Hara family and their continued dedication to the cause of Irish freedom. She also sang a song she wrote about the men of 1981.

Maggie Trainor introduced Tiokasin Ghosthorse, host of WBAI's First Voices Indigenous Radio program. Tiokasin, a member of the

Lakota Nation spoke about the commonality among all peoples and the need for all of us work together as a family to respect and care for the land, all cultures and the environment.

After dinner, veteran Republican Brian Mór Ó Baoighill introduced RSF President Des Dalton, who

gave a stirring address for the crowd, many of whom had travelled from out of town to hear him speak in the US for the first time. Des spoke of the historic importance of support from "Ireland's exiled children in America."

"The lifelong commitments of Republicans like the honorees here tonight serve to inspire future generations to take up the cause of Irish freedom," he said. He spoke of the sacrifices made by the 1981 hunger strikers and their families and all those who have died for Ireland.

He continued, "The most fitting testament and testimonial that we can give to the memory of those patriots, and the pledge we can give to their families is that we will continue that struggle until we have achieved the aims and principles for which they gave their lives."

He spoke about the current prisoners who follow in the footsteps of previous generations. "They are in prison," he continued, "because they refuse to accept the Queen of England's writ in any part of Ireland and we

salute them here today." Des Dalton said that it has been invaluable to be able to speak in New York about the organisation's "alternative to the failed and rotten states in Ireland: the 26-County and Six-County states, both of which were imposed on the Irish people by an act of the British Parliament. **ÉIRE NUA** would make real the pledge and the promise of the Proclamation of 1916... it will make real the ownership of Ireland for the people of Ireland".

He concluded "on behalf of the true Republican Movement in Ireland, on behalf of the true Sinn Féin – Republican Sinn Féin – I thank you for your work that you are doing on behalf of the cause of Irish freedom and for prisoners, here in the United States, and I ask you to continue that work, and I pledge you this: we will continue to drive on until we have achieved the goal of a free and independent all-Ireland Republic."

Pictures are available for viewing at: www.irishfreedom.net.

Join
Republican Sinn Féin

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin
Ba Mhairtí Líom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm

Seoladh

Tel:

Email

Send to: Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01-872 9747. Fax: 01-872 9757
or
229 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6FB
Tel: 028 9031 9004
Email: saoirse@iol.ie

www.rsf.ie
For a full British withdrawal from Ireland

Don't sell out to Stormont or Leinster House...

Buy SAOIRSE every month!

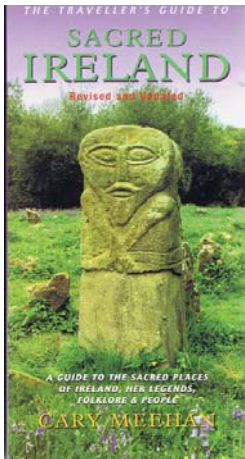
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR

Ireland	30.00	Ainm	
Britain	Stg £30.00	Seoladh	
Rest of Europe	35.00		
World (airmail)	35.00		

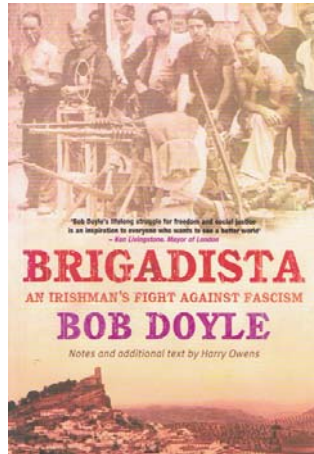
SAOIRSE
PO Box 1241
Laurence Harbor
New Jersey 08879

ISSN 0791 - 0002
SAOIRSE - Irish Freedom
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Teil: 872 9747; Facs: 872 9757
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie

Irish Freedom Press



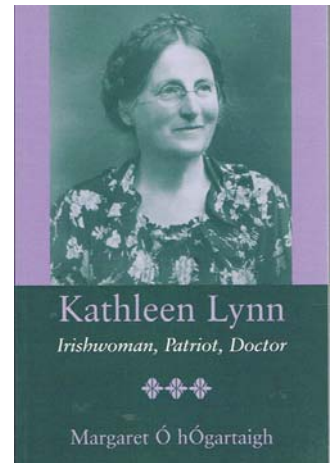
• *The Traveller's Guide to Sacred Ireland.* Cary Meehan. €25.



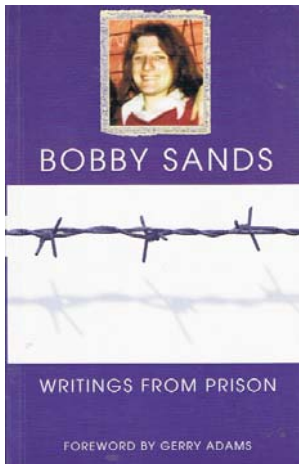
• *Brigadista. Bob Doyle, An Irishman's fight against fascism* €15.



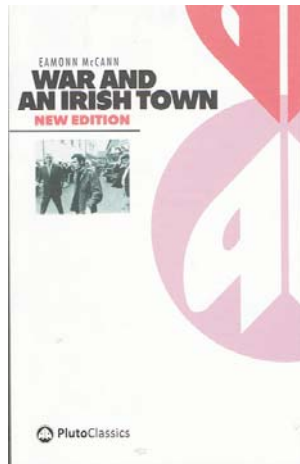
• *Óglach na Rosann.* Niall Pluincéad Ó Baoighill. Pádraig Ó Baoighill. €10.



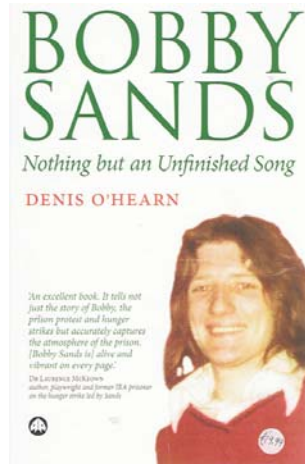
• *Kathleen Lynn, Irishwoman, Patriot, Doctor.* Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh. €25.



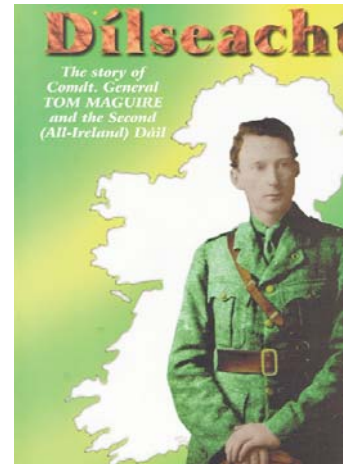
• *Bobby Sands, Writings from Prison.* €15.



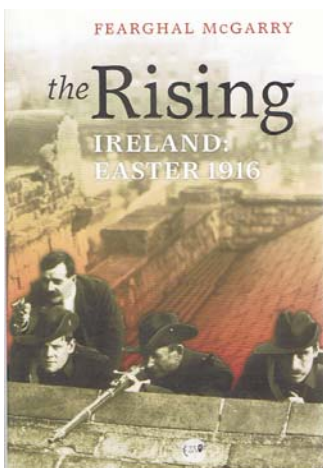
• *War and an Irish Town, Eamonn McCann.* €15.99.



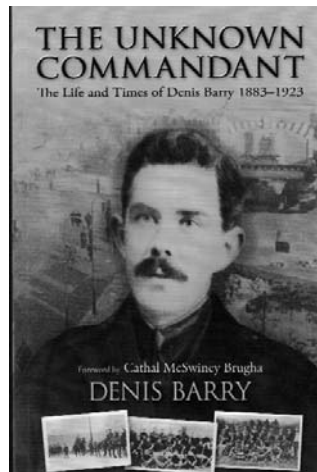
• *Bobby Sands, Nothing but an Unfinished Song.* Denis O'Hearn. €19.99.



• *Dílseacht. The story of Comdt. General Tom Maguire and the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil.* Ruairi Ó Brádaigh. €6.37.



• *The Easter Rising. Ireland: Easter.* Fearghal McGarry. 1916. €20.



• *The Unknown Commandant, the Ifef and times of Denis Barry.* Denis Barry. €12.99.



• *Polo shirt commemorating the 30th anniversary of the H-Block hunger strikers, in black, green and white, €20. Also available without RSF logo on sleeve.*

• **Post and packing extra. Send orders with cheques or postal orders only to Irish Freedom Press, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.**