

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement**Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For Six Month Period Ending 4/30/15

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

Friends of Sinn Fein INC

5006

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

420 Lexington Ave., Suite 300

New York, NY 10170

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

(b) If an organization:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.Yes No If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

James P. Cullen has rendered pro bono servies on behalf of a foreign principal, Sinn Fein, from and after his date of appointment as chariperson and president of Friends of Sinn Fein inc.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Sinn Fein

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes No Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

See attached schedules, including itineraries

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12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

See attached itineraries

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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ "Political activity." as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act. means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
See Details of donations received on attached schedules A1, A2 and Exhibit D			
			Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date Attached

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

no request for transmittal of funds was received from our foreign principal in the current reporting period.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
	See attached Schedule E for list of expenses paid on behalf of registrant and Sinn Fein		

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
		Jim Cullen personally contributed \$1000 to the Friends of Ori Feibush Philadelphia City Council election	
		Jim Cullen personally contributed \$50 to Friends of John McManus Running for Dayton School Board	

10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors,

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²
 Yes No

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?
 Yes No

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Sinn Fein

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts Magazine or newspaper Motion picture films Letters or telegrams
 Advertising campaigns Press releases Pamphlets or other publications Lectures or speeches
 Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

- Email
 Website URL(s): fosf.org
 Social media websites URL(s): facebook.com/fofusua
 Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public officials Newspapers Libraries
 Legislators Editors Educational institutions
 Government agencies Civic groups or associations Nationality groups
 Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English Other (specify) Irish

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?
 Yes No

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)

May 28, 2015

/s/ James P. Cullen

eSigned

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

FRIENDS OF SINN FEIN, INC.

Registration No. 5006

Exhibit D

The Attached Statement is filed as an amendment to items 8(a) and 9(a) of the Registration Statement previously filed by the Registrant. It constitutes the account of all money collected and deposited from November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 as a result of the Registrant's fund-raising campaign and other income sources.

All monies received were for the purpose of supporting the activities and purposes of Sinn Fein as a democratic political party engaged in Ireland and in many countries throughout the world in promoting the Irish Peace Process by social welfare, political and educational activities.

During this reporting period, Friends of Sinn Fein, Inc. had a total of \$390,110.84 in receipts. This total included check donations, early payment discounts and miscellaneous revenue. There were no cash donations during this reporting period.

Schedule A-1 hereto lists individual donations in the amount of \$500 or less together with the city and state of donors

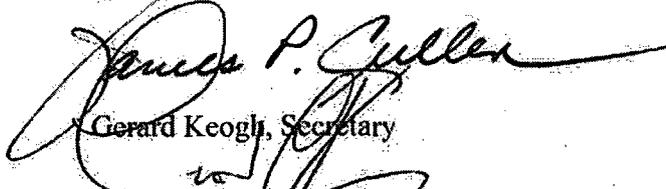
Schedule A-2 hereto lists individual donations in the amount of more than \$500 together with the city and state of donors.

Friends of Sinn Fein Inc. has five bank accounts in New York. All funds received were deposited into the New York accounts. Schedule E reflects expenditures from the accounts.

The undersigned swear or affirm that they constitute a majority of the directors and officers of Friends of Sinn Fein, Inc.; that they have read the information set forth in this Exhibit and in the schedules attached thereto and that they are familiar with the contents thereof; and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Dated: New York, New York
May 15th, 2015

James Cullen, President



Gerard Keogh, Secretary



State of New York

Ss:

County of ~~New York~~ *Westchester*

The foregoing certification was subscribed and sworn to by James P. Cullen before me this 13 day of May, 2015.

Richard Laudenbach Jr.
Notary Public

RICHARD LAUDENBACH JR.
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01LA4774028
Qualified in Westchester County
My Commission Expires Sept. 30, 2018.

State of New York

Ss:

County of New York

The foregoing certification was subscribed and sworn to by Gerard Keogh before me this 13th day of May, 2015.

Olive M. Graham
Notary Public

Olive M. Graham
Notary Public, State of New York
ID Number: 01GR5006932
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires: January 19, 2019

SCHEDULE E

Friends of Sinn Fein, Inc.

FARA A/C No. 100105. Reg. No. 5006

Foreign Agents Registration Act Report

Report Period: 11/1/2014 to 4/30/2015

Schedule E: Schedule of Expenses

Expenses

General and Administrative	\$ 37,856.57
Facilities Rent	\$ 14,735.68
Fundraising Event Expenses	\$ 136,676.45
Payroll & Payroll Taxes	\$ 29,673.19
Professional Services	\$ 2,956.89
Sinn Fein Expenses - Northern Ireland (1)	\$ 52,288.31
Taxes (non-payroll)	\$ 25.00
Travel Related Expenses	\$ <u>53,752.74</u>

Total Expenses for Reporting Period \$ 327,964.83

(1) Disbursements paid on behalf of Sinn Fein Northern Ireland were for advertising, printing and legal expenses

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Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
Account QuickReport
November 2014 through April 2015

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Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name St...	Amount
400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue					
4001 - NI Exempt Cont under 500 Pounds					
12/04/2014	193810	Package Pavement	Storerville	NY	250.00
12/04/2014	002579	Colgate Enterprise Corp.			400.00
12/04/2014	100187	Fitzgerald, James E.			500.00
12/04/2014	481	canavan, Ellen M.			100.00
12/04/2014	075500	G.A. Fleet Associates		GA	500.00
12/04/2014	7416	Best, Paul J.	Higganum	CT	100.00
12/04/2014	8827	Beletz Bros Glass Co Inc.	Philadelphia	PA	500.00
12/04/2014	6691	Fitzpatrick, Thomas	New York	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	160211	Forest Electric Corp	New York	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	5053	Kean, Eileen Kelly			50.00
12/04/2014	652	Armstrong, Patricia L.	Irvington	NY	200.00
12/04/2014	1710	Bannon, Edward	Passaic	NJ	100.00
12/04/2014	5238	Archer Byington Glennon & Levine LLP	Melville	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	100166	Fitzgerald, James E.			500.00
12/04/2014	5969	Fitzpatrick, Robert	Dunmore	PA	25.00
12/04/2014	9629	Flynn, William J.	New York	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	9672	Interstate Mechanical Services, Inc.	Closter	NJ	500.00
12/04/2014	3738	Cronin, Patrick	Middle Village	NY	100.00
12/04/2014	005709	Downes, Brian	Flushing	NY	50.00
12/04/2014	2742	Cunniffe, Casey J.	Norwalk	CT	100.00
12/04/2014	1211	Kitchen Repair Specialists	Baldwin	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	2180	Gerner Kronick & Valcarcel	New York	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	3067	Savage, Kathleen M.	Lynn	MA	50.00
12/04/2014	1984	MacWade, Brendan A.	New York	NY	50.00
12/04/2014	2803	McCarthy, Brian Patrick	Bronx	NY	100.00
12/04/2014	9173	Lyons, Timothy H.	Warsaw	NY	50.00
12/04/2014	563	McLaughlin, Harry J.	Deer Park	NY	50.00
12/04/2014	657	Cunning, Helen	Hackensack	NJ	100.00
12/04/2014	574	Verdon, John J.	Long Branch	NJ	500.00
12/04/2014	7889	J & Z Carpet Service	Wakefield	MA	100.00
12/04/2014	171062...	Money Order			100.00
12/04/2014	1089	O'Connell, Joseph	New York	NY	200.00
12/04/2014	553	Santore, Susan	New York	NY	50.00
12/04/2014	8818	Rooney, Peter F.	Port Washington	NY	100.00
12/04/2014	2380	Quinn, Mary A	Quinn	MD	75.00
12/04/2014	321	Phillis, John P.	Port Washington	NY	500.00
12/04/2014	3092	Paulos, Charles M.	New York City	NY	500.00
02/05/2015	2544	Wright, Michael T.	Mercerville	NJ	10.00
02/05/2015	1427	D'Antonio, John J.	Ramsey	NJ	200.00
02/05/2015	2506	Mullally, John	Belle Harbor	NY	200.00
02/05/2015	137	Champion, Lee J.			500.00
02/05/2015	5786	Meara, Brian R	Bayside	NY	500.00
02/05/2015	4257	Robinson, Regina K.	Auburndale	NY	500.00
02/24/2015	6602	Metro Interior Distributors Corp	White Plains	NY	400.00
02/24/2015	1316	Duggan, Patrick			500.00
02/24/2015	103	Egan, Michael	Newtown	PA	500.00
02/24/2015	5415	Huvane, Thomas G.	New York	NY	500.00
02/24/2015	7437	Mckeon, Alfred J.			100.00
02/28/2015	248	Alfred E. Smith Associates, Inc			500.00
02/28/2015	3955	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
03/02/2015	1087	Picard, Maryann S.	Brecksville	OH	100.00
03/02/2015	6052	Fallon, Joseph F.	Los Angeles	CA	25.00
03/02/2015	247070	Goodship			53.40
03/02/2015	3941	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
03/02/2015	896017	Lamar, Michael G.	San Diego	CA	100.00
03/02/2015	1008	Cannon, Craig T.			32.00
03/02/2015	3971	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
03/02/2015	2323	Bennett, James H.	Brooklyn	NY	10.00
03/02/2015	4003	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
03/02/2015	3985	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
03/02/2015	1361	Greeley, John	Boston	MA	100.00
03/02/2015	7717	Melto Metal Products Co. Inc	Freeport	NY	350.00
03/02/2015	1935	Driscoll, Peter	Hanover	MA	150.00
Total 4001 - NI Exempt Cont under 500 Pounds					14,905.40

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Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
Account QuickReport
November 2014 through April 2015

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
410 - Non-fundraiser cont. under 500					
4103 - Miscellaneous Donations					
04/04/2015	1416	Delaney, Ned A.	Layfayette	IN	50.00
04/04/2015	1206	Davis, Patricia J.			200.00
04/04/2015	3662	Kelly, S D			50.00
04/04/2015	1185	Desmond, Aidan J.	Birmingham	AL	100.00
04/04/2015	4025	Patrick J Fowler	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
Total 4103 - Miscellaneous Donations					<u>415.00</u>
Total 410 - Non-fundraiser cont. under 500					<u>415.00</u>
TOTAL					<u><u>415.00</u></u>

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Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
Account QuickReport
November 2014 through April 2015

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Accrual Basis

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue					
4003 - US Donor over 500 Pounds					
12/03/2014	4165	ABCO Peerless Sprinkler Corp.	Hicksville	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	1759	ASM Mechanical Systems	Ridgewood	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	69430	Anderson Interior Contracting			750.00
12/03/2014	30622	Corporate Woodworking, Inc.	Fairfield	NJ	750.00
12/03/2014	118384	Baldor Speciality Foods INC.	Bronx	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	029859	BP Mechanical Corp.	Glendale	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	13165	Building Contractors Association, Inc.	New York	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	6299	Cirocco & Ozzimo	Cirocco & Ozzimo	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	9199	James P Cullen	Scarsdale	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	114282	Commodore Construction Corp	Mt. Vernon	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	040546	Celtic Building Supplies Inc.	Yonkers	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	030377	Donaldsom Interiors			2,500.00
12/03/2014	4422	O'Dwyer & Bernstein Esqs.	New York	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	023084	SBA Plumbing Corp.	Long Island City	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	026170	ESS & VEE Acoustical Contractors, Inc.	Long Island City	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	3903	Favour Royal LLC	Stamford	CT	5,000.00
12/03/2014	206604	U.S. LBM Holdings			5,000.00
12/03/2014	055716	Henegan Construction Co. Inc.	New York	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	1003200...	Island Fire Sprinkler Inc.	Holbrook	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	2649	Irish American Labor Coalition	Chicago	IL	1,000.00
12/03/2014	008379	J.P. Phillips, Inc.	Manhasset	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	178015	Laborers Int. Union of North America	Marion	IL	5,000.00
12/03/2014	1619	Empire Architectural Metal Corp			5,000.00
12/03/2014	22302	Asbestos, Lead & Hazardous Waste Lab...	New York	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	3909	Manhattan Painting and Decorating			1,000.00
12/03/2014	4207	McCarthy, Eugene	New York	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	1499	Miller Blaker	Bronx	NY	3,000.00
12/03/2014	28689	Milrose Consultants, Inc.	New York	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	031717	National Acoustics Inc.	New York	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	0933	Nelson Air Device Corp.	Maspeth	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	035157	Newport	New York	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	2489	Nordic Interior Inc.	Maspeth	NY	1,500.00
12/03/2014	22780	Hugh O'Kane Electric, Inc.	New York	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	36920	O H M Electrical Corp.	Long Island City	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	002705	Olympic Plumbing & Heating Services, Inc.	Syosset	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	122420	Par Plumbing Co. Inc.	Lynbrook	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	050055	Park Avenue Building & Roofing Supplies L	Brooklyn	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	22617	Penguin Air Cond. Corp.	Brooklyn	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	054190	Robert B Samuels, INC	New York	NY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	41780	Safway Atlantic LLC	Carlstadt	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	4782	Snarling Realities, Inc.	New York	NY	1,500.00
12/03/2014	019589	Sound Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, I	Garden City Park	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	628835	Structure Tone	Boston	MA	5,000.00
12/03/2014	97901	Sweeney & Harkin Carpentry & Dry Wall	Long Island City	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	1635	Techno Acoustics Inc.	Maspeth	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	1902	TMT Marble & Tile Inc.	Red Bank	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	32741	Scanga Architectural Woodworking	Cold Spring	NY	2,500.00
12/03/2014	072337	Westchester Landscape Depot Corp.	New Rochelle	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	13929	W5 Group LLC	Englewood	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	8789	John T White	Palisades	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	86795	Albert Pearlman, Inc.	New York	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	83746	Campbell & Dawes	Kew Gardens	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	6864	Metal & Roof Supplies Inc.	Hackensack	NJ	3,000.00
12/03/2014	18553	Laborers Eastern Region Organizing Fund	Monroe Township	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	16011	Guiffoye, Mark D.	Edgewood	KY	2,000.00
12/03/2014	598	Tydel Holding Corp.	New York	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	1121	Gortlee Tile & Marble			1,000.00
12/03/2014	13338	McGuigan Tombs & Company, P.C.	Manasquan	NJ	11,000.00
12/03/2014	10109	JJ Matthews Inc.			1,000.00
12/03/2014	045074	ICON Interiors, Inc.	New York	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	1996328	Marjam Supply Company	Farmingdale	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	278407	Colony Hardware Corporation	Orange	CT	1,000.00
12/03/2014	59149	Eurotech Construction Corp.	New York	NY	10,000.00
12/03/2014	59161	Eurotech Construction Corp.	New York	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	24253	C & H Agency Inc.	Totowa	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	460000	Probuild Company LLC	Denver	CO	1,000.00

A2-2

4:32 PM

05/07/16

Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
Account QuickReport
November 2014 through April 2015

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
12/03/2014	6524	Metro Interior Distributors Corp	White Plains	NY	600.00
12/03/2014	008371	J.P. Phillips, Inc.	Manhasset	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	9305	Cement & Concrete Workers Dist.Council...	Long Island City	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	21443	Pinnacle Enviromental Corp.	Carlstadt	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	2410	Forthill Construction Corp.	White Plains	NY	1,000.00
12/03/2014	5107	Spilotras Painting LTD			5,000.00
12/03/2014	9173	Reidy Contracting Group LLC	New York	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	27057	Eastern Design Tile & Marble, Inc.	Larchmont	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	83711	Campbell & Dawes	Kew Gardens	NY	5,000.00
12/03/2014	46300	Harbour Mechanical Corp.	Hoboken	NJ	5,000.00
12/03/2014	125633	Kamco Supply Corp.	Brooklyn	NY	1,000.00
12/08/2014	203	Nordic Interior Inc.	Maspeth	NY	-1,500.00
12/19/2014	2597	Allen, Todd P.	Chatham	NJ	5,000.00
12/19/2014	11202	Firequench, Inc.	New York	NY	5,000.00
12/19/2014	116645	Ben Krupinski Builder & Associates Inc.	East Hampton	NY	5,000.00
12/19/2014	1200	Local 147 PAF	Bronx	NY	5,000.00
12/19/2014	83481	Abruzzese, Joseph	New York	NY	1,000.00
12/19/2014	177830	Building & Construction Trades - AFL/CIO	Washington	DC	2,000.00
12/19/2014	83481	Collins Building Services Inc.	Long Island City	NY	2,500.00
12/19/2014	1178	Doheny, Timothy J			1,000.00
12/19/2014	1526	JP Roche Inc.	Mount Vernon	NY	1,000.00
12/19/2014	6323	Thomas, John C.	Chester Springs	PA	1,000.00
12/19/2014	24527	Strassburger Meats, LLC			1,000.00
12/19/2014	204345	North East Linen Supply Co.	North East Linen Sup...	CO	1,000.00
12/19/2014	6010	Turner, Patrick N. W.			1,000.00
12/19/2014	012239	L.I.U.N.A. Ontario Provincial Dist. Council	Oakville	ON	5,000.00
12/22/2014	204	L.I.U.N.A. Ontario Provincial Dist. Council	Oakville	ON	-5,000.00
01/30/2015	1046	Cotter, Sean D.C. P.C.			1,000.00
02/24/2015	13845	Admore Air Conditioning Corp.	Yonkers	NY	5,000.00
02/24/2015	13847	Admore Air Conditioning Corp.	Yonkers	NY	5,000.00
02/24/2015	13846	Admore Air Conditioning Corp.	Yonkers	NY	5,000.00
02/24/2015	2218	JP Mechanical Insulation, Inc.	Baldwin	NY	1,000.00
02/24/2015	024337	Ranger Supply Company Inc.	Bronx	NY	1,000.00
02/24/2015	508459	Bruce Supply Corp.	Brooklyn	NY	1,000.00
02/24/2015	7385	Connelly & Sons Plumbing and Heat	East Meadow	NY	1,000.00
02/24/2015	1341	Keogh Law Group	New York	NY	5,000.00
02/24/2015	239024	J.T. Magen & Company Inc.	New York	NY	5,000.00
02/24/2015	14028	Preferred Mechanical, Inc.	Bronx	NY	5,000.00
02/24/2015	12515	Preferred Sprinkler & Mechanical Corp.	Bronx	NY	5,000.00
02/28/2015	213	O'Sullivan Equipment, Inc	ZBlauvelt	NY	2,500.00
02/28/2015	12957	United Structural Works, Inc.	Congers	NY	20,000.00
03/02/2015	6659	Moran, Tom	Chicago	IL	10,000.00
03/02/2015	270	Estate of Kathleen Hughes	Castaic	CA	1,003.88
03/02/2015	035270	R.D. Rice Construction Inc	New York	NY	1,000.00
03/02/2015	10382	J.P.Hogan Equipment Corp.	Staten Island	NY	2,500.00
03/02/2015	9695	Mason Tenders District Council	New York	NY	2,500.00
03/02/2015	096647	Pearlgreen Corporation	New Rochelle	NY	1,000.00
03/02/2015	12889	Team Electric Inc.	New York	NY	5,000.00
04/17/2015		L.I.U.N.A. Ontario Provincial Dist. Council	Oakville	ON	4,960.00

Total 4003 - US Donor over 500 Pounds

371,063.88

Total 400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue

371,063.88

TOTAL**371,063.88**

Itinerary Gerry Adams and Maire Grogan November 2014

Thursday November 6th

Depart Dublin EI 105 10:50 am
Arrive NY JFK. 1:25 pm

Check in at Sheraton

Reception 5:00pm
Cocktail hour 6:00
Dinner. 7:00pm

Friday November 7th

Meeting with Comptroller NYC Scott Stringer

Lunch with Terry O'Sullivan 12:30pm

Meeting with Adrian Jones and Niall O'Dowd 3:00pm

Back at Sheraton

Echo Awards Dinner
At the Sheraton

Saturday November 8th

Depart Newark Liberty United Flt 77. 9:50pm

Sunday 9th

Arrive Belfast 9:10 am

Staying at the Sheraton

811 7th Ave /52 St
NY 10019

Itinerary Pearse Doherty November 6th - Nov 10th 2014

Thursday November 6th

depart Dublin Aer Lingus EI 105 10:50am
(Gerry and Maire on this flight too)
arrive NY JFK 1:25pm

Check into Hotel
Fitzpatrick's Grand Central
Lexington Ave/44th St

November Dinner
Sheraton Times Square
118 7th Ave /52nd St

Reception 5:00pm
Cocktail hour 6:00pm
Dinner 7:00pm

Friday November 7th

Depart New York Penn Station
Train 2155 11:00am
Arrive Philadelphia 12:10 pm

Pat Gheghan will be at the station to meet you

Reception at Cira Center

Reception hosted by Mike Driscoll (State representative)
John Dougherty Business manager IBEW 98 (electricians)

Community event
Philadelphia Irish Center
6815 Emien St Philadelphia PA 19119 7:00pm

overnight at
Sheraton Hotel
201 north 17th St
Philadelphia 19103

Saturday November 8th

Depart Philadelphia US air FLT 4086
Terminal F
arrive Toronto

9:30am
11.02am

Meeting with Ireland /Canada Chamber of Commerce
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

12:00pm

Meeting with Sid Ryan President Ontario Federation of Labour

2:00pm

Check into Hotel
Sheraton centre Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St West Toronto

FOSF Canada Dinner
Hot House Cafe

7:00pm

Sunday November 9th

depart Toronto Aer Lingus Flt 128

5:50pm

Monday November 10th

Arrive Dublin

5:20 am

Itinerary Rita O'Hare January 2015

Monday January 19th

Depart Dublin DELTA flt 91 11:00

Arrive NY JFK 1:42

Tuesday January 20th

Meet Martin Mc Guinness at airport 12:00

Meeting with Friends of Sinn Fein Board
Affinia Hotel 7th Ave /31st St 1:00

Meeting with Niall O'Dowd 2:15
At Affinia

Train to WDC
Acela 2163 3:00
Arrive WDC 5:53

Dinner with Congressman Richard Neal 7:00
Bobby Van's restaurant 15 the NW

Wednesday January 21st

Breakfast meeting with GP Terry O'Sullivan LiUNA
At Hilton Garden Inn 14th St 7:30 am

Meeting at State Dept TBC

Meeting with Senator Leahy TBC

Meeting with Congressional Friends of Ireland
Capitol Room 1:00

Thursday January 22 nd

Train to NY 8:00am
arrive 10:45

Lunch with Bill Flynn 12:30

Working in Office
240 Lexington Ave
Suite 300

Friday January 23rd

Working at office

Meeting with Joe Jamieson at office 2:30

Saturday January 24th

Meeting with Brehon Law Society
Sean Downes 10:00

Sunday January 25th

Depart NY JFK Delta FLT 411 9:12 pm

In NY staying at 43/60 195 St Flushing
New York NY 11358

In WDC staying at Hilton Garden Inn
14th St NW between H and I streets

Itinerary Martin Mac Aonghusa / Mark Mullan January 2015

Tuesday January 20th

Depart Dublin United Airlines Flt 22 9:00 am am

Arrive Newark Liberty 11:50 am

Meeting at Affinia Hotel 7th Ave /31st St 2:00 pm
FOSF Board

Train to WDC Acela 2165 4:00 pm
Arrive Union Station WDC 6:53PM

Meet Congressman Neal at his office
Cannon Building. 7:15
Attend State of the Union Address by President Obama 9:00

Wednesday January 21st

Meeting with Terry O'Sullivan President LIUNA 7:30 am
at Hilton Garden Inn
815 14th St NW
WDC

Meeting at State Dept 10:30
Victoria Nuland
Katie Nutt

Meeting with Senator Leahy

Meeting with Congressional Friends Committee
Room H144
United Capitol Building 1:00 PM

Lunch at Bobby Van,s
15th St NW 2:15 PM

Depart for Dulles Airport by car 3:00 PM

Depart Dulles UA Flt 918 6:35 PM

Thursday January 22

Arrive London Heathrow 6:50 am

Depart Heathrow UA Flt 7646 9:50 am

Arrive Belfast City 11:10 am

Staying at Hilton Garden Inn
815 14th St NW WDC

Itinerary Edel Corrigan 16 – 24th March 2015

16 MAR 15 - MONDAY

DELTA FLT:91 Depart DUBLIN 1000A

AR NEW YORK JFK 121P

Monday March 16th

Train to WDC Acela 2175 9:00

Arrive WDC 11:45

Tuesday March 17th

Meeting with Congressional Friends of Ireland / Irish Caucus

Capitol Room H139 10:00

Wednesday March 18th

Breakfast briefing with Union Leaders 8:00
Bobby Vans Grill
15th Street NW

Meeting with Jim Walsh and Washington Ireland Group 10:00

Train to NY Acela 2172 4:00

Arr NY Penn Station 6:45

Dinner with FOSF board 7:00

22 March - Sunday

Rockland County Parade All Day Event
Pearl River Parade

23 MAR 15 - MONDAY

Depart DELTA 411 NEW YORK JFK 921P

24 MAR 15 - TUESDAY

AR DUBLIN

805A

Itinerary March 2015 Gerry Adams and Richard McAuley

Sunday March 15th

Depart Dublin KLM/Delta flt 91 10:00

Arrive NY JFK 1:21

A Conversation with Gerry Adams

World Trade Center

Monday March 16th

Irish America Magazine Hall of Fame lunch
Honouring Hillary Clinton
Essex House Hotel
160 Central Park South
New York 11:15

Book Launch
McNally Jackson Book store
52 Prince St
New York 6:00

Train to WDC Acela 2175 9:00

Arrive WDC 11:45

Tuesday March 17th

Meeting with Congressional Friends of Ireland / Irish Caucus

Capitol Room H139 10:00

Speakers Lunch 12:00

(meet Richie at 11:45 at his office)

Meeting at State Dept 3:00

White House reception 4:00

Meeting with Richard Haass 6:00
1777 F Street NW WDC 2000

Dinner with Terry O and parents

Wednesday March 18th

Breakfast briefing with Union Leaders 8:00
Bobby Vans Grill
15th Street NW

Meeting with Jim Walsh and Washington Ireland Group 10:00

Train to NY Acela 2172 4:00
Arr NY Penn Station 6:45

Dinner with FOSF board 7:00

Thursday March 19th

Meeting with Bill Flynn 10:30

Lunch with Joseph Smith and friends 12:30
Bobby Van's
54th st / lexington ave

Depart NYC by car for Airport 6:00

Depart NY JFK
KLM/ Delta Flt 92 9:21

Friday March 20th

Arrive Dublin
While in New York Staying at
Fitzpatrick's Grand Central Hotel 44th and Lex
While in DC staying at
Hilton Garden Inn
14th Street North West

Itinerary Rita O'Hare March 8th Monday March 23rd

Sunday March 8th

Dép Dublin Delta flight 91 11:00
Arr NY JFK 2:21

Monday March 9th

Brendan Moore President AOH 1:30
At Office
420 Lexington Ave
suite 300
NY 10170

Tuesday March 10th

Niall O'Dowd 11:00

Bill Flynn 3:00

Brehons dinner 6:00

Manhattan Club
800 7th Avenue
New York

Wednesday March 11th

In office
420 Lexington Ave
Suite 300
New York
NY 10170

Thursday March 12th

Joseph Smith 12:30

Bobby Vans 54 st/ Lexington
New York

Friday March 13th

Train to Philadelphia

Meeting with Philadelphia Irish Society

Saturday March 14th

Train to New York Penn station

Meeting with Joe Jamieson 3:00

Sunday March 15th

Meet Gerry Adams at airport JFK
Delta flt 91 1:21

Monday March 16th

Irish America Hall of Fame lunch

Essex House Hotel
160 central Park south
New York 11:30 to 2:00

Transport Workers union Quill/ Connolly Local 100
St Patrick;s day event 6:00
195 Montague st
Brooklyn NY 11261

Train to WDC 9:00pm

Arr 11:45

Tuesday March 17th

Congressional Friends of Ireland 9:00 am

Capitol Room H139

Lunch with Irish American Women 12:00

Bobby Vans

15th st NW

Reception hosted by LiUNA GP Terry OSullivan

Bobby Vans Grill 1200 New York avenue NW WDC 3:00

Dinner with Irene Jillson

Georgetown University

Wednesday March 18th

Meetings on Capitol hill

Train to Philadelphia 4:00

Booksigning by Gerry Adams

Train to NY 8:30

Thursday March 19th

Lunch with Bill Flynn and Joseph Smith 12:00

Meeting with FOSF cttee 3:00

Friday March 20th

In Friends of Sinn Fein Office

Saturday March 21st

Meeting with Marty Glennon

Brehon Law society Nassau county

Sunday March 22 nd

Monday March 23rd

In Office

Dep NY JFK Delta flt 411

9:21

**In NY staying at
43/60 195 st Flushing New York NY 11358**

**in WDC staying at
Hilton Garden Inn
815 14th St NW WDC 20005**

SANDRA MCLELLAN 12th – 17th March USA

Thursday March 12th

Dub – JFK

10:00 am Flight Departs Terminal 2

AIR DELTA AIR LINES INC

Flight number 91 / REF: GTZHX4

1:21 pm Arrive JFK Terminal 4

Trevor and you will get Taxi to Niles Restaurant beside Affinia hotel 7th Ave & 31st Street, Manhattan (tell driver across the road from Madison Square Garden) Conor Duffy will meet you here with Train Tickets

Train from New York Penn Station to Providence Rhode Island (time to be confirmed)

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Arrival at Amtrak Train Station Providence, RI.

Met by Christopher Donnelly will take you to hotel

accommodations at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

7:00pm SLAINTE IRISH PUB

Dinner with members of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Board of Directors

Friday, March 13, 2015

9:00 am NORMANDIN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOUR

Tour of School Facility and meeting with faculty

81 Felton Street, New Bedford, MA

10:45 am JOSEPH ABBUOD MANUFACTURING, CORP. - BY INVITATION

689 Belleville Ave, New Bedford, MA

A tour of one of the finest suit making manufacturers in the U.S.

1:00 pm LUNCH: TBD

2:30 pm NORTHERN WIND FISHING PROCESSING PLANT TOUR

New Bedford Waterfront

4:00 pm UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF MARINE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (SMAST)

SANDRA MCLELLAN 12th – 17th March USA

Tour and presentation by University staff of the School for Marine Science and Technology.

706 S. Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA

7:00 p.m. DINNER RECEPTION – TBD

President Tim Murray, fellow officers, Board of Directors and members of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick will host a dinner reception.

Saturday, March 14, 2015

9:00 a.m. ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION MASS

The 74th Anniversary Mass for deceased members of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

Special Musical Guest: Retired MA State Trooper Dan Clark and Mary Colarusso

Saint Julie Billart Church, 494 Slocum Road, N. Dartmouth, MA

12:00 pm IRISH MEMORIAL MONUMENT WREATH CEREMONY

The intersection of East Rodney French Blvd. at Apponagansett Street.

12:30 pm PAYING RESPECT TO CAPTAIN ANTHONY'S (CATALPA CAPTAIN) GRAVE

Dartmouth Street, New Bedford.

2:00 pm FREE TIME

5:30 pm ST. PATRICK DAY DINNER DANCE

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick 59th annual dinner dance with Irish musical entertainment. (Formal Speech here, expected minimum of 15 mins/ see speaking notes)

White's of Westport, 66 Route 6, Westport, MA

Sunday, March 15, 2015

10:00 am Breakfast at Hotel

11am New Bedford half –Marathon

3pm Award ceremony for Half- Marathon winners.(opportunity to congratulate winners, press and cable TV will be in attendance)

5pm Return to Hotel for break.

8pm Dinner with race organizers

SANDRA MCLELLAN 12th – 17th March USA

Monday March 16, 2015

Breakfast at Hotel

Departure for Amtrak Train Station Providence to New York Penn Station

Met by Conor Duffy or Rita at Penn Station

Check into hotel

Hotel St James

109 W 45st

NY 10036

Tuesday March 17th

Check out of hotel but leave bags to collect on way to airport

9:00 am Labor breakfast

11:00 am March in Parade with

Irish American Labor Coalition

5:30 / 6:00 PM

Leave NY for airport

17 MAR 15 - TUESDAY

Depart 9:21 PM TERMINAL 4

JFK FLT: 411 REF: GTZHX4

18 MAR 15 - 08:05AM WEDNESDAY AR DUBLIN

While in New Bedford / New York Stayed in:

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, Massachusetts	Hotel St James 109 W 45st NY 10036
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Itinerary Mary Lou Mc Donald and Olive Sloan

USA March 13th – 21st

Friday, 13MAR 2015

Dublin – JFK

Dublin: Terminal 2

Depart: 10:00 AM

Flight Number 0091 / Delta Air Lines Confirmation number is H29L6G

Arrive: 01:21 PM (JFK) New York Kennedy NY, USA T4

JFK – New Orleans

Depart: 02:21 PM (JFK) New York Kennedy NY, USA T4

Flight Number 0460 / Delta Air Lines Confirmation number is H29L6G

Arrive: 04:49 PM (MSY) New Orleans LA, USA

Saturday March 14th

8:00am Ronnie Burke Pick up at Royal Sonesta

Breakfast at 'Irish House' 1432 Charles Ave with Board of Directors of Irish Channel Marching Society

10:00am Meet and greet at Aiden Gill (2026 Magazine Street)

11:00am Pictures with AOH at St. Alphonsus Church (2030 Constatce St)

12 Noon Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church (923 Josephone St)

PARADE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MASS

3pm Aprox parade finish Pick up aat Louisiana and ST. Charles Ave and dropped back to hotel

FREE EVENING AND NIGHT

Sunday March 15th

FREE MORNING AND AFTERNOON

7:00 pm Dinner with AOH and Guest

at Tableau (616 St Peter at Charles St.)

Monday March 16th

9:00 am Breakfast at Rib Room (Royal Orleans, 621 St. Louis St) with heads of local Irish organizations.

11:00 am Tour and Tea at St. Marys Dominican High School (7701 Walmsley Ave)

12:30pm Laying of wreath at Celtic Cross (median between Ponchartrain and West End Blvd)

1:00 pm Visit to Katrina Memorial (5056 Canal St)

FREE AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Tuesday March 17th

11:00am (Judge McKay) Pick up at hotel for Mass at St. Patricks Church (724 Camp St)

12 noon Mass

1:00 / 1:30 Reception at rectory next to church

1:45pm Annunaitation Square Irish Channel Block Party

(Annunciation and Race Streets)

2:30 – 3:00pm Return to hotel

6:00 pm (Judge McKay) Pick up at hotel

6:30 pm Hilton Hotel (2 Poydras St) Cocktails, Dinner and Speech)

Wednesday March 18th

Flight Departs: 12:05 PM (MSY) New Orleans LA, USA

Flight Number 2464 Delta Air Lines Confirmation number is H29L6G

ARRIVE: 3:57pm S LGA TERMINAL D

Dinner With FOSF Board

Thursday March 19th

10:00 am Meeting with Niall O Dowd

At Irish Voice Office 31st / 6th Ave

11:30am Meeting with Bill Flynn

6:00 pm Dinner with FOSF supporters

Seven Restaurant

7th Ave / 29th st

NY

Friday, March 20

9am Car will pick you up at hotel at bring luggage for flight

Conference "Revising the Rising" Drew University

Crawford Hall in the Ehinger Center, Drew University, Madison, NJ, US, 07940

11:00am Welcomes and Introductions

11:30am Mary Lou speaks (introduced by MaryAnn Baenninger) followed by Q&A session

12:30am (approximately) Lunch in Mead Hall

1:30pm Meeting with President Baenninger

2:00pm Meeting with students

3:00pm Departure – Car will take you to Airport

JFK - Dublin

Flight Departs 9:20PM (JFK) New York Kennedy NY, USA Terminal 4

Flight Number 0411 Delta Air Lines Confirmation number is H29L6G

Saturday March 21-st

Arrive Dublin 8:05 am T2

In New Orleans

Staying at the Sonesta Hotel

Bourbon St NO

In New York

Staying at the Millenium Hotel

145 W 44th St

NY 10036

Itinerary Peadar Toibin 2 April – 7 April 2015

02 APR 15 - THURSDAY

AIR AER LINGUS FLT:123 LV DUBLIN 1130A
AR CHICAGO OHARE 150P

6 APR – Saturday

Easter Event Chicago hosted by Vincent Casey

05 APR 15 - SUNDAY
AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:392 LV CHICAGO OHARE 745A

DEPART: TERMINAL 3
AR NEW YORK LGA 1058A

Calvary Cemetery republican plot Speaking Event NYC 2:00pm
4902 Laurel Hill Blvd, Woodside, NY 11377

06 APR 15 - MONDAY

Easter Event Mineola 11:45 AM
Speaking at Nassau county event

AIR AER LINGUS FLT:108 ECONOMY MEALS
LV NEW YORK JFK 900P EQP: AIRBUS A330
DEPART: TERMINAL 5 06HR 40MIN

07 APR 15 - TUESDAY

AR DUBLIN 840A

While in Chicago Staing at:
9311 west 122nd Street palos park Illinois 60464

While in NYC staying at
Grand Central Fitzpatrick Hotel
141 E 44th St, New York, NY 10017

David Cullinane Itinerary 3 – 7 April 2015

03 APR 15 - FRIDAY

AER LINGUS FLT:137
LV DUBLIN 1150A
AR BOSTON 145P

Saturday April 4th

Informal meeting with friends and supporters

The Black Rose Boston

Sunday April 5th

Speech at Porter Belly

338 Washington St, Brighton, MA 02135 4 pm

06 APR 15 - MONDAY

AER LINGUS FLT:136
LV BOSTON 600P

07 APR 15 - TUESDAY

AR DUBLIN 505A NON-STOP

While in Boston Staying at

Harborside Inn

185 State Street

Boston, MA 02109

Itinerary for Sean Conlon April 10 – 16 2015

10 APR 15 - FRIDAY

AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:723

LV DUBLIN

1135A

AR PHILADELPHIA

12 April 15 Sunday

Speaking at Annual Easter Rising Observance Holy Cross
Cemetery at the graveside of Joseph McGarrity

15 APR 15 - WEDNESDAY

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:722

OPERATED BY US AIRWAYS

LV PHILADELPHIA 910P

EQP: AIRBUS A330-200

DEPART: TERMINAL A

06HR 35MIN

16 APR 15 - THURSDAY

AR DUBLIN 845A

NON-STOP

ARRIVE: TERMINAL 2

REF: XINYJR

CONLON/SEAN SEAT-30C

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Need to intensify talks if progress is to be made – Murphy

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Friends of Sinn Féin



**Need to intensify talks if
progress is to be made –
Murphy**





Conor Murphy Sinn Féin MP

Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy said today there is clearly a need to intensify talks if any progress is to be made on dealing with the outstanding issues of the Good Friday and other agreements.

Conor Murphy was speaking after all the parties had met with the Irish and British governments for the first time during the current round of preliminary talks.

Conor Murphy said:

“Today was the first time that all the parties have been around the table with the two governments.

“The meeting today has been billed as a stock taking exercise, however there wasn’t a lot of stock to take.

“To date there hasn’t been a credible talks process. If the DUP is serious they should be sharing papers with all the other parties.

“So far we have only received one paper from the DUP.

“We need to deal with the issues of identity and the legacy of the past as well as outstanding commitments from the Good Friday and other agreements.

“Clearly there is the ongoing threat to the Executive’s budget posed by the year-on-year cuts by the Tories to the Block grant.

“There is a need to break the gridlock in the institutions and there is an onus on the British government to honour the outstanding commitments from the Good Friday and other agreements.

5/28/2015

Campaign Overview | MailChimp

GOOD FRIDAY AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.

“There is clearly a need to intensify the talks if we are to make any progress and Sinn Féin will be doing a round of meetings with the other parties in an effort to move forward into a credible process.” **Ends/Críoch**

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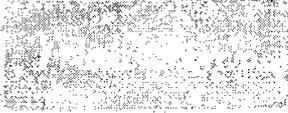
You are receiving this email because you opted in at our website or have asked to be on the list.

Our mailing address is:

Friends Of Sinn Féin USA
420 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10170

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Urgent need for American and European 'hands-on' role in talks

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Friends of Sinn Féin



Urgent Need for American and European "Hands On" Role in Talks.

As bi-lateral talks occurred yesterday (Wednesday) in Belfast between political parties and the Irish and British governments to discuss dealing with the past, parades and other issues, Peter Robinson and Mike Nesbitt spent a second day visiting Brussels.

Martin Mc Guinness went to the European Parliament one month ago to encourage cross party support for the landmark resolution on the northern political process, passed overwhelmingly today (Thursday), and to meet the leaderships of all political groups and senior officials in the parliament. The two unionist leaders' trip was a belated political reaction to that Sinn Féin initiative.

No similar resolution about Ireland has been passed in Europe before. It expresses concern

that the implementation of the Peace Process has reached an impasse, welcomes the current talks and urges all parties to participate constructively to resolve **all** outstanding issues. It was supported by every political group in the parliament.

Meanwhile the talks in Belfast continue to lack a process and political momentum. Both are required for any possibility of progress to be made. Increased international attention will be needed to bring that about.

This conservative British government has been completely indifferent to what is needed to end the current impasse. Its relegation of the north to a political back water; an associated lack of positive politics, commitment and negotiation capacity; and, their system's loss of institutional memory and skills on Ireland all negatively feed into this British approach. Add to that, the conservatives' own unionist political bias; the political crisis in the British state; next year's Westminster elections; and hedging their bets with the DUP.

The conservatives and the British system are not concentrated on making these talks work. Side bar conversations involving them about negative default scenarios regarding the New Year, if not before, are counterproductive.

As a result of the European parliament resolution, it is now prepared to offer any support which can be of assistance to the northern political process.

The United States administration is keenly aware that the Good Friday Agreement itself, and the viability of the political institutions are directly threatened.

Senator Gary Hart has already conducted one round of meetings here to offer encouragement. It is clear that unless the US government through Gary Hart is directly involved in these talks no substantive political negotiation will occur while the British continue pretending they are facilitators, and not participants.

Instead there is real risk for political drift, culminating in a pre-ordained British position paper being tabled, which attempts to dilute the Haass compromise proposals, and is bereft of a serious economic reconstruction plan for the north.

Senator Gary Hart should now be given a central role in helping to shape and drive the talk's agenda. The political resources of the EU parliament should also be brought into play. The Irish government ought to make these representations.

A properly structured negotiation process with political momentum, will depend on intensified international diplomatic attention, and a "hands on" role for America and Europe,

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FOSF Mid November News Update



Urgent need for American and European 'hands-on' role in Stormont talks

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Police response to sectarian attack on children's bus unacceptable – Kelly

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly said today that he has told senior police that their handling of a sectarian attack on a minibus in Ballysillan was completely unacceptable.

Gerry Kelly was speaking after the letters KATs (Kill All Taigs) were spray-painted on a minibus being used by an Under 12 football team.

Gerry Kelly said:

“Children younger than 12 years of age returned to their minibus after playing a football match at the Ballysillan Leisure Centre on Friday to find it had been spray-painted with the letters KAT.

“The children were very frightened by this experience. The children's mentors contacted police but at least half an hour passed before police came back to them on the phone and the team and mentors had by that time left the area as they were afraid of attack. No police had arrived at the scene by then.

“I have contacted senior police officers today and told them that their response to this incident is totally unacceptable.

“I will also be raising the matter through the Policing Board and contacting Belfast City Council who have a responsibility for the safety of users of its facilities.

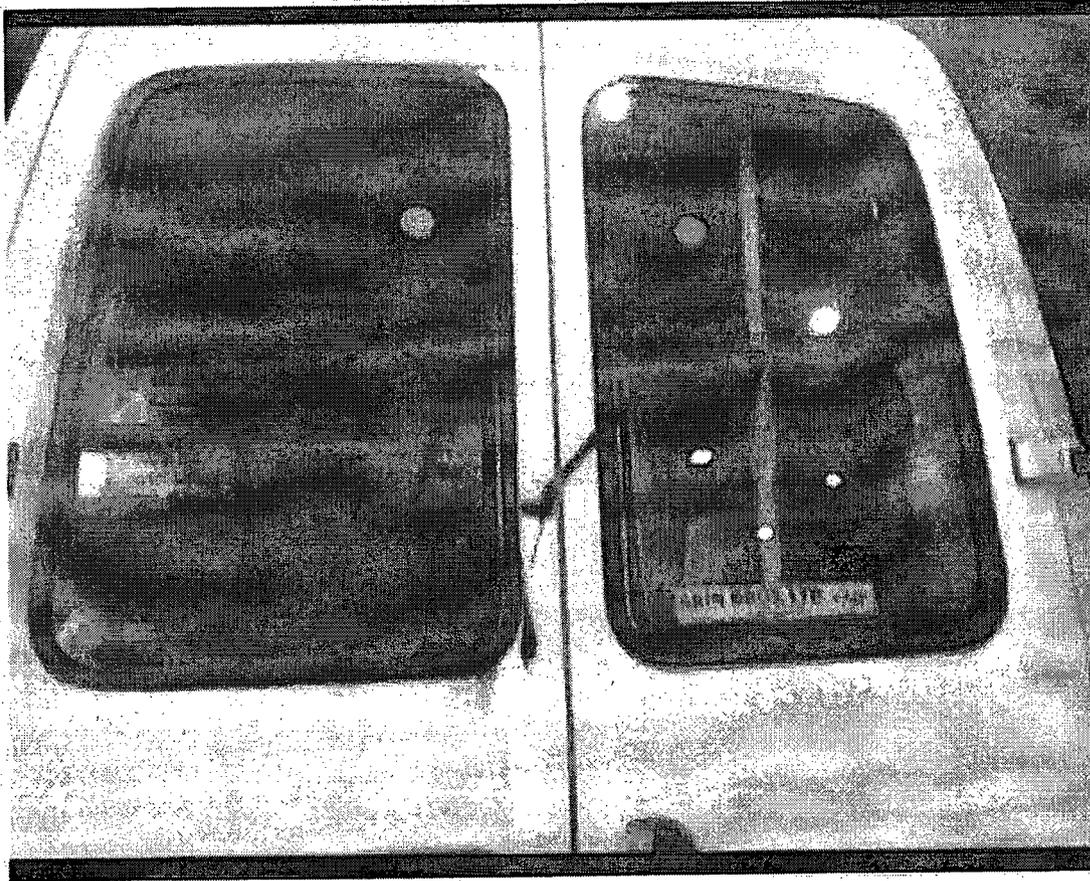
“I want to commend the adults who were mentoring and accompanying the young children for getting them home safely.

“It's possible that this action was the work of only a small number of individuals but it's despicable that anyone would be bigoted enough to target children in this way.

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There is no place for this type of sectarian intimidation. If it does continue at sporting facilities then those with a responsibility for arranging fixtures need to ensure that the safety of children is paramount." ENDS/CRÍOCH



Sinn Féin Growing Strength Demonstrated at Huge Dublin Meeting

[Click Here for Video](#)

British government must fund investigations into the past - Anderson

Sinn Féin MEP Martina Anderson has said the British government should pay for investigations into legacy cases from the conflict.

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Speaking after attending a conference in Belfast where the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, Nils Muiznieks, said Britain must deal with its responsibilities on the past, Ms Anderson said;

"The British government's failure to comply with human rights regulations guaranteeing the right to life has been exposed to an international audience on numerous occasions.

"At yesterday's conference in Belfast, Commissioner Muiznieks clearly said Britain is currently breaching the European Convention of Human Rights through its failures to carry out effective investigations into killings during the conflict, particularly in cases of collusion and its shoot-to-kill policy.

"His remarks, and the subsequent comments from the Assembly's Justice Minister, David Ford, that Britain should foot the bill for investigations into state killings, is to be welcomed.

"Britain cannot escape its responsibilities on its Article 2 obligations and it should not be allowed to use financial pressures as an excuse to deny relatives access to truth and justice.

"I have been dealing with relatives who have lost loved ones as a result of state violence for many years and I have taken delegations to Europe to meet with senior MEPs to raise their cases with an international audience.

"As a result of that engagement I invited Commissioner Muiznieks to Belfast to address this conference and bring these important issues to a wider audience.

"I have also invited the Commissioner to return to the North and to compile an official report on these issues.

"We welcome Commissioner Muiznieks' intervention in this important debate and I will continue to work with him and the relatives who are campaigning for truth and justice." **Ends/Crioch**



EU has played major role in supporting Peace Process - Anderson

Sinn Féin MEP Martina Anderson has said the European Union has played a major role in supporting the peace and political processes in the North.

Speaking ahead of a debate on an EU resolution on Europe's support for the political institutions, Ms Anderson said;

"Europe has been a major support of the peace and political processes in the North over the last two decades and that valued support is continuing.

"Over the last year, I have brought victims groups and relatives of those killed by state

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violence to the European Parliament to enable them to bring their campaigns for truth and justice to an international audience.

"Martin McGuinness visited the European Parliament recently to meet with leaders of the various groupings to update them on the challenges facing the political process today.

"During that visit, he was heartened by the support from the leaders for the political process and the institutions.

"In fact, Martin Schultz, the President of the European Parliament, addressed the parliament in Strasbourg and outlined his ongoing support for the political process in the North.

"Just last week, I brought the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner, Nils Muiznieks, to Belfast to address a conference on Britain's failure to comply with human rights legislation on state killings.

"It is clear that Europe continues to play a major role in encouraging the political process in the North and I have no doubt that will continue with this resolution." **Ends/Críoch**

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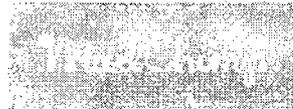
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SF Message on Irish Government's plan for 1916 Commemoration

The Irish Government launched the State's official program of commemorations for 1916 last week by releasing a video that not only doesn't mention Pearse, Connolly or any of the leaders who were executed but features the Queen of England, David Cameron U.K. Prime Minister and Ian Paisley amongst others. The 1916 historical timeline figure is Sir Ernest Shackleton who on the morning of 24th April 1916 was rescuing himself and crew off Elephant Island in Antarctica where he was exploring to expand the British Empire, meanwhile on the same day back in Dublin, a small group of men and women had come together to fight the same Empire. The Government is clearly showing us what they want us to remember; not the sacrifice of the Easter Rising 1916 but an alternative view of our history where the Rising is now being viewed as unnecessary according to Irish Leader Enda Kenny in his speech "That's not to deny that a Sovereign State might have emerged by other means at another time" the full version of which also doesn't mention any of the

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**VIDEO "1916 Inspires" SF
response to Irish government
video on 1916
commemoration**

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**Anphoblacht Article:
1916 centenary must be all-Ireland and**

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include Diaspora

Irish Government's Easter Rising program 'lightweight'

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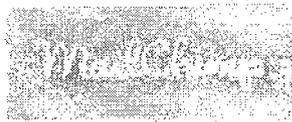
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SF will pursue full recognition for Irish emigrants in US - Adams

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Sinn Féin will pursue full recognition for Irish emigrants in US - Adams

Speaking today following last night's announcement by President Obama of changes in how the US Government deals with undocumented immigrants, Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD said:

"Over the past number of years Sinn Féin has raised the issue of the estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish in the United States. Their absence is felt in communities and families across Ireland.

"I welcome the announcement by President Obama as it will bring relief to some,

"However I am concerned that the majority of undocumented Irish will not benefit from these limited changes.

"Many of these people have been forced into economic emigration since 2007, due to the economic mismanagement of successive Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour governments

"Undocumented Irish workers contribute to the US economy and community. This should be recognised and their futures secured. Today is another step in the right direction but there is further to travel.

"We will continue to work with the parties in the US Congress, and the recently appointed US ambassador, to ensure full recognition is given to those Irish living and working in the US."

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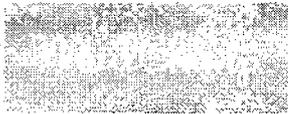
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Friends of Sinn Fein Late November News Update

**Campbell's Comments Show Equality
legislation Still Required**

-McGahan MLA





Sinn Féin Equality Spokesperson Bronwyn McGahan MLA commenting on DUP criticism of New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's support for equality safeguards in employment, pointed to Gregory Campbell's remarks as an example of why such legislation is required as much as ever.

Ms McGahan said:

"It never fails to amaze me that anyone who strays from the DUP view of things are accused of not being fully acquainted with the situation here.

"Comptroller DiNapoli's observations couldn't be more appropriate considering the attack on equality and parity of esteem that Gregory Campbell's remarks over the last month have represented.

"The DUP spokesperson's comments that 'Our focus should be on the future, and about increasing that (Foreign Investment) instead of harking back to a past from which we have all moved on' is ironic coming from a member of a party – many of whose members attitudes towards equality are still stuck in the 17th century.

"All of the indices' show that although the gap is closing Catholics are still more likely to experience unemployment than Protestants, are more likely to suffer poor health and, out-score Protestants on almost every measure of social deprivation.

"Therefore while the historic imbalance is being addressed there is still much opposition to implementing measures that would address the outstanding issues that perpetuates inequality.

"Rather than criticise fair comment from a true friend of the peace and reconciliation process, who represents one of the largest institutional investors in the world, the DUP would serve all the people here better by cooperating in creating a society built on the principles of equality, parity of esteem and mutual respect."

No Evidence Yet of Credible Negotiations – Adams

Speaking at a public meeting in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh this evening, Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD said politics on the island of Ireland is in flux and this presented real opportunities to "transform the political landscape North and South. The time has come for genuine republican politics".

He said Sinn Féin's opposition to austerity, "whether foisted on citizens in the North by a British Tory Government, or in the South by Fine Gael and Labour", has struck a chord.

The Sinn Féin Leader said the same kind of political will seen in the early days of the peace process was required for the current talks process to break the political impasse in the North. He said however that, as yet, there is no evidence of the type of credible negotiations required for a positive outcome.

Gerry Adams said:

"Sinn Féin's vision of a modern republic and an agreed, united Ireland, rooted in equality and social justice is finding ever-greater resonance with citizens.

"While political talks involving all parties in the North and both governments are underway, there is no evidence yet of the type of credible negotiations required to unlock the impasse in the political process.

"Sinn Féin's priority is to defend and to progress the hugely significant advances that have been made over the past 20 years.

"It is of crucial importance however that the Irish government adopts the same unambiguous pro-Agreement position and very clearly holds the British government to account in relation to its obligations.

"Overcoming vexed issues such as flags, parades and dealing with the past requires all parties and both governments bringing to the table an absolute determination to secure a resolution.

"We need the same kind of political and civic will – the same demand for change – which we saw in the early days of the peace process and which ultimately led to the Good Friday Agreement. Sinn Féin will not be found wanting."

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With the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising fast approaching, Mr Adams criticised the Fine Gael/Labour Government's lack of preparation or ideas to mark the occasion and said they appeared determined to dishonour the legacy of the Rising:

"The reason this government won't mark the Rising appropriately is because it is opposed to the political, social and economic intent of the 1916 Proclamation.

"Despite this shameful official neglect, ordinary Irish citizens, North and South, and the Irish Diaspora will celebrate and educate and pay tribute to the brave men and women of 1916. They will be joined by Sinn Féin.

"And Sinn Féin will continue to work to make the Proclamation a reality in an independent, united Ireland with peace and genuine reconciliation between all who live here."

The Sinn Féin Leader said recent 'mud slinging' by the party's political opponents is a sign of political desperation:

"It is about trying to blunt the growth of Sinn Féin and our potential for gains at the next General Election. It will not succeed. The people are not stupid.

"Sinn Fein believes in a real republic, a citizen-centred, rights-based society. That is the fundamental ideological difference between Sinn Féin and the deeply unpopular Fine Gael/Labour government. So too, is our deep and unswerving commitment to the achievement of a United Ireland.

"Our message is finding a deep resonance among citizens the length and breadth of this country. More citizens voted for Sinn Féin in 2014 than in the famous election of 1918.

"This evening's engagement is part of the process of building a strong Irish republican party focussed on uniting Ireland and committed to achieving real political, social and economic change."

Sinn Féin Will Pursue full Recognition for Irish Emigrants in US - Adams

Speaking today following last night's announcement by President Obama of changes in how the US Government deals with undocumented immigrants, Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD said:

As over the next number of years Sinn Féin has joined the issue of the estimated 50,000

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Over the past number of years Sinn Féin has raised the issue of the estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish in the United States. Their absence is felt in communities and families across Ireland.

"I welcome the announcement by President Obama as it will bring relief to some,

"However I am concerned that the

majority of undocumented Irish will not benefit from these limited changes.

"Many of these people have been forced into economic emigration since 2007, due to the economic mismanagement of successive Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour governments

"Undocumented Irish workers contribute to the US economy and community. This should be recognised and their futures secured. Today is another step in the right direction but there is further to travel.

"We will continue to work with the parties in the US Congress, and the recently appointed US ambassador, to ensure full recognition is given to those Irish living and working in the US."

1916 centenary must be all-Ireland and include Diaspora

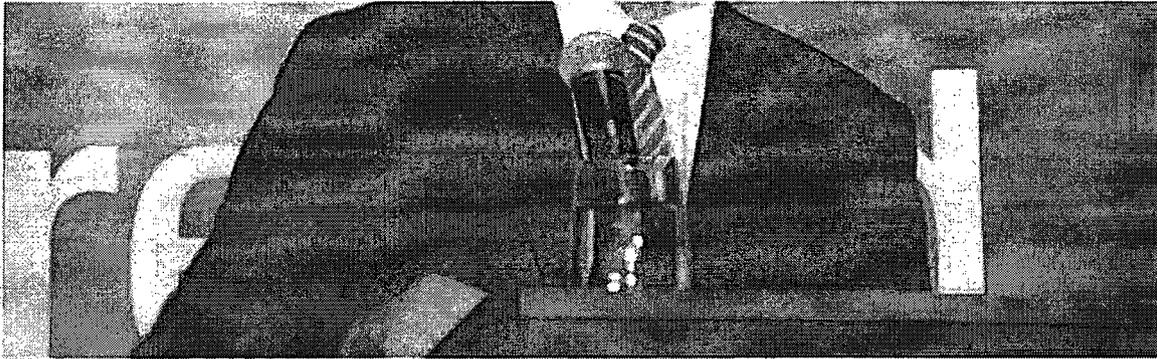
Irish Government's Easter Rising program 'lightweight'

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Adams, Doherty Visit United States

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams was the main speaker at the annual Friends of Sinn Fein Dinner in New York on November 6th, thanking the crowd for their consistent support over the years.

Pearse Doherty TD for Donegal South West, spoke for the first time at the dinner.

Pearse, from Gweedore in Donegal, talked about what motivated him as a teenager to join Sinn Fein after reading Bobby Sands diary.

He told of his family's experience of being immigrants in Scotland where he was born and the struggle they had in returning home to Donegal.

Pearse travelled to Philadelphia on Friday November 7th to meet with newly elected Congressman Brendan Boyle whose father Kevin emigrated from Glencolmcille many years ago.

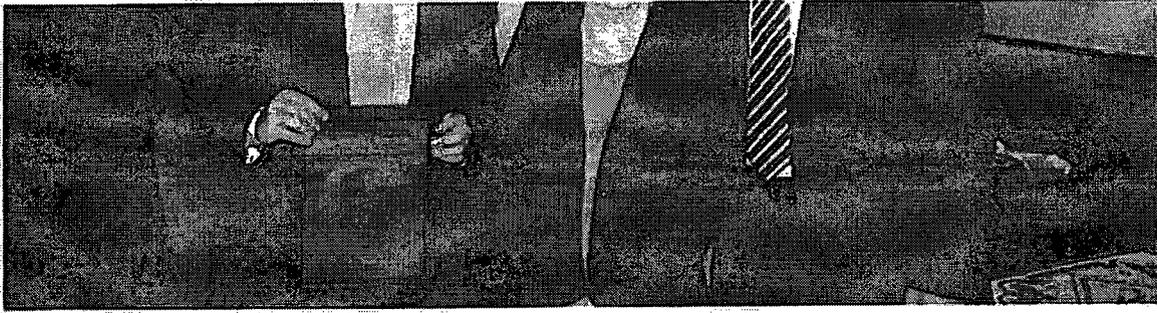
Brendan's brother Kevin is also an elected representative in the State legislature and other elected representatives included Mike Driscoll and Councilman Bobby Henon.

Pearse visited the dramatic and moving Famine Memorial in Philadelphia with Patrick Ghegan before attending a community event at the Irish Center.



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Congressman Elect Brendan Boyle, SF US representative Rita O'Hare and Pearse Doherty TD In Philadelphia

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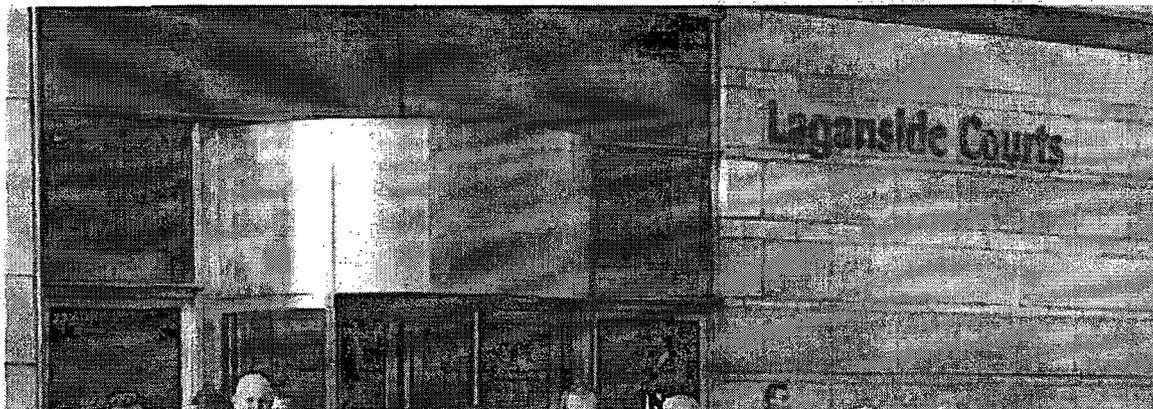
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December 2014 News Update

**Ballymurphy Massacre Families Furious
and frustrated at the delays in disclosure
by the PSNI and MOD.**





Today in Laganside Court at the fourth preliminary hearing for the inquests into the Ballymurphy Massacre, the Ballymurphy families were angered by yet another delay to the proceedings by the PSNI and MOD.

In the last hearing, a timetable was agreed by the legal representatives of the PSNI/MOD of the 7th November for the disclosure of sensitive documents in relation to the events of 9th – 11th August 1971.

The families learned today in court that the PSNI/MOD did not comply with the agreed timetable and in fact can give no indication at this time as to when these documents will be available. When questioned by the coroner the legal representative for the PSNI/MOD said that the PSNI said they hadn't the resources to deal with the request of the court and that the MOD didn't provide any reason for not furnishing the documents. The families and their legal representative find this situation unacceptable and have requested through the courts a detailed explanation for the delays from the Chief constable and the MOD. They have until the 17th December to provide information to the court about the delays. John Teggart, who's father Daniel Teggart was killed, said that "the delays are totally unacceptable to the families who have suffered enough, these documents have been in their possession for many years and this is just another example of the PSNI/MOD dragging their heels and stalling the legal process".

The Legal team for the PSNI/MOD had tried to argue that it was due to lack of resources within the PSNI for this delay was challenged and dismissed by Karen Quinlivan representing family members she commented that the MOD don't have resource or cut back difficulties

John continued what the families are calling for "We would now call for an immediate meeting with the Secretary of state for northern Ireland Teresa Villiers who refused us families an Independent Panel earlier this year. She has promised to meet us then NOW IS THE TIME. We have already contacted her office and with the Justice Minister David Ford and to ensure that the

proper resources are put in place to all for these inquests to proceed,

and with The Chief Constable -- we need for him to explain to us how, after 43 years of no police investigation into the deaths of 11 innocent civilians, he can't supply the proper services to the coroners court - it was disclosed today that there is only 20 documents relating to RUC involvement in these cases - why has this work not been done? WE WANT ANSWERS."

VIDEO

Adams Speaks at Belfast Meeting "Challenge Bigotry and Sectarianism"

[CLICK HERE](#)

Hooded Men Case Cannot be Consigned to History - Kelly

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has said the Irish Government cannot allow the case of the torture of Irish citizens known as 'The Hooded Men' to be consigned to history by failing to meet the 4th December deadline to raise the case with the European Court.

Mr Kelly said,

"In 1971 during the introduction of internment 14 Irish men were subject to torture techniques and the British Government was found guilty of torture by the European Court of Human Rights.

"However, the British challenged this decision and had it overturned but new evidence has surfaced that the British lied, that torture was planned and systematic and that the original judgement was correct.

"However if the Irish Government do not request that the case be open before this Thursday 4th December then the case will be closed forever.

"The Irish Government has an onus of responsibility to have this case opened, not only for justice

for the men and their families but also to put a marker down that they do not condone torture.

“To allow the case to be consigned to history will only encourage nations practicing torture in countries around the globe to continue and send out a signal that the Irish Government will not protect its citizens.”

VIDEO
Belfast Meeting Huge Success
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Not the Job of PSNI to Protect RUC
Legacy at Inquests - Sheehan

Sinn Féin Policing Board Member Pat Sheehan has said that the job of the PSNI in inquests relating to controversial killings involving British State Forces is to provide correct information and not to cover up for RUC Special Branch or other officers.

Speaking after Deputy Chief Constable Drew Harris appeared in front of the coroner John Lecky in response to the length of time it is taking for disclosure of documentation Mr Sheehan said,

“It is clear from briefings given to the Retired Police Officers Association that the Deputy Chief Constable is more concerned in protecting the past history of the RUC as opposed to providing the proper documentation that will allow the inquests to proceed and this is totally unacceptable.

“It is not the job of the PSNI to protect the legacy of the RUC but to provide the correct and entire information so that the inquests can take place.

“It is also unacceptable that the majority of the people who are working on the documentation are former RUC Special Branch officers who have a clear conflict of interests in the proceedings.

“I am encouraged that the coroner has now demanded that the documentation is released so that the families of those killed by the British State Forces can have an inquest and begin to get to the truth of how their loved one lost their life.”

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NEWS UPDATE

**British Conservative and DUP
political and electoral
interdependence now define
Stormont talks outcome**

-DECLAN KEARNEY

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Friends of Sinn Féin Mid December 2014 News Update

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Friends of Sinn Féin Mid December 2014 News Update

**Massive commitment needed from British and
Irish governments to secure a comprehensive
agreement**

- Declan Kearney SF National Chairperson

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Needs of Victims Central to

Comprehensive Agreement – McGuinness



Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said the needs of victims must be central in a comprehensive agreement on dealing with the past.

Speaking at a human rights event organised by Relatives for Justice at Queens University Belfast this morning, Mr McGuinness said;

"In the Hasss/O'Sullivan Talks and indeed the recent negotiations at all times Sinn Fein have sought to put the needs of all victims first.

"To my mind the blatant refusal from the British government to take responsibility for its role in sustaining and perpetuating the conflict is insulting, shameful and disrespectful to families bereaved by the state.

"It is evident that there has been a sustained and co-ordinated strategy to cover up the state's role in the conflict. But the truth is being told.

"The decision by the Irish government to petition Europe to reopen the case of the 'Hooded Men' is another significant step forward.

"The British government fears the truth. Theresa Villiers fears ordinary people who stand up and be counted.

"It has been the brave stand for truth from families that has exposed the lies, deceit and propaganda of the British state.

"Sinn Féin remains politically focused on dealing with the past in a human rights compliant manner.

"This means any process to engage with legacy matters must be independent from all conflict actors – that includes the British government."

Irish Government Approach on North Inadequate - Adams

Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD has said the Irish Government's approach to the North and the Peace Process has been inadequate.

He also called on the Irish Government to ensure that national security and other provisos and measures would not hinder victims and survivors accessing information about conflict-related deaths.

Mr Adams was speaking during a Dáil debate on a Government motion of confidence in itself.

The motion was tabled in reaction to a Sinn Féin motion of no confidence in Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

Gerry Adams said:

"The Government sees Sinn Féin only in terms of electoral competitors and not as partners in peace. This is a profound mistake.

"It has failed to stand up to the British Government as equals when it comes to this issue and to the

It has failed to stand up to the British Government as equals when it comes to this issue and to the implementation of the Good Friday and subsequent Agreements of which it is co-guarantor.

“For many Irish citizens, the success of the current discussions will be judged by their ability to deliver truth and justice to the many families injured and bereaved during the conflict.

“But the British Government has hidden behind national security and other provisos and measures to block victims and survivors accessing information and to keep the truth hidden.

“The Irish Government must seek to ensure the removal of all obstacles which prevent the families of victims from accessing the truth. The families of Dublin/Monaghan, of Pat Finucane, Ballymurphy and others expect nothing less.”

British Government Must be Constructive in Talks – Murphy



Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy has said it's time the British government started playing a constructive role in the political talks rather than acting like a hurler on the ditch.

Conor Murphy said:

“We have seen precious little from the British government in terms of genuine engagement in this

process so far.

“The British government is not a neutral observer in this process. It is a key player and needs to contribute significantly and materially to finding a resolution to many of the issues causing instability in the political process.

“The huge budgetary problems faced by the parties here have been caused by the austerity policies of David Cameron’s Tory-led government.

“Their year-on-year cuts to the Executive’s block grant have increased poverty and are having a hugely negative impact on the Executive’s stability and its capacity to deliver frontline public services.

“If David Cameron is to play a constructive role in this process then he needs to deal with the major financial difficulties caused by his government’s assault on the Executive’s finances.

“The British government could also immediately honour its outstanding commitments from the Good Friday and other agreements. This includes Acht na Gaeilge, an independent inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane and a Bill of Rights.

“We have seen little compromise or movement from the British government so far in this negotiation.

“If we are to deal with the legacy of the conflict, division and segregation then the British government has to be the major contributor to a Peace Investment Fund, with support from the Irish government, the European Union and the United States.”

Cameron Must Face Up to His Responsibilities – McGuinness

Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said that British prime minister David Cameron will need to face up to his responsibilities if progress is to be made in the current round of all-party talks being held at Stormont.

The Deputy First Minister was speaking following today’s meeting of the North South Ministerial Council in Armagh.

Martin McGuinness said:

“I welcome the fact David Cameron will be in Belfast next week with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to play their part in the talks as co-equal guarantors of the Good Friday and other agreements.

“Sinn Féin has approached the recent talks in a positive and constructive frame of mind but the huge

Sinn Féin has approached the recent talks in a positive and constructive frame of mind but the huge budgetary problems faced by the parties here have been caused by the austerity policies of David Cameron's Tory-led government.

"Their year-on-year cuts to the Executive's block grant have increased poverty and are having a hugely negative impact on the Executive's stability and its capacity to deliver frontline public services.

"If David Cameron is to play a constructive role in this process then he needs to deal with the major financial difficulties his government have caused.

"In any negotiation there needs to be compromise and movement on all sides but so far we have seen nothing from the British government. David Cameron is not a neutral observer in this process, he is a key player and needs to contribute significantly and materially to finding a resolution to many of these issues.

"He needs to signal that his government is prepared to honor its outstanding commitments to the Good Friday and other agreements.

"And if we are to deal with the legacy of the conflict, division and segregation then the British government has to be the major contributor to a Peace Investment Fund."

New PSNI Legacy Unit Will Not Have Public Confidence - Sheehan

Sinn Féin MLA and Policing Board member Pat Sheehan has said a proposed new PSNI unit to investigate legacy issues will not have public confidence.

Speaking after the PSNI chief constable announced the establishment of a new body to investigate the past, the West Belfast MLA said:

"At today's meeting of the Policing Board the Chief Constable announced the HET would cease to exist on December 31 and will be replaced by an Legacy Investigation Unit early in the New Year.

"We are very disappointed by this announcement as it is clear this new body will not be compliant with human rights legislation, particularly Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights – the right to life.

"In all our engagements with victims' groups they told us that whatever replaces the HET must be Article 2 compliant.

"Victims' groups have made it clear that the independence of any investigatory mechanism is crucial to dealing with the past and we share those concerns.

"Public confidence is a key element in dealing with the past and this proposed new body cannot command that confidence.

"The PSNI has a responsibility to investigate the past but their responsibility to comply with Article 2 legislation is a key requirement.

"Legacy issues are toxic for policing. It is our view they should be separate from policing and handed over to a body similar to that suggested in the Haass proposals."

Adams Welcomes Irish Government Decision on 'Hooded Men'



Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD has welcomed today's decision by the Irish Government to request the European Court of Human Rights to revise its judgment in the case of the 'Hooded Men'.

He said:

"I welcome today's decision by the Irish Government to request the European Court of Human Rights to revise its judgment in the case of the 'Hooded Men' - 14 Irish citizens who were arrested and tortured by the British Army following the introduction of internment in August 1971.

"I raised this issue with the Attorney General and the government for some time and last week I wrote to the Taoiseach urging him to urgently conclude the Government's deliberations on a decision to re-open this case, particularly in light of the December 4th deadline.

"I want to take this opportunity to commend the courage and dedication of the 14 men, the hard work of their lawyers, the work done by the Pat Finucane Centre, and indeed RTE for the major documentary - The Torture Files - which reported on additional new evidence in the case.

"There is an onus now on the Irish Government to ensure that it prepares the most thorough, exhaustive, well argued case that it can in support of the 14 men and of the Government's challenge before the European Court of Human Rights." **Ends/Críoch**

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Need to resolve outstanding issues – McGuinness

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Need to resolve outstanding issues – McGuinness

Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness said tonight that efforts to achieve a comprehensive agreement to all-party talks in the North have so far been inconclusive.

Martin McGuinness said:

“Over the past ten weeks Sinn Féin have engaged in the talks process in a positive and constructive manner to achieve a comprehensive agreement.

“Our objectives have always been to reach an agreement which protects the most vulnerable in society, safeguards the rights and entitlements of citizens, delivers on outstanding agreements, grows the economy and enhances the working of the institutions.

“Progress has been made and today the five parties have agreed a set of principles

5/28/2015

Campaign Overview | MailChimp

Progress has been made and today the five parties have agreed a set of proposals regarding public finance that would enable the Executive to use it's powers to protect the most vulnerable, and to invest in building peace and reconciliation and welfare safeguards.

"These proposals require additional financial support.

"There has yet to be agreement on the outstanding issues of identity, parades and the legacy of the past.

"A side deal between the British government and the unionists to set up a panel in response to a demand from the Orange Order to march through nationalist communities in North Belfast makes the achievement of a comprehensive agreement more difficult.

"The two governments' dilution of the Haass proposals on the past particularly on the issue of victims and survivors is a stumbling block.

"We are continuing to seek agreement on the implementation of outstanding issues from the Good Friday and other agreements including an Acht Gaeilge, a Bill of Rights and the inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane.

"If the institutions are to maintain the support of the people it's clear we need to resolve both the financial situation and the outstanding matters." ENDS/CRÍOCH

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Sinn Féin committed to building on progress made in agreement –
McGuinness

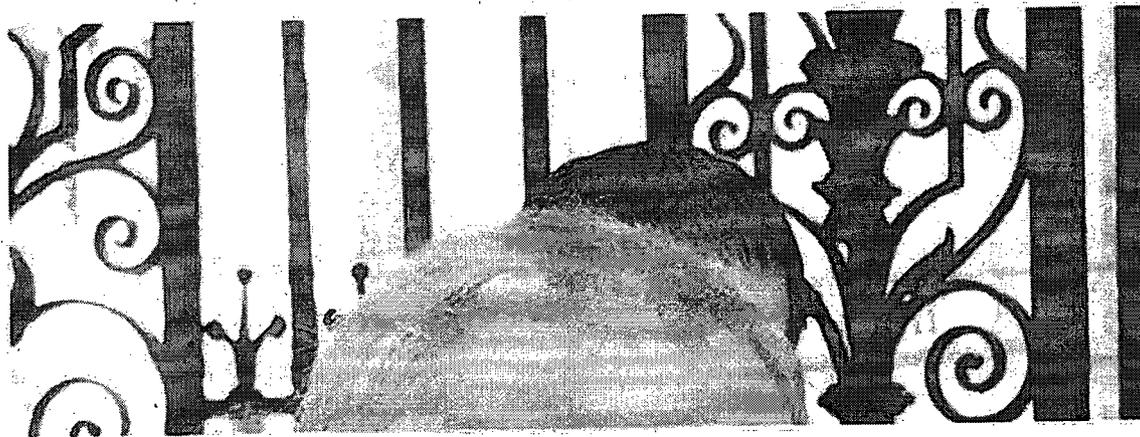
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FOSF NEWS UPDATE

Sinn Féin committed to building on
progress made in agreement

– McGuinness



5/28/2015

Campaign Overview | MailChimp



Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said the all-party agreement reached today protects the most vulnerable in society and will help deal with the legacy of the past.

Martin McGuinness said;

"Sinn Féin set out to achieve a comprehensive agreement and we have made progress on a range of issues.

"There has been progress on significant issues including a financial package and we have protected the most vulnerable in society against the Tory welfare cuts. We have also made headway on the issues of flags, parades and the past.

5/28/2015

Campaign Overview | MailChimp

"We agreed a comprehensive financial package to deal with the legacy of the conflict and to promote peace and reconciliation. This financial package will also help bring stability to the powersharing institutions.

"We agreed a welfare protection package for the most vulnerable people in our society to ensure there is no reduction in benefits within the control of the Assembly.

"These protections are unique to the north of Ireland and are in sharp contrast to the austerity-driven welfare system being rolled out in Britain.

"We worked intensively to move forward on the vexed issues of identity, parading and the past. Sinn Féin argued that any process dealing with the legacy of the past needs to be victim centred.

"We successfully made the case that families who had lost loved ones during the conflict should continue to be able to pursue truth and justice through the mechanism of coroners' inquests.

"We have also achieved a set of balanced truth recovery mechanisms to deal with the past. We agreed a Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition and that responsibility for parades should be devolved to the Assembly and built upon.

"Sinn Féin is committed to building on the progress made by the Executive parties over recent days. It is our intention to carry this positive work forward in the time ahead." **ENDS/CRÍOCH**

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January 2015 News Update

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Friends Of Sinn Fein News Update Jan 2015

**Richard Haass Blames unionist
leadership for Collapse of his Talks**





Haass has placed the lion's share of blame for the failure of the talks he chaired on unionist parties backed by the British Government.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)

Sinn Féin Committed to Building on Progress made in Agreement – McGuinness

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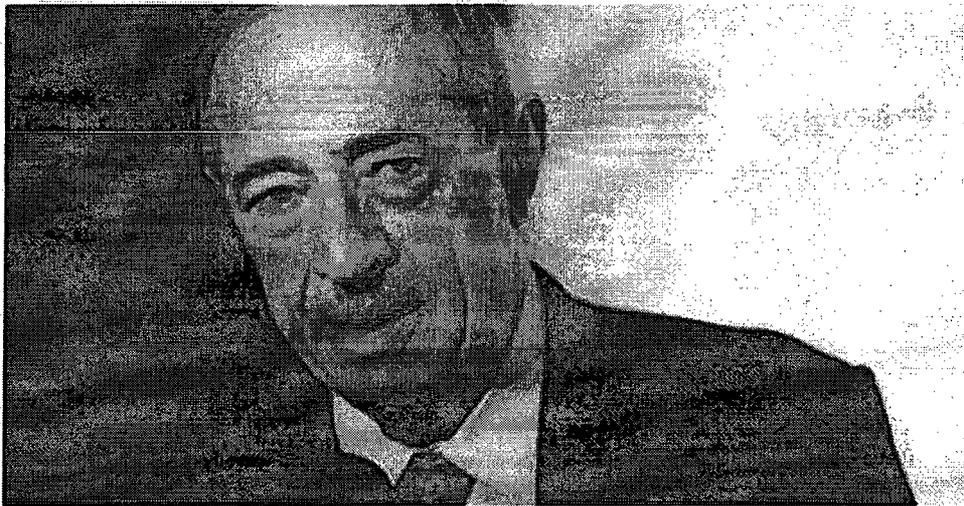
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"Sinn Féin is committed to building on the progress made by the Executive parties over recent days. It is our intention to carry this positive work forward in the time ahead."

ENDS/CRÍOCH

Adams Extends Sympathy to Cuomo Family on News of Death of Mario Cuomo



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams has expressed his "deep shock and sadness at the

death of former New York Governor Mario Cuomo" and he extended his "sincerest sympathies to the Cuomo family and to the Democratic Party."

Mario Cuomo was Governor of New York for three terms from 1983 until 1994 during which time he was very supportive of efforts to secure a visa for the Sinn Féin leader to visit the USA and to end conflict in Ireland and to build a peace process.

Gerry Adams said;

"Mario Cuomo was a champion for justice and equality.

"He believed passionately in the principles of fairness, care and compassion.

"He was a renowned orator and used that skill to articulate his vision of a liberal America that embraced all her citizens and provided for them.

"Mario Cuomo brought that passion for justice and equality to his view of Ireland.

"He was outspoken on the need for an inclusive peace process. He also advocated for the granting of a visa to me in the early 90s.

"He has left a proud and lasting legacy.

"My deepest sympathy to his family and friends in particular to his son Andrew, who was inaugurated New York Governor for a second term on the day his father died."

2015 offers choice between failed politics of past or genuine republican alternative - Adams

In a New Year message for 2015, Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD said:

"The Fine Gael/Labour coalition has lost its mandate and now clings to power, imposing policies that are alienating huge numbers of citizens, as it stumbles from one political crisis to another.

"May's Local and European election results were a clear message that the government needed to change political direction but they refused to listen.

"The over-riding theme of the Fine Gael/Labour coalition has been a deeply unfair economic policy.

"It has imposed destructive austerity measures on struggling families and vulnerable citizens. Its budgets have been among the most regressive in the state's history.

"The imposition of domestic water charges in the face of huge public opposition is the final straw for many.

"In the year ahead, Sinn Féin will continue to fight the water charges until they are scrapped.

"As we head into 2015, Irish society faces a choice between the failed politics of the conservative parties who have ruled the 26-County State since the 1920s – or a genuine republican alternative that offers the prospect of radical political change.

"In the North, the most vulnerable have been protected against Tory welfare and budget cuts. Progress has also been made with regard to the issues of flags, the past and parading.

"But much more needs to be done. The British and Irish Governments have failed to deliver on commitments such as a Bill of Rights, Acht na Gaeilge, and an inquiry into the killing of Pat Finucane and other matters.

"However, the Stormont House Agreement demonstrates that with the five main parties acting together, significant progress can be made to safeguard the most vulnerable and rebuild the reputation of the political institutions.

"As we look forward to a new year Sinn Féin will continue to work towards a United Ireland and a new republic which cherishes all identities and puts the interests of citizens first.

"For now, I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

"Bliain úr faoi mhaise daoibh go léir." ENDS/CRÍOCH

Brehon Law Society Welcomes

Outcome of Talks

The Brehon Law Society welcomes the successful outcome of the all-party talks in Ireland and commends all parties for their efforts. As an organization that has been involved with human rights issues in Ireland for over 30 years, we are particularly pleased that mechanisms to deal with the legacy issues of the past have been agreed. Now it is imperative that all parties act to ensure their implementation and guarantee the equality principles which are the foundation of the Good Friday Agreement.

-SEAN DOWNES, ESQ.

Brehon Law Society

AOH on Northern Ireland Agreement

News that a settlement on issues assuring continued achievement of the aspirations contained in the Good Friday Agreement brings further joy to this Christmas Season. The Irish, British, and Stormont Governments, as well as all parties committed to moving forward, are to be congratulated.

However, the continuing challenge for all of the above is to assure that ideals become realities, that peace and justice prevail, and that there is now no going back. Indeed, Merry Christmas to all!

Brendan Moore,
National President
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

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For the Irish Government, it's all about the elections, stupid

Friends of Sinn Féin



**For the Irish Government, it's all About the
Elections, Stupid**

[CLICK HERE](#) for the new article from Declan Kearney in An Phoblacht

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Irish government acted as junior partner in negotiation

Friends of **Sinn Féin**



Irish government acted as junior partner in negotiation

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD writing in his weekly blog which is published today in the Andersonstown News accuses the Irish government of adopting a "short-sighted selfish electoral political agenda. They took on the role of junior partner and allowed the British government to set the agenda and the pace of negotiations and sat passively as the British tried to dictate the outcome."

Gerry Adams described the Irish government's tabling of a joint government paper that excluded a Bill of Rights and Acht na Gaeilge and talked only of 'language strategies' as disgraceful. And he accused it of acquiescing "to the British government's use of 'national security' to deny information to victims and to the British demand to end the right of families of victims to an inquest in the coroners' courts.

Nor was there any guarantee in the paper tabled by the two governments that the Dublin and Monaghan bombings would be considered under their proposed new 'civil Inquisitorial' process under the new Historical Investigations Unit. By refusing to

accept these proposals Sinn Féin succeeded in forging an agreement with the other parties that is stronger than the one produced by the two governments.”

The Full text of Mr Adams blog:

Sinn Féin's objectives throughout the recent negotiations, which led to the Stormont House Agreement were very clear. These were to agree a comprehensive deal to protect the most vulnerable in society, to safeguard the rights and entitlements of citizens, to deliver on outstanding agreements, to grow the economy and to enhance the working of the institutions.

It wasn't an easy negotiation. The ability of the five Executive parties to defend front-line public services, including health and education, to defend the poor, people with disabilities, the elderly and disadvantaged, and to create jobs, was being significantly undermined by British Tory demands for welfare cuts, as well as by the £1.5 billion cut to the block grant since 2011. This Austerity policy is similar to Dublin's and was actively endorsed by the Taoiseach and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Sinn Féin was steadfast in our opposition to this agenda.

The British government's failure to honour its commitments made in the Good Friday and other agreements, such as an inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane was another important factor in why the political process was in such a mess.

There is little incentive for political unionism to move forward in a consistent and progressive way if a British government is not giving clear and unambiguous leadership and implementing commitments.

The British government's refusal to back the Haass proposals to deal with the vexed issues of identity, parading and the legacy of past had succeeded only in emboldening unionist hostility to the power sharing institutions.

By the time the Taoiseach and British Prime Minister arrived in Belfast on December 11th there was no great optimism that progress could be achieved. Their departure 24 hours later led many to believe that the negotiations were over and that the political institutions were at real risk of collapsing. This intervention amounted to little more than a charade.

It was not a serious endeavour. The presentation of a deeply flawed joint paper by the Irish and British governments on a take it or leave it basis and the approach of both the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister during those talks was amateurish and ham fisted. It effectively sought to nationalise austerity with Irish government support for the British Tory efforts to hurt the most vulnerable citizens in the north.

The Irish government's preparedness to sign up for a joint government paper that failed to mention Acht na Gaeilge and talked only of 'language strategies' was equally disgraceful.

It also acquiesced to the British government's use of 'national security' to deny information to victims and to the British demand to end the right of families of victims to an inquest in the coroners' courts.

Nor was there any guarantee in the paper tabled by the two governments that the Dublin and Monaghan bombings would be considered under their proposed new 'civil Inquisitorial' process under the new Historical Investigations Unit.

So, on December 12th David Cameron returned to London and the Taoiseach to Dublin leaving the process in a worse state than when they came.

Despite the negative approach of the two governments the Sinn Féin leadership remained determined to find solutions. A consensus was reached, at the initiative of Martin McGuinness and under the leadership of Martin and Peter Robinson, among the Executive parties to push for a real and meaningful negotiation.

Six days later and following lengthy discussions, many of them into the wee hours of the morning, and at least one all-night session, an Agreement was achieved.

The total value of the British government's revised financial proposals amount to almost £2 billion – double what was originally offered.

This includes £650 million of new and additional funding, including up to £500 million over 10 years of new capital to support shared and integrated education.

Crucially, there will be no reductions in welfare payments under the control of the Executive. The new welfare protections are unique to the north and are in sharp contrast to the austerity-driven welfare system being rolled out in Britain or the austerity driven focus of the government in Dublin. Anti-poverty measures will be retained in the north.

On the wider political issues significant progress was achieved. These include:

- The effort to close off access to inquests to the families of victims of the conflict was defeated.
- The two governments will endorse the respect for and recognition of the Irish language consistent with the Council of Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.

- Work will commence on considering whether the devolution additional fiscal powers needed to grow the economy can be progressed.
- A detailed proposal on a Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition was agreed, including its make-up and remit.
- Legislation on parades will be prepared with proper regard for fundamental rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.

The agreement, like all previous agreements, is only as good as the determination on the part of the participants to implement it.

I would urge the Irish government to accept that the success and stability of the peace and political process in the north and the all-island institutions are bigger and more important than any short-sighted selfish electoral political agenda.

The peace process is the most important political project on this island at this time. It needs to be nurtured and protected and enhanced. Notwithstanding the other political priorities of the moment it must remain at the top of the government's agenda.

I welcome other financial commitments, including €25 million annually for the A5 project; as well as some additional funding for reconciliation and for EU Peace and Interreg programmes.

These and the renewed commitment by the government to the Narrow Water and the Ulster Canal projects are important developments. Action is now needed.

As we approach the centenary of the 1916 Rising and later of the Tan War there is an historic opportunity to resolve the real 'national question'; end the partition of this island; end sectarianism, and create a new republic. These should be the goals of all progressive political forces on this island.

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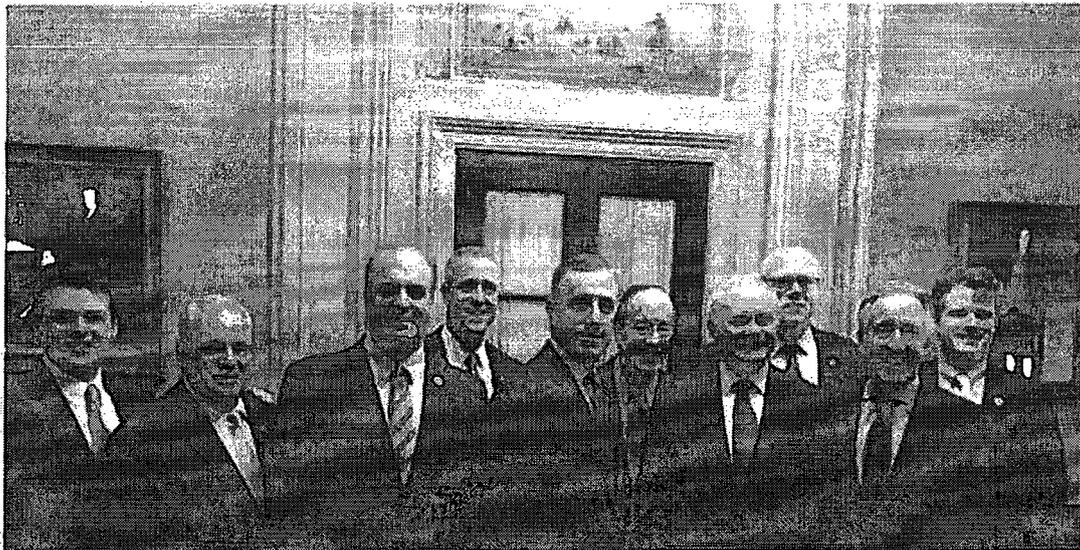
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'Agreement Paves Way for New
US Investment'

- McGuinness





From Left to Right Congressman **Brendan Boyle** PA 13th District, Congressman **Michael Doyle** PA 14th District, Congressman **Dan Kildee** MI 5th District, Congressman **Sean Maloney** NY 18th District, Congressman **Tim Murphy** PA 18th District, Congressman **Eliot Engel** NY 16th District, Deputy First Minister **Martin McGuinness**, Congressman **Joseph Crowley** NY 14th District, Congressman **Richard Neal** MA 1st District, Congressman **Joseph Kennedy** MA 4th District

There is a strong likelihood of new trade and political missions to the North in the wake of the Stormont House Agreement, Sinn Fein MLA Martin McGuinness has said.

Mr. McGuinness was speaking after a short visit to the US this week during which he attended President Barack Obama's 'State of the Union' address in Washington and met with key figures on Capitol Hill and in New York.

He commented: "I was honoured to be invited to the State of the Union address by Congressman Richard Neal who has been an influential and hugely supportive figure since the very early days of the Irish peace process.

"Successive US administrations have been pivotal in terms of the progress we have made away from a very bitter and protracted conflict. Countless other individuals, lobby groups and organisations have also played a crucial role. And of course in the most recent negotiation, the influence of Secretary of State John Kerry and Senator Gary Hart was a crucial factor in securing the deal which built on the excellent work done by Richard Haass and Meghan O'Sullivan twelve months previously.

"I was very glad of the opportunity to again record our appreciation for those efforts and the ongoing support shown by both the administration and ordinary citizens in the United States. That support has been vital, particularly at times of crisis, and I believe the US will continue to play a key role as we now move to the implementation of the agreement.

"It was also very clear from the course of my discussions that there is still a very strong interest in the US and over the next short while, there is a strong possibility of new trade and

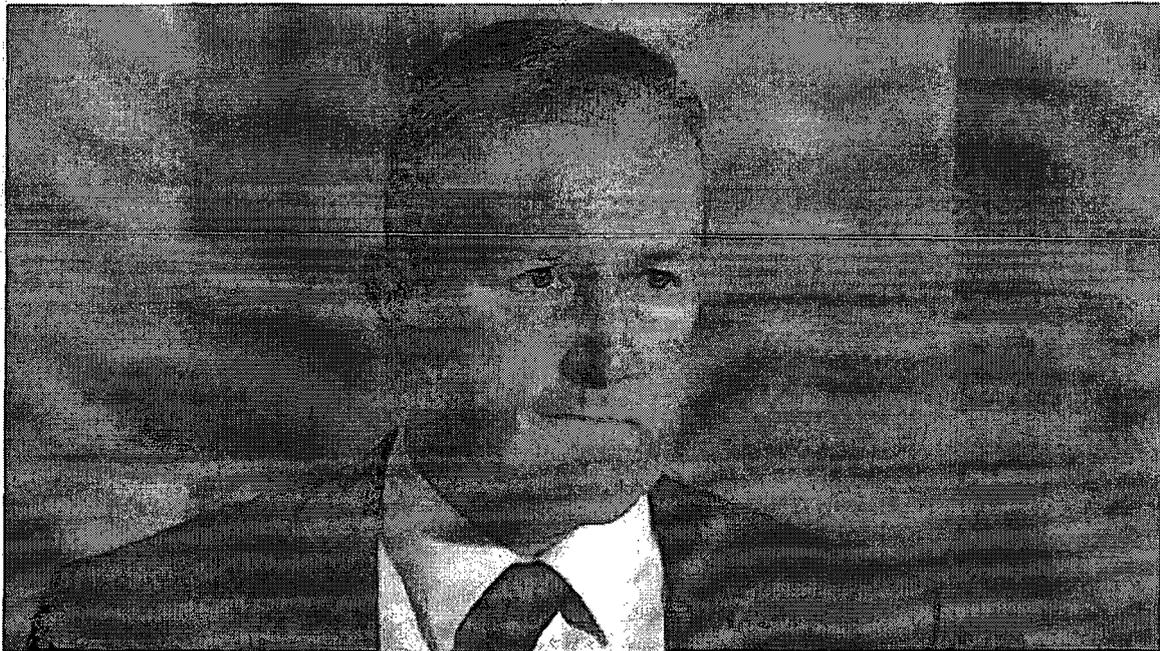
political missions to the north, including a visit by potential investors to Derry and Belfast."

Investment

Mr. McGuinness also stressed that America remains keen to help build peace and prosperity in Ireland. He said: "Everywhere I went this week, I was met with open doors and a willingness to continue playing an active role in the peace process. I met with many members of Congress and the Senate, the State Department and other key figures in both Washington and New York and the consistent message was that they all wanted to help in any way they could, both in terms of the peace process and attracting more foreign direct investment to Ireland.

"That enduring commitment to Ireland speaks volumes, particularly at a time when there are so many competing priorities across the globe and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the US in weeks, months and years ahead."

Murphy Brands Tabloid Story 'Pure Fiction'



Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy has poured scorn on a story in the Sun newspaper indicating that Labour and Sinn Féin have been involved in talks regarding the outcome of the forthcoming Westminster election branding the story as 'pure fiction'.

Speaking today Mr Murphy said:

"The story in the Sun is pure fiction and another example of the lazy, gutter journalism associated with this particular newspaper.

"Sinn Féin's position on Westminster is very well known. We work hard in delivering a good service to our voters but we do not take our seats in Westminster.

"We have met with all of the major British political parties in the line of our work as MPs over many years and have made this clear time and time again.

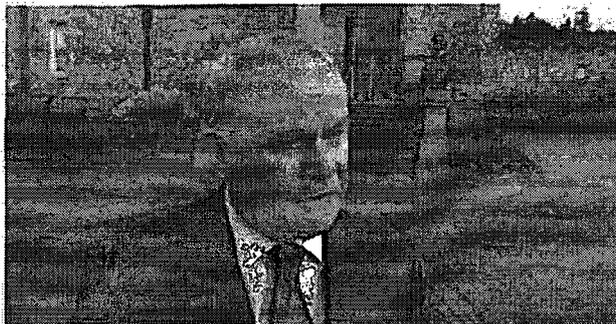
"None of these parties have ever asked us over the course of these meetings to support them on the other side of an election.

"Our position on refusing to take our seats at Westminster has been repeatedly endorsed by our electorate and this remains our position as we face into this year's election."

Sinn Fein to Build on Success of 2014

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

Conditions Never Better to Achieve United Ireland – McGuinness



Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said the next three elections offer the opportunity to make a united Ireland inevitable.

Speaking at the Sinn Féin Six-County Cúige AGM in Omagh today, Mr McGuinness said;

"Sinn Féin has emerged from the recent negotiations in a stronger position. Our defence of the most vulnerable and our opposition to austerity – whether it is spawned in London or Dublin – was vindicated.

"The Stormont House Agreement was the best deal possible but, like all agreements, it is the implementation which will tell the story. We are now in that phase and we have made a good start and I want to recognise the positive leadership of Peter Robinson in making and adhering to the agreement.

"Over the coming period we are facing three crucial elections at Westminster, the Assembly and the Dáil.

"These elections give us the opportunity to take more huge strides towards our ultimate goal, to put our struggle on to a new trajectory where the unity of our country and the establishment of the 1916 Republic becomes inevitable.

"I have appealed for an alliance of progressive parties in the coming Westminster and Assembly elections to maximise the representation of pro-Agreement parties.

"I believe that the SDLP's rejection of my call is a serious political mistake and represents a lost opportunity.

"It demonstrates a lack of strategic vision on the part of the SDLP leadership and is further evidence that they are out of step with the voters and the grassroots.

"I am calling on them once again to seize the opportunity to send out a clear message of support for progressive politics, the Good Friday Agreement and genuine power sharing and partnership government.

"In my view the conditions have never been better for the republican ideal to take root in Ireland.

"Every day more and more people across the island are endorsing our vision of a better future and a new nation founded on genuine fairness and equality."

FULL ADDRESS:

What we achieved in the Stormont House Agreement should not be underestimated. The two years leading up to the negotiation were the worst I have known since taking up the post of deputy First Minister.

We faced a disengaged British Government, an openly hostile Dublin Government and a DUP leadership that was being increasingly driven by the wreckers, inside and outside its own ranks.

Add to that the austerity agenda of the Tory administration, their unrelenting attack on the welfare state and the Executive's block grant and we faced – just a few weeks ago – the imminent prospect of the institutions collapsing under the weight of this perfect storm of political and economic crisis.

Our opponents – and many within the media – felt sure that Sinn Fein would buckle in the face of this perfect storm.

But we didn't. Against all the odds and against all the forces reined against us, we stood firm.

We stood firm on the need to protect the most vulnerable.

We stood firm on the rights of victims.

We stood firm on our opposition to austerity and the raiding of the block grant.

We stood firm on the primacy of the Good Friday and St Andrew's Agreements.

And the force of our arguments won out. We succeeded in forcing the negotiation in the first place and then uniting the Executive parties around the need to challenge the British Government.

We succeeded in doing so and we achieved a deal which provides the protections for the most vulnerable that we consistently demanded when, for months, we were told no more was possible.

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The best thing that we as republicans can do to counteract that is to build our own political strength.

Over the coming period, we have the opportunity to do just that in three crucial elections at Westminster, the Assembly and the Dail.

Those elections come as millions of people around the world prepare to mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. Sinn Fein will of course play a leading role in many of those events and we have our own programme planned to ensure a fitting tribute is paid to our patriot dead.

But the most fitting tribute we can pay is to realise the Republic envisaged in 1916. We are the only party with the ability and the desire to do that.

It is who we are and it is why we do what we do.

And our goal is within our grasp.

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into the debate: we strongly believe and advocate that 16 year-olds should be given the opportunity to vote and participate in the political process.

And I have absolutely no doubt that Scotland is now on that inevitable trajectory to freedom.

The challenge to us is to put our own struggle onto the same trajectory.

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I am calling on them once again to seize the opportunity to send out a clear message of support for progressive politics, the Good Friday Agreement and genuine power sharing and partnership government.

In my view the conditions have never been better for the republican ideal to take root in Ireland. Every day more and more people across the island are endorsing our vision of a better future and a new nation founded on genuine fairness and equality.

We have the means to achieve that. We have the opportunity. And we have - in all of you - the people to make it a reality.

Now we have to go out and achieve it.

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CAJ Report - The Apparatus of Impunity

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A Message from Niall Murphy KRW Law - See Important Links Below

A Chairde

Please see enclosed weblink to the report launched this morning by the Committee on the Administration of Justice at Queens University Belfast.

I commend this report in the highest terms. It is an exceptional encyclopaedic analysis cataloguing all of the mechanisms by which the British State have achieved impunity for their crimes during the conflict. I have CC'd the director of CAJ Brian Gormally and the author of the report Daniel Holder.

The report is up to date and tracks the history of talks aimed at resolving these difficulties and from Eames Bradley, to Stormont House Agreement via Haass. Disturbingly the leader of the UUP said on Radio Ulster this morning that he considered that the Stormont House Agreement was already in danger of

unravelling.

The report exhaustively tracks the methods deployed to corrupt the work of the Police Ombudsman, public inquiries, the HET and also the Inquest system. I enclose an presentation of my own on the specific topic of Inquests from the Conference organised by Martina Anderson and the UUJ before Christmas which was attended by the European Commissioner on Human Rights, wherein he made very positive and strident remarks about state impunity, which are covered in the report.

The report further covers the methods used to frustrate access to Justice, such as control of personnel through retire / rehire, control of documents through destruction (asbestos) and the control of resources and the unaccounted costs of the cover up, which builds on the groundbreaking work by Mark Thompson at RFJ.

I'll leave you with the concluding quote which is as succinct a summary of the situation as has composed in recent years.

Human rights cannot be protected without the rule of law. Misconduct by those tasked with upholding the law undermines the rule of law in a drastic and obvious manner. Impunity for such agents negates any concept of the impartiality of law and demonstrates that the coercive power of the state is not to be used to protect peoples' rights but instead as an instrument of arbitrary power. That is why the human rights movement in every country and collectively opposes impunity, demands justice for victims and perpetrators and seeks guarantees of non-recurrence.

Adh mór

Niall

Important Links Below

[CAJ Report Link](#)

[Irish Times Article](#)

[BBC Article](#)

[Transitional Justice Ulster](#)

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Irish government acted as junior partner in negotiation

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD writing in his weekly blog which is published today in the Andersonstown News accuses the Irish government of adopting a "short-sighted selfish electoral political agenda. They took on the role of junior partner and allowed the British government to set the agenda and the pace of negotiations and sat passively as the British tried to dictate the outcome."

Gerry Adams described the Irish government's tabling of a joint government paper that excluded a Bill of Rights and Acht na Gaeilge and talked only of 'language strategies' as disgraceful. And he accused it of acquiescing "to the British government's use of 'national security' to deny information to victims and to the British demand to end the right of families of victims to an inquest in the coroners' courts.

Nor was there any guarantee in the paper tabled by the two governments that the Dublin and Monaghan bombings would be considered under their proposed new 'civil Inquisitorial' process under the new Historical Investigations Unit. By refusing to accept these proposals Sinn Féin succeeded in forging an agreement with the other p[arties that is stronger than the one produced by the two governments."

The Full text of Mr Adams blog:

Sinn Féin's objectives throughout the recent negotiations, which led to the Stormont House Agreement were very clear. These were to agree a comprehensive deal to protect the most vulnerable in society, to safeguard the rights and entitlements of citizens, to deliver on outstanding agreements, to grow the economy and to enhance the working of the institutions.

It wasn't an easy negotiation. The ability of the five Executive parties to defend front-line public services, including health and education, to defend the poor, people with disabilities, the elderly and disadvantaged, and to create jobs, was being significantly undermined by British Tory demands for welfare cuts, as well as by the €1.5 billion

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undetermined by British Tory demands for welfare cuts, as well as by the 2.1% billion cut to the block grant since 2011. This Austerity policy is similar to Dublin's and was actively endorsed by the Taoiseach and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Sinn Féin was steadfast in our opposition to this agenda.

The British government's failure to honour its commitments made in the Good Friday and other agreements, such as an inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane was another important factor in why the political process was in such a mess.

There is little incentive for political unionism to move forward in a consistent and progressive way if a British government is not giving clear and unambiguous leadership and implementing commitments.

The British government's refusal to back the Haass proposals to deal with the vexed issues of identity, parading and the legacy of past had succeeded only in emboldening unionist hostility to the power sharing institutions.

By the time the Taoiseach and British Prime Minister arrived in Belfast on December 11th there was no great optimism that progress could be achieved. Their departure 24 hours later led many to believe that the negotiations were over and that the political institutions were at real risk of collapsing. This intervention amounted to little more than a charade.

It was not a serious endeavour. The presentation of a deeply flawed joint paper by the Irish and British governments on a take it or leave it basis and the approach of both the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister during those talks was amateurish and ham fisted. It effectively sought to nationalise austerity with Irish government support for the British Tory efforts to hurt the most vulnerable citizens in the north.

The Irish government's preparedness to sign up for a joint government paper that failed to mention Acht na Gaeilge and talked only of 'language strategies' was equally disgraceful.

It also acquiesced to the British government's use of 'national security' to deny information to victims and to the British demand to end the right of families of victims to an inquest in the coroners' courts.

Nor was there any guarantee in the paper tabled by the two governments that the Dublin and Monaghan bombings would be considered under their proposed new 'civil Inquisitorial' process under the new Historical Investigations Unit.

So, on December 12th David Cameron returned to London and the Taoiseach to Dublin leaving the process in a worse state than when they came.

Despite the negative approach of the two governments the Sinn Féin leadership remained determined to find solutions. A consensus was reached, at the initiative of Martin McGuinness and under the leadership of Martin and Peter Robinson, among the Executive parties to push for a real and meaningful negotiation.

Six days later and following lengthy discussions, many of them into the wee hours of the morning, and at least one all-night session, an Agreement was achieved.

The total value of the British government's revised financial proposals amount to almost £2 billion – double what was originally offered.

This includes £650 million of new and additional funding, including up to £500 million over 10 years of new capital to support shared and integrated education.

Crucially, there will be no reductions in welfare payments under the control of the Executive. The new welfare protections are unique to the north and are in sharp contrast to the austerity-driven welfare system being rolled out in Britain or the austerity driven focus of the government in Dublin. Anti-poverty measures will be retained in the north.

On the wider political issues significant progress was achieved. These include:

- The effort to close off access to inquests to the families of victims of the conflict was defeated.
- The two governments will endorse the respect for and recognition of the Irish language consistent with the Council of Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.
- Work will commence on considering whether the devolution additional fiscal powers needed to grow the economy can be progressed.
- A detailed proposal on a Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition was agreed, including its make-up and remit.
- Legislation on parades will be prepared with proper regard for fundamental rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.

The agreement, like all previous agreements, is only as good as the determination on the part of the participants to implement it.

I would urge the Irish government to accept that the success and stability of the peace and political process in the north and the all-island institutions are bigger and more important than any short-sighted selfish electoral political agenda.

The peace process is the most important political project on this island at this time. It needs to be nurtured and protected and enhanced. Notwithstanding the other political priorities of the moment it must remain at the top of the government's agenda.

I welcome other financial commitments, including €25 million annually for the A5 project; as well as some additional funding for reconciliation and for EU Peace and Interreg programmes.

These and the renewed commitment by the government to the Narrow Water and the Ulster Canal projects are important developments. Action is now needed.

As we approach the centenary of the 1916 Rising and later of the Tan War there is an historic opportunity to resolve the real 'national question'; end the partition of this island; end sectarianism, and create a new republic. These should be the goals of all progressive political forces on this island.

Conditions Never Better to Achieve United Ireland – McGuinness



Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said the next three elections offer the opportunity to make a united Ireland inevitable.

Speaking at the Sinn Féin Six-County Cúige AGM in Omagh today, Mr McGuinness said;

"Sinn Féin has emerged from the recent negotiations in a stronger position. Our defence of the most vulnerable and our opposition to austerity – whether it is spawned in London or Dublin – was vindicated.

"The Stormont House Agreement was the best deal possible but, like all agreements, it is the

implementation which will tell the story. We are now in that phase and we have made a good start and I want to recognise the positive leadership of Peter Robinson in making and adhering to the agreement.

"Over the coming period we are facing three crucial elections at Westminster, the Assembly and the Dáil.

"These elections give us the opportunity to take more huge strides towards our ultimate goal, to put our struggle on to a new trajectory where the unity of our country and the establishment of the 1916 Republic becomes inevitable.

"I have appealed for an alliance of progressive parties in the coming Westminster and Assembly elections to maximise the representation of pro-Agreement parties.

"I believe that the SDLP's rejection of my call is a serious political mistake and represents a lost opportunity.

"It demonstrates a lack of strategic vision on the part of the SDLP leadership and is further evidence that they are out of step with the voters and the grassroots.

"I am calling on them once again to seize the opportunity to send out a clear message of support for progressive politics, the Good Friday Agreement and genuine power sharing and partnership government.

"In my view the conditions have never been better for the republican ideal to take root in Ireland.

"Every day more and more people across the island are endorsing our vision of a better future and a new nation founded on genuine fairness and equality."

FULL ADDRESS:

What we achieved in the Stormont House Agreement should not be underestimated. The two years leading up to the negotiation were the worst I have known since taking up the post of deputy First Minister.

We faced a disengaged British Government, an openly hostile Dublin Government and a DUP leadership that was being increasingly driven by the wreckers, inside and outside its own ranks.

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Add to that the austerity agenda of the Tory administration, their unrelenting attack on the welfare state and the Executive's block grant and we faced – just a few weeks ago – the imminent prospect of the institutions collapsing under the weight of this perfect storm of political and economic crisis.

Our opponents – and many within the media – felt sure that Sinn Fein would buckle in the face of this perfect storm.

But we didn't. Against all the odds and against all the forces reined against us, we stood firm.

We stood firm on the need to protect the most vulnerable.

We stood firm on the rights of victims.

We stood firm on our opposition to austerity and the raiding of the block grant.

We stood firm on the primacy of the Good Friday and St Andrew's Agreements.

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In the course of the meeting we expressed our sense that the Stormont House Agreement has created the potential for a fresh start for politics.

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Sinn Fein Announces Program for 100th Aniv. of Easter Rebellion

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More information on the event launch at sinnfein.ie/1916

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Clarification regarding previous email: Sinn Fein is not responsible for organizing and selling the Tour Packages. If you are interested in these packages please follow up with <http://www.exploringvacations.com/>

Best,

Conor Duffy

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FOSF - MID FEBRUARY NEWS UPDATE 2015

**Kelly Raises Sean Brown Inquest Delays
at Policing Board**





Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has said the PSNI delays to the inquest into the murder of GAA official Sean Brown are unacceptable.

Speaking after raising the issue at a meeting of the Policing Board, Mr Kelly said;

"At today's meeting of the Policing Board's performance committee we challenged the deputy chief constable over the ongoing delays over the inquest of Sean Brown, who was shot dead by loyalists in Bellaghy in 1997, and other coronial inquests.

"We were given reasons for the delays but that does not change the fact that the delays are unacceptable. The Brown family are waiting almost 18 years on an inquest and have suffered 24 delays so far.

"I and the other Sinn Féin Policing Board members made it clear to the deputy chief constable that the family of Sean Brown and other families deserve justice. They have already waited too long.

"These families are entitled to justice and it is totally unacceptable that they have had to face continual delays.

"Sinn Féin will continue to support the Brown family and others in their campaign for access to truth and justice." **ENDS/CRÍOCH**

Ballykelly Transformation Underway -Ó hOisín

Sinn Féin MLA Cathal O hOisín has said it was hugely symbolic that work has begun to transform the former British Army site at Ballykelly into an economic catalyst for the entire

region.

Speaking from the site Mr Ó hOisín said,

“Today is a landmark day for Ballykelly as the bulldozers began to demolish the former buildings in Shackleton Barracks and plans were unveiled for its future role.

“The Agriculture Minister Michelle O’Neill stated she hoped the first occupants in the new DARD headquarters would be on site by 2017. My party colleague Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness revealed that there is a lot of interest in the site from many companies.

“This is a vast site which has the potential to be divided up into a mixture of industrial, social and office space able to attract all types of jobs.

“This is great news for the region especially the Limavady and Ballykelly area and as the plans are brought to fruition they have the potential to improve the entire economic picture for the better.

“I look forward to working with the site managers in helping to attract new investors into the Ballykelly area and seeing the site developed for the betterment of all the people in this area.”



Exclusive: Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister, writes for Belfast Telegraph

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Pat Finucane Campaign for Truth Highlighted

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Terry Lavery, the Ballymurphy Massacre and a Miscarriage of Justice

KRW LAW LLP

Terry Lavery was an 18 year old boy on the evening of 11th August 1971 when he went out onto the streets of the Ballymurphy area of West Belfast. Terry and gone out with his older brother, John Lavery, as this was the start of the British army's Operation Demetrius internment policy in the North of Ireland. There were troops patrolling the streets of Ballymurphy and during the course of the 11th August 1971, 11 innocent civilians were shot and killed. These included Terry Lavery's older brother John. Terry and John had become separated during the confusion. The soldiers who killed John Lavery apprehended Terry, threatened him, abused him and took him to Gridwood Barracks. There he was violently beaten. He did not know that he brother was dead. He was held for 56 hours.

Terry Lavery made a confession to the RUC following his torture and was sentenced to six months in the Crumlin Road Jail for riotous behaviour. Since that time Terry Lavery has campaigned for the truth regarding the murder of his brother by the British army and his own wrongful conviction and sentence for a crime he has always maintained he did not commit.

In 2009, on behalf of Terry Lavery, KRW LAW LLP applied to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) for his conviction and sentence to be examined. Together with the NGOs Relatives for Justice and British Irish Rights Watch, we assisted the CCRC on behalf of Terry Lavery. On this basis the CCRC recommended that Terry Lavery's conviction and sentence to be reviewed by the courts. Today Terry Lavery's conviction was quashed and his innocence exonerated and justice, at last, was done

Kevin Winters of KRW LAW LLP said "We have been proud to be instructed by Terry Lavery in his quest for justice to overturn an unlawful conviction following the Ballymurphy Massacre 1971 in which his brother John was murdered by the British Army. Terry Lavery has now had his conviction and sentence for a miscarriage of justice reviewed and quashed after 44 years. His innocence of this crime has been proved, the quest he pursued with his family has been exonerated and this decision importantly informs the on-going quest for answers about that dreadful night in 1971 which became known as the Ballymurphy Massacre of which Terry was a victim and which saw the murder of his brother and other innocent civilians."

Welcome for Irish Language Consultation - McCorley

Sinn Féin MLA Rosie McCorley has said that the consultation launched by the DCAL Minister Carál Ní Chuilín is an opportunity for Irish language enthusiasts to help shape Acht Na Gaeilge.

Ms. McCorley stated,

"The consultation being launched today by the Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín is an opportunity for people to help shape Acht na Gaeilge.

"The Irish language is a living language with more and more people communicating through the medium of Irish and these people have a right to conduct all their business through Irish.

"Acht na Gaeilge is a commitment under the St Andrews Agreement and will help bring equality to those who use the language on a daily basis including legal rights.

"The use of the language is a threat to no one and people should embrace diversity by

engaging with the consultation which will last for twelve weeks."

"The consultation can be accessed on www.deaini.gov.uk/index/quick-links/consultation.htm and I would urge people to make a submission before the 12 week consultation period ends."

I Won't be Deterred by Rocket Attack Threat – McGuinness



Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said he will not be deterred from serving all the people of this community after being made aware of a plot to launch a rocket attack against him.

Mr McGuinness said;

"I have been made aware the PSNI has discovered a plan to launch a rocket attack against me.

"The PSNI has said that a group calling itself 'CIRA' considered an attack against me using a rocket launcher.

"I will not be silenced or deterred. These people are only interested in plunging us back into the past.

"If those behind this threat think they have ability to destroy the peace agreements which have been endorsed by the overwhelming majority of the people of Ireland then they are clearly detached from reality.

"They need to wise up, listen to the people of Ireland and abandon these futile actions.

"This threat will not stop me or anyone in Sinn Féin from our work in representing everyone

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Friends of Sinn Fein News Update March 2015

South Armagh Criminals Should Get Off The Backs of The People and The Peace Process

THE ATTEMPT TO KILL Frank McCabe Jnr outside Crossmaglen on Wednesday represents a new, violent escalation in the activities of crime gangs in the south Armagh and north Louth region.

Some of those involved are also central to an unrepresentative militarist faction opposed to the Peace Process and Sinn Féin's political strategy. This latest escalation follows death threats against Frank McCabe Snr and Conor Murphy MP in recent weeks.

Other victims of these gangs' activities include shooting Michael Bellew in Cullyhanna a year ago and killing Garda Adrian Donohoe in Lordship just over two years ago.

Despite PSNI and An Garda Síochána investigations, no one has ever been prosecuted for these crimes. The policing response to this latest incident will be very closely scrutinised both within south Armagh and wider afield.

That reality carries huge implications for policing and community relations in south Armagh. This area is a republican heartland and bedrock of support for Sinn Féin's peace strategy.

The party's electoral strength in the area and widespread respect for the local republican leadership was a central element in Sinn Féin's decision to support policing in 2007. Since then, party activists and representatives have worked tirelessly to build important relationships with the PSNI and also An Garda to make policing accountable, and to establish partnerships between both and the local community.

During this period, there has been a sinister and systematic upswing in criminality across the area. Diesel laundering, cigarette smuggling, cattle rustling, vehicle theft, financial extortion of local businesses and more have all become a blight on the local community. The gangs involved operate across the Border; they co-operate with each other and are inter-generational.

Most importantly, the police know their identities.

They are career criminals and yet both the PSNI and An Garda have failed to act against them, despite the active support of local people.

There is a widespread belief that the key figures among these gangs are acting with impunity.

An obvious corollary is that another agenda is in play.

It is no coincidence that a new propaganda offensive driven by some of the island's most notorious Crime and Security journalists has begun to demonise south Armagh in particular by disgracefully attributing the upsurge in criminality to republicans.

The reality is that, as the gangs operating have extended and expanded their range of criminal activities, the most prominent republican families associated with the Sinn Féin leadership - from Ballybinaby, through Dromintree to Cullyhanna - have all been physically attacked, threatened and targeted.

A concerted effort is underway to try and deflect republican activists in south Armagh and north Louth from promoting Sinn Féin's political strategy. However, whatever agendas or agencies are at work, they will fail. The local republican leadership and support base is just as determined to succeed in this phase of political struggle as well.

It is for that reason these violent, destabilising, criminal actions are escalating.

Those responsible are a cancer within the local community and a threat to the political and Peace Processes. But the progress within our society in terms of democratic change and support for policing cannot be taken for granted.

The PSNI and An Garda have a responsibility to prove they are up to the task and root these criminal elements out once and for all.

The proud people of south Armagh and north Louth must stand united to demand these criminals and militarists get off their backs.

The surrounding Border community should also mobilise in solidarity with their south Armagh neighbours against this criminal scourge.

On Sunday 1 March, a commemoration will remember Óglaigh Brendan Burns and Brendan Moley in Cullyhanna. Republicans from across Ireland should attend and stand in solidarity and support with the McCabe family and all

the republican families under threat from these criminals:

A resounding message needs to be sent to them to get off the backs of our people and to get off the back of the Peace Process.

1916 Commemoration Should Be Rescued From Revisionists



Cognitive dissonance: anxiety that results from simultaneously holding contradictory or otherwise incompatible attitudes, beliefs

WRITERS at the *Irish Independent* were left experiencing an acute bout of cognitive dissonance at the announcement by Sinn Féin of their centenary commemorations programme for the 1916 Rising.

While one could be forgiven for believing any journalist with a truly independent thought in their brain would have difficulty in not feeling conflicted in the Establishment echo chamber that is Independent House, the latest conundrum giving the *Indo* a pain in the membrane is something they've had 100 years to prepare for.

If the *Indo's* coverage at the time was anything to go by, then the 1916 Rising should be dismissed as a little more than a criminal insurrection instigated by traitors to the Crown. The trouble is, that doesn't quite line up with the overwhelming public perception of the rebellion, and the poor *Indo* had to change with the times.

After the Rising and the Tan War, and after the public had largely forgotten its cheerleading of Britain's execution squads, the *Indo* snuggled into a comfortable pro-Establishment position in the newly-founded state born out of violent revolution. But with the anniversary of 1916 looming large, there's panic in the air. The *Indo* is having difficulty riding two horses at once.

The plans, or lack of plans, by their buddies in Government to remember one of the great blows for Irish freedom have been denounced and ridiculed by the public as a complete omnishambles.

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin's series of events have received broad welcome from many across Irish society – including relatives of the 1916 leaders. With its classic hyperbole, the *Indo* screamed: "State should rescue 1916 centenary from tribal hijackings."

"Why 1916 relatives should shun Sinn Féin," was another. The rather confusing pieces which followed reflect a strand of opinion which runs through much of the mainstream media – the legitimacy of republicanism and of standing up to a foreign oppressor ended as soon as the conservative statelet came into existence in 1922.

Therefore, when Gerry Adams mentioned the unbroken chain of republican heroes from Wolfe Tone, to Robert Emmet, to Pádraig Pearse, Bobby Sands, Máire Drumm and Mairead Farrell . . . he should have stopped at Pearse.

Indo scribes believe it is unfathomable that Sinn Féin (whom they describe as a party "with a violent recent past") be allowed to commemorate the Easter Rising at all. That the Rising was actually a violent event in itself which left many hundreds dead, including uninvolved ('innocent') civilians, is an uncomfortable fact.

If some of Talbot Steer's revisionists got their way, schoolbooks would tell us that Constance Markievicz used only a feather duster against the enemy, and Pádraig Pearse stood on the roof of the GPO defiantly reciting poetry as the British gunboat HMS Helga sailed up the Liffey, justifiably pummeling north Dublin City into dust.

Much of the mainstream media's vitriol will be reserved for those among us who suggest that the Proclamation is unfinished business. Those in the North who had fought just as hard for their freedom and independence as the flying columns of Munster or Michael Collins's famous and very violent, death-dealing 'Squad' in Dublin, yet found themselves living in a sectarian one-party statelet run by religious supremacists, should have simply piped-down and accepted their fate as second-class citizens.

Another article claims that Sinn Féin have no links to 1916, instead "Fine Gael is the primary party which can claim lineal descent from 1916 leaders"! That will be news to many that a party **founded 17 years after the Rising** by the coalescing of a bunch of quasi-fascist and right-wing organisations is now the primary party of 1916.

Sinn Féin's "alarming" plans are "everything that this state has fought to distance itself from", we are told. On this point the *Indo* gets it right, even if that's not its intention. Because the state certainly has done everything in its power to distance itself from republicanism, from equality, and from the ideals of the Proclamation.

Does anybody seriously believe the men and women of 1916 fought to see a state ruled by a government subservient to foreign interests and imposing a vicious austerity programme against ordinary people at the behest of international capitalists?

The revisionists who blather on about fears of the commemoration being 'hijacked' by republicans intent on continuing the struggle for a united Ireland of equals would do well to remember the words of Pearse:

"A free Ireland would not, and could not, have hunger in her fertile vales and squalor in her cities.

"Ireland has resources to feed five times her population; a free Ireland will make those resources available.

"A free Ireland would drain the bogs, would harness the rivers, would plant the wastes, would improve the agriculture, would protect the fisheries, would foster industries, would promote commerce, would diminish extravagant expenditure, would beautify the cities, would educate the workers – would, in short, govern herself as no external power could govern her."

Action Needed Against Border Criminals – Adams



Speaking in the Dáil today, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD called on Taoiseach Enda Kenny to ensure Gardaí are given adequate resources to combat the activities of criminals operating in South Armagh/North Louth area.

Mr Adams was speaking in the wake of a major rally in South Armagh expressed solidarity with a

Mr Adams was speaking in the wake of a major rally in South Armagh expressed solidarity with a local republican family after Francis McCabe Junior was seriously injured in a booby trap bomb attack.

Mr Adams said:

“Following threats to republican families in south Armagh who have been forthright in their support for the PSNI and against criminality, a booby trap bomb was left close to the home of local Sinn Féin leader Frank McCabe.

“Francis McCabe Jnr, whose only offence is that he is from a republican family, and who is a good, decent, hard-working man and a good neighbour, was seriously injured.

“Those involved are part of a small number of criminals who have been responsible over the years for the killing of Volunteer Keith Rogers, the beating to death of Paul Quinn, the murder of Garda Adrian Donohoe, and the shooting of Michael Bellew.

“Some sections of the media and political opponents of Sinn Féin have attempted to blame republicans for this criminality.

“Their political opportunism has created an atmosphere in which these criminals believe they can carry out violent acts of intimidation, including murder.

“There is a strong suspicion that some are agents with a different agenda from the rest of us and they are opposed to Sinn Féin because the party stands against their activities.

“I call on the Taoiseach to ensure that adequate resources are given to An Garda Síochána to properly investigate the activities of these gangs?

“Urgent discussions between the government and the Executive are needed to ensure the border cannot be exploited by these gangs.”

Loyalist Bands Forum Move a Sign or New Community Relationships - Ó hÉára

Sinn Féin's Gearóid Ó hÉára has said the decision by a loyalist bands forum to attend this weekend's Sinn Féin Ard Fheis in Derry is a sign of maturing community relationships in the city.

Mr Ó hÉára said;

"Over recent years I have been involved in ongoing dialogue with loyalist bands from the Londonderry Bands Forum.

"Those discussions resulted in the historic scenes in 2013 when a loyalist band took part in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the city alongside musicians from across Ireland, uniting the traditions in our city.

"That positive engagement has continued and developed since then as the relationship between our communities has grown.

"In order to further promote reconciliation and understanding, Sinn Féin issued an invite to the Londonderry Bands Forum for its members to come along to our Ard Fheis in Derry this weekend.

"We are delighted the invitation has been accepted and that members of the bands forum will be there, engaging with republicans from right across Ireland, explaining what they do and what they are about.

"This is one of a number of ongoing initiatives to promote reconciliation in the city and is further evidence of the growing political and cultural maturity in the city."

There will be information provided regarding the attendee record setting 2015 Sinn Fein Ardfheis via Friends of Sinn Fein's Facebook check us out at [Facebook.com/fosfusa](https://www.facebook.com/fosfusa)

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Sinn Féin to Oppose Passage of Welfare Bill

Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has accused the DUP of acting in bad faith on welfare protections and has said that Sinn Féin will oppose the passage of the welfare bill in the assembly.

And the Deputy First Minister said that the DUP had reneged on its commitments in the Stormont House Agreement to protect the most vulnerable people in society.

Martin McGuinness said:

“Since the turn of the year Sinn Féin has engaged proactively and positively with the Party Leaders’ group to ensure the full implementation of the Stormont House agreement.

“We have honoured our commitments and have worked constructively to put in place

the welfare protections agreed last December.

"This package protects children with disabilities, adults with severe disabilities, the long-term sick and children in large families. We have been clear that the enactment of these protections is a red line issue for Sinn Féin.

"We have faithfully supported the implementation of the agreement on the floor of the Assembly.

"At Stormont House the five parties agreed a series of measures to protect the vulnerable and safeguard current and future welfare claimants under the control of the executive.

"However, the DUP have acted in bad faith and are now reneging on their commitments to protect the most vulnerable. It is their intention to provide only partial protection to current recipients of benefit and no protection whatsoever for future claimants.

"That is totally unacceptable. If the DUP want to strip benefits from children with disabilities, from adults with severe disabilities, the long-term sick; or push children further into poverty, then they need to explain and justify that. Sinn Féin certainly will not accept that approach.

"Until such times as the minister can produce a scheme for agreement which gives effect to the intent of the Stormont House Agreement by providing full protection for current and future claimants, Sinn Féin will not be in a position to support the Welfare Bill going through the Assembly.

"We are now pursuing a Petition of Concern.

"The DUP have attempted to effect Tory welfare cuts by subterfuge but at the heart of this crisis is the ideologically driven attack on the welfare state by the Tory-led government in London.

"As we have repeatedly stated publicly Sinn Féin will not be part of any agenda that punishes the most vulnerable in our society."

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Sinn Fein "Welfare the Facts" PDF

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Friends of Sinn Féin



Please find attached the pdf dossier below with the documentation which informed the agreement on Welfare Protections of 19 December 2014..

At all times Sinn Féin was absolutely clear both privately and publicly, that the Agreement was to provide full protection to current and new claimants of benefits under the control of the Executive.

This dossier proves that to be the case.

[Click here for PDF](#)

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Progress made in political talks –
McGuinness

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Friends of Sinn Féin



Progress made in political talks – McGuinness

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness said progress had been made today in talks on the current political impasse.

Martin McGuinness said:

“We have been involved in a series of meetings over the course of the day aimed at trying to find a way through the current difficulties facing the Executive.

“We have identified what we believe is a possible way forward.

“We have made progress but there is still work to be done.

“We will continue to work constructively in an effort to get a resolution.” **ENDS/CRÍOCH**

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March 16 2015 News Update

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Friends of **Sinn Féin**



McGuinness Focused on Finding Political Agreement

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness announced today that he would remain in Ireland to focus on finding political agreement rather than travelling to the US for St Patrick's Day.

Martin McGuinness said:

"The number one priority for me and my party is finding a resolution to the difficulties currently facing the Executive.

"The Sinn Féin team and I have engaged in this work positively and constructively.

"Progress has been made in talks between the parties but there is still a lot of work to be done.

"I have decided therefore in the best interests of trying to move the situation forward that I will not be travelling to the US to take part in events marking St Patrick's Day."

ENDS/CRÍOCH

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St. Patricks Day Update - Friends of Sinn Fein USA

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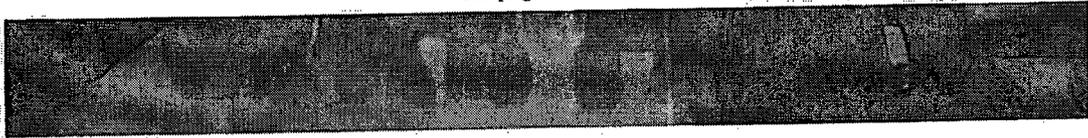
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St. Patricks Day 2015



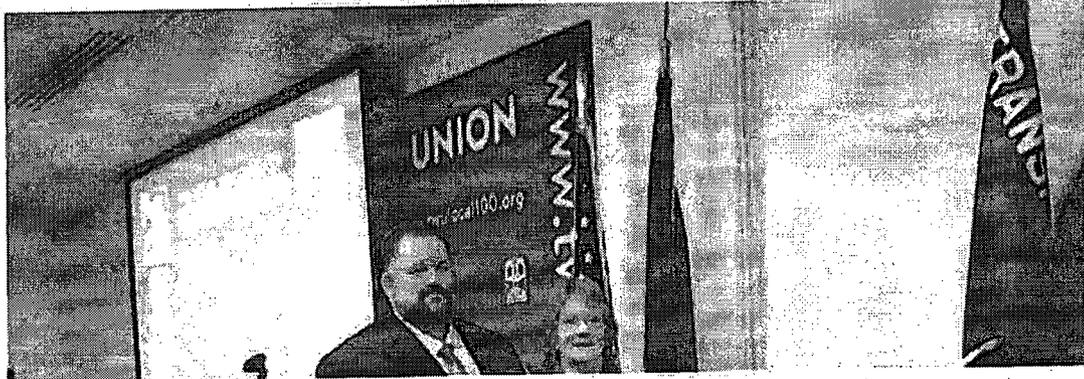
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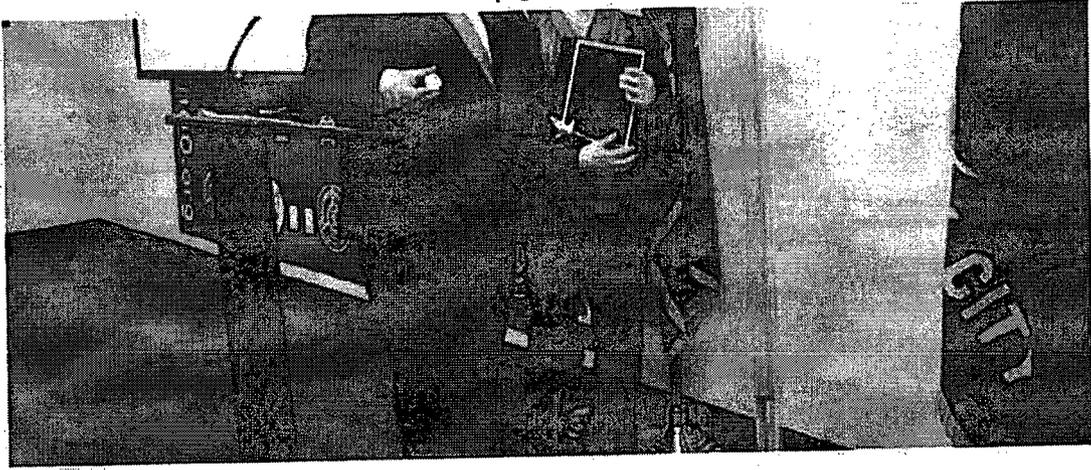
President of Sinn Fein Gerry Adams with members of Congress meet in US Capitol on St. Patricks Day



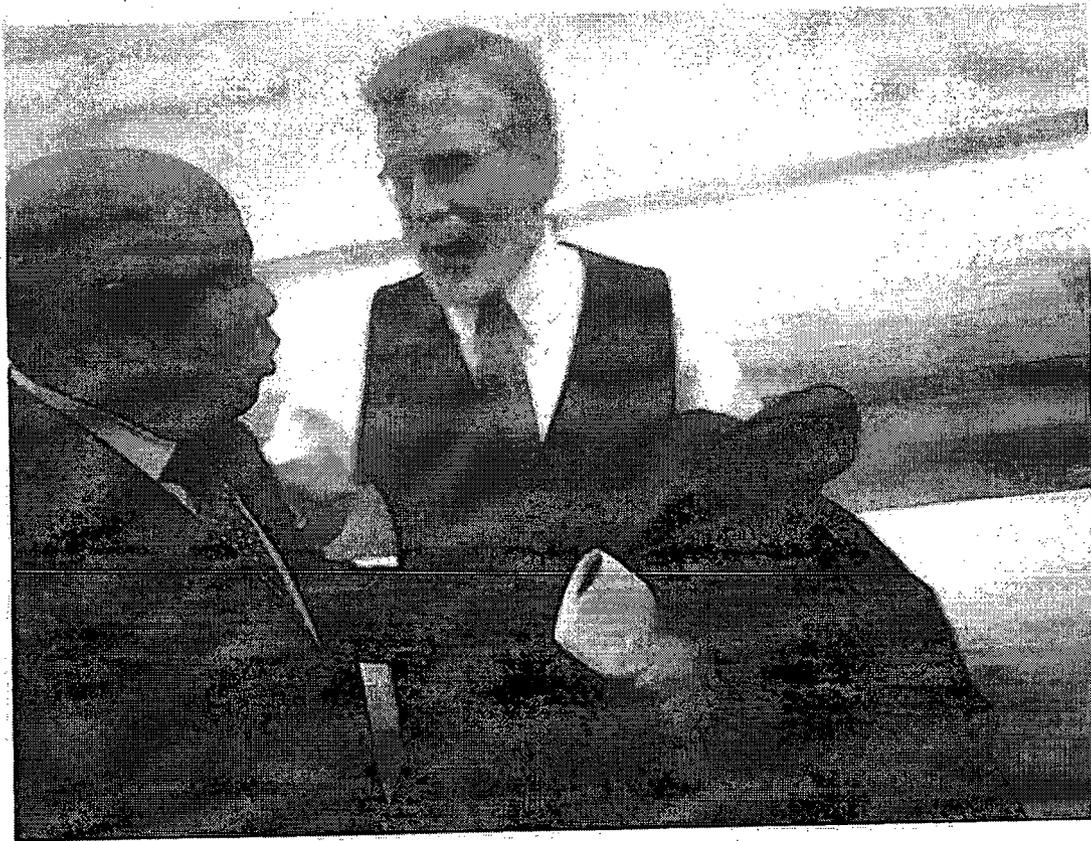
Friends of Sinn Fein Delegation meet with Congressman Richard Neal (MA)



5/28/2015



John Samuelsen President of TWU Local 100 with Rita O'Hare Sinn Fein Representative to the United States at Annual Quill Connolly Local 100 St. Patricks Day Celebration



A Chance Encounter: Gerry Adams with the Legendary John Lewis (GA) in the Capitol



Sinn Fein Councilor Edel Corrigan and Vincent Tyer Grand Marshal Pearl River Parade



5/28/2015

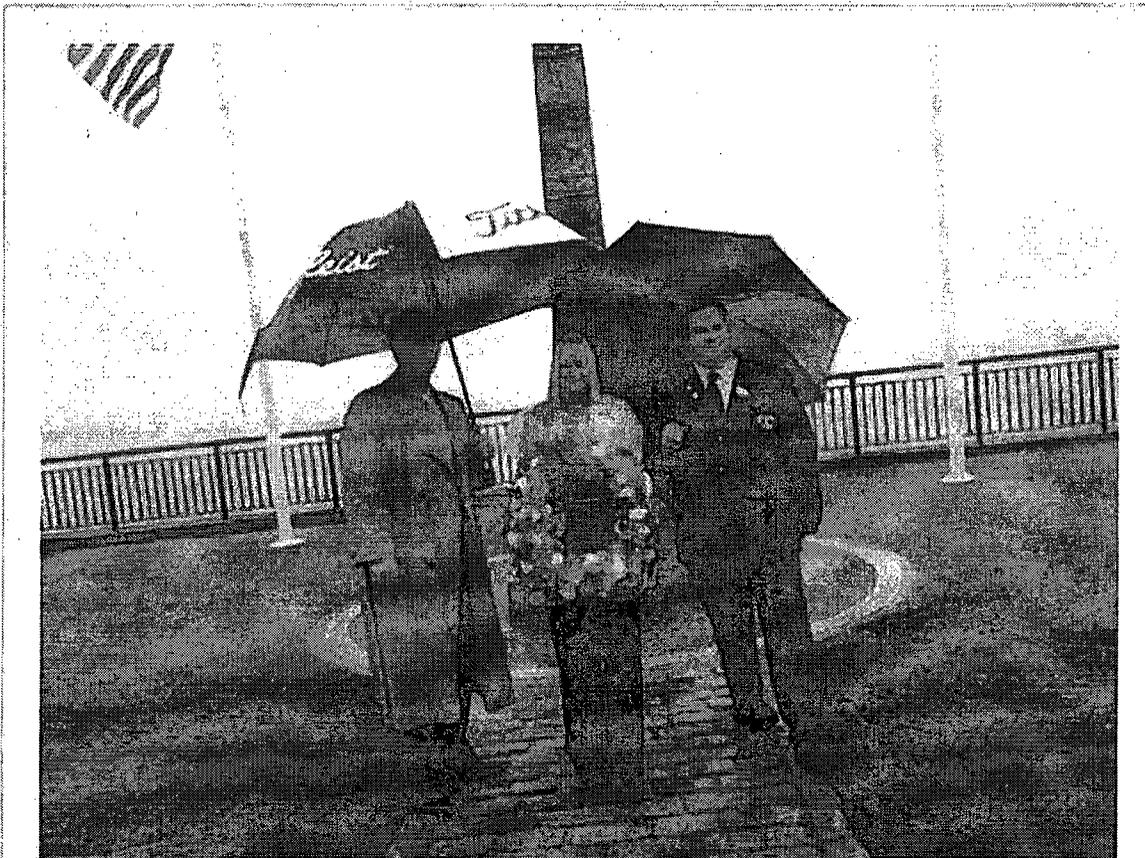
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Rita O'Hare and Noah Rodriguez (poster designer) at the TWU Local 100 Head Quarters stand in front of Poster marking the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

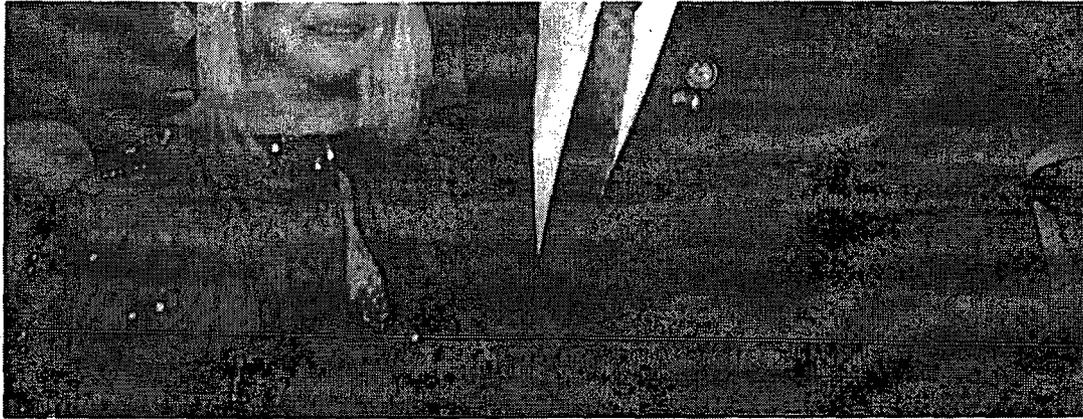


**Sinn Fein Councilor Edel Corrigan and Sinn Fein Representative to the U.S.
Rita O'Hare Meet with Women Leaders from Trade Unions, Academia and
Rights Activist Groups**



**Sinn Fein TD Sandra Mclellan with Mayor of New Bedford Jon F. Mitchell and
President of Friendly Sons of St. Patrick New Bedford MA.**





Sinn Fein TD Sandra McLellan with Congressman Bill Keating Meet at the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick - St. Patricks Day Dinner, New Bedford MA.

Adams Calls for Waiver Program for Undocumented Irish

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD is in Washington for St Patrick's Day events. This morning he met the Friends of Ireland Congressional Caucus.

The Sinn Féin leader briefed Congress members on the Stormont House Agreement and the negotiations currently taking place in Belfast.

Gerry Adams also raised the issue of the undocumented Irish and outlined Sinn Féin's support for "a waiver policy, removing the current obstacle of the three and ten-year bar for undocumented Irish citizens in the USA".

Gerry Adams said:

"Sinn Féin supports the introduction of a waiver policy in Ireland currently available through the US Embassy in several others states which would remove the current obstacle of the three and ten-year bars for the undocumented Irish citizens in the USA.

"Implementing such a waiver would allow thousands of Irish citizens to regularise their status in the USA through legal processes currently unavailable to them.

"Currently the undocumented Irish lack the ability to regularise their status due to the current policy of three and ten-year application restrictions if they were to return to Ireland to apply for status in the USA.

"Sinn Féin understands that if this waiver system was introduced it would benefit over 25% of the Irish citizens currently undocumented.

"They could, through sponsorship or investment re-enter the country legally with a regularised status if the three and ten-year bars were waived at the Embassy in Dublin.

"A waiver scheme was operated by the US mission in Mexico. Apparently some 58,000 waivers were issued in 2012 to Mexicans who wanted to regularise their status in the US.

This group would have been affected by the three and ten-year bar because they had previously overstayed in the US.

"I have spoken to the US Ambassador in Dublin about this scheme and I have written formally to him. I see no obvious reason why the same waiver scheme could not be introduced for Irish citizens.

"I will also be raising this matter with the Taoiseach. Specifically I want to know if the Irish government has formally asked the US Embassy in Dublin or the Obama Administration about this waiver scheme." ENDS/CRÍOCH

1916 Centenary a Time to Build New Ireland Based on Equality - McGuinness

Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said the centenary of the 1916 Rising is a time to build a new Ireland based on equality and partnership.

Speaking at the launch of Sinn Féin's programme of events in the North to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 rising, Mr McGuinness said:

"The Easter Rising is one of the great watershed moments in Irish history. It transformed politics and the public mood.

"The 1916 Proclamation is a declaration of social and economic intent for a rights-based society in which the people are sovereign.

"It is a freedom charter for this whole island and all the people who live here.

"Today, we need the spirit and the vision; the selflessness and generosity of those who struck for

freedom almost 100 years ago. Our goal, like theirs is to build a new future and a new Republic.

"We want a new future in which citizens are sovereign and equal; in a society which is tolerant and inclusive of race, colour, class, creed, gender, sexual orientation or disability – an Ireland built on positive change, equality and partnership.

"Our vision for a new Republic is one where wealth is invested creatively and fairly, and where our children are not burdened by poverty, where our schools are properly resourced and where no one lies on a hospital trolley or has no home or a job.

"The measure of any society is how it treats those most in need and its most vulnerable. It is about cherishing all the children of this nation equally.

"So the centenary celebration of the Easter Rising is an appropriate time to build and rededicate ourselves to the achievement of the Republic declared in 1916." **Ends/Críoch**

Implementation of Agreement is the Main Focus - Adams

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams has said the full implementation of the Stormont House Agreement is the main focus for his party.

Speaking in New York after an event during which Hilary Clinton addressed the issue of the Irish peace process Mr Adams went on to say;

"The State Department's handling of the issue of a meeting with me is bizarre. It serves no purpose other than to distract attention from the main issue. That is the full implementation of the Stormont House Agreement. That is Sinn Féin's main focus. And Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson are working on this as we speak"

"It is no skin off my nose not to meet the State Department. I am more concerned with protecting the rights and entitlements of citizens back home. That will remain Sinn Féin's firm objective."

Mr Adams also expressed his condolences to Charlie Flanagan and his family following the death of his mother, Mai.

McGuinness Focused on Finding Political Agreement

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness announced today that he would remain in Ireland to focus on finding political agreement rather than travelling to the US for St Patrick's Day.

Martin McGuinness said:

"The number one priority for me and my party is finding a resolution to the difficulties currently facing the Executive.

"The Sinn Féin team and I have engaged in this work positively and constructively.

"Progress has been made in talks between the parties but there is still a lot of work to be done.

"I have decided therefore in the best interests of trying to move the situation forward that I will not be travelling to the US to take part in events marking St Patrick's Day." **ENDS/CRÍOCH**

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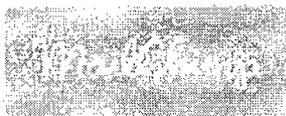
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Friends of Sinn Féin



News Update

Maskey welcomes meeting between Ballymurphy Massacre families and An Taoiseach



5/28/2015



Sinn Féin MP Paul Maskey has welcomed this morning's meeting by An Taoiseach with the Ballymurphy Massacre families.

The West Belfast MP said:

"Along with local Sinn Féin MLA Pat Sheehan I attended this morning's meeting between An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and the Ballymurphy Massacre families.

"This was a welcome development and I know the families appreciate An Taoiseach coming to West Belfast to meet them.

"The meeting were very useful and the families pressed Enda Kenny to put pressure on the British government to hold a Hillsborough style inquiry into the murder of their loved ones.

"It is more than 40 years after 11 Irish citizens were gunned down on the streets of Ballymurphy by the British Army. It is imperative that the families receive justice and the truth about this massacre and An Taoiseach needs to do all he can to bring that about." CRÍOCH/END

**UVF Plot to Drive Catholics from
Belfast city Centre Housing and
Apartments**



We can reveal the terror group held a meeting in south Belfast on Wednesday evening also attended by representatives from the east and north of the city.

Hosted by south Belfast commander Eddie 'Onions' Rainey it agreed a blueprint for an anti-catholic hate campaign in an attempt to put the pressure on the government to accede to a list of demands including the stalled Orange parade in north Belfast.

As revealed by the Sunday World last week the UVF intend to hijack a call from the Orange Order leadership for a campaign of peaceful protests against the continued refusal to grant permission for the completion of the Ligoniel parade.

The UVF intends to target catholic families in a systematic campaign of intimidation leading up to the marching season. Security chiefs are already concerned at the prospect of a tense summer.

In the firing line will be foreign nationals and there is increased anxiety that students may also be targeted as the Ulster University develops its city centre campus and increased student accommodation is built in south Belfast.

Sources within the UVF described the campaign as a 'smoking gun' to the head of the government.

"The meeting was called for Wednesday night," said our source, "a whole range of issues were discussed but in particular Twadell and the forthcoming (Gary) Haggartt supergrass trial.

"The message was blunt, any catholics living in or close to loyalist areas are to be put out."

He said social housing schemes and student accommodation in particular are to be targeted.

We understand that plans to build student housing on the site of the former Albion shirt factory off Sandy Row are to be monitored. New houses on Broadway between loyalist Donegall Road and the Falls are due to be allocated in the coming weeks and the UVF have said they will not allow homes to be granted to foreign nationals or anyone they perceive to be catholic.

The Whitehall Square apartment block, also on Sandy Row is to be targeted. It's not the first time the upmarket development have come in for attention from loyalist paramilitaries. In the past the building has been daubed with anti-catholic slogans.

The complex was seen as a sign Belfast was becoming more cosmopolitan, it was a view not shared by local residents who have variously dubbed it 'Vatican Square' and 'White Chapel.'

"We want these people to leave," said a loyalist source.

"We believe a large proportion of people living there are from the catholic persuasion, and it could be that they will be given 24 hours to get out. If they don't they leave themselves open to further action."

He said Wednesday's meeting made it clear their intention is to target catholics.

"It's all about getting the taigs out and keeping the prods in. It's a step back in time and is the same tactic they have used time and time again."

He said there is little support among the organisation's membership but there are enough 'young guns' keen to make a name for themselves who will be more than willing to do the leadership's bidding.

He said the attacks would not be limited to loyalist areas but could spread to the periphery of what are conceived as loyalist districts.

5/28/2015

This week a social housing development in Carryduff in the Belfast commuter belt was claimed by loyalists. UVF flags and signs were erected and an entire section of railings were daubed in red white and blue paint.

The 40 house development, which is near completion, is not in a loyalist district but is close to Killynure estate which is regarded as mainly unionist. Carryduff is a typical commuter belt town and has always been regarded as a socially and religiously mixed.

"They (UVF) say this campaign is about getting the parade down the road, by hook or by crook, but they also have an eye on the Haggarty trial," said our source.

"They think they can put a gun to the government's head, if they want to go ahead with Haggarty then they will see catholic families being petrol bombed out of their homes."

He said veteran members have warned the leadership, including Rainey, that such campaigns in the past have yielded little or nothing for loyalists.

"Have they forgotten Drumcree," said our source, "they firebombed a house and murdered the Quinn children, are they seriously suggesting we go down that road again."

Three young brothers were murdered in a loyalist arson attack in Ballymoney, at the height of the Drumcree protests in 1998.

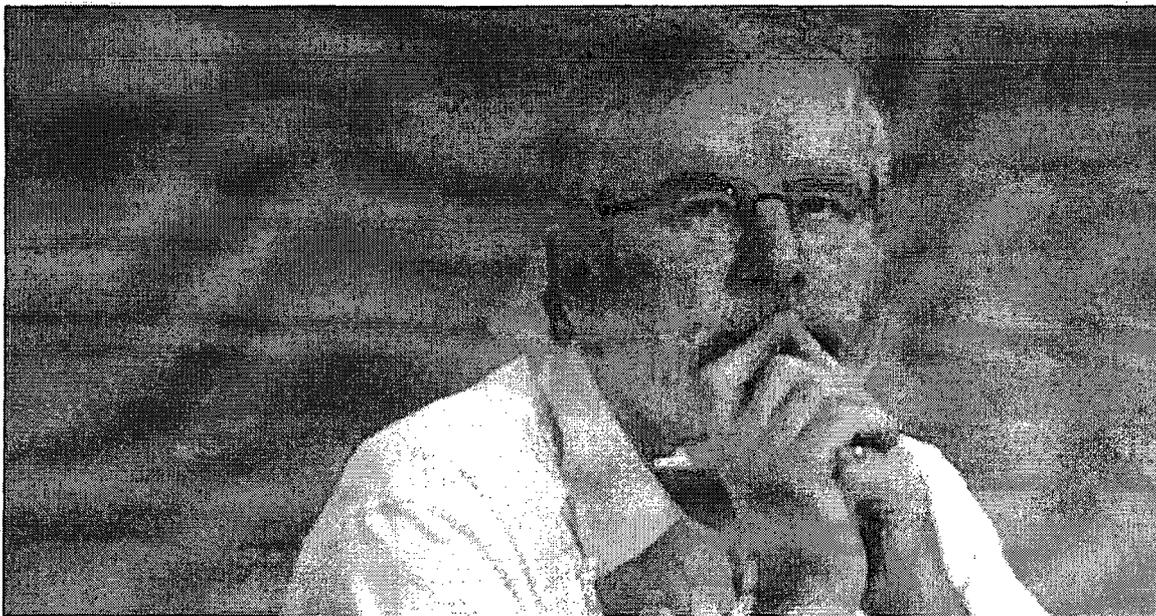
The boys - Richard Quinn, 11, Mark Quinn, 9, and Jason Quinn, 7 - were asleep in their beds when a petrol bomb was thrown through a window at the rear of their terraced house in the early hours of the morning on the Twelfth.

The Quinns were Catholics living on the predominantly Protestant Carnany estate, but they were accepted by the community and attended a Protestant school.

"It seems to be ok for drug dealers to move into protestant areas but not catholics. This is going to be a very long summer."

Why Gerry Adams is reviled at home but revered abroad

'On current projections, Sinn Féin is on course to displace Fianna Fáil as the real standard-bearer of the Republic'



Even in far-off Washington DC for the St Patrick's Day celebrations, Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams couldn't escape the front pages of the Irish newspapers and a lot of the coverage surrounding his visit was negative.

There were reports he had been "snubbed" by the US state department and Adams suggested the department had "not been helpful".

Still, he got to sit beside Enda Kenny at the speaker's lunch which I'm sure was a delight to both of them.

There is a saying that all is fair in love and war. And given that politics is just a more sophisticated version of war, should we be surprised at the deluge of criticism and abuse which has recently descended on Sinn Féin and Adams in particular?

It has been a very long time indeed, since I read anything positive or even balanced about Adams in the Irish media. The most recent piece was Fintan

O'Toole's admission in *The Irish Times* that Sinn Féin in power was unlikely to crash the economy as so many siren voices, including Goldman Sachs, the international investment group, are predicting.

You might say politicians shouldn't expect to be liked. But the level of abuse directed against the president of Sinn Féin seems wildly overdone. It is hard to think of any recent Irish political figure who has attracted such opprobrium apart perhaps from Éamon de Valera and Charles Haughey. And even Mr Haughey had his media supporters while de Valera was compelled to set up his own newspaper, the sorely missed *Irish Press*, in effort to get his views across.

The interesting thing is that this hostility is largely an Irish phenomenon. I don't detect the same level of antagonism in the British or European or US media.

Held in high esteem

Of course, you could argue that we know Adams better than the others do. But political figures such as Tony Blair, Jonathan Powell and Bill Clinton who worked closely with Adams have spoken warmly about him. And he is certainly held in high esteem by the ANC who conferred on him the honour of being a pall bearer at Nelson Mandela's funeral. So how do we account for this situation? Adams's personality might have something to do with it. He has been described as cold and arrogant and he certainly doesn't go out of his way to woo journalists. His alleged paramilitary past is obviously a factor, although he has consistently denied membership of the IRA. So is the fact that he is a northerner, who in some people's eyes has no business interfering in politics down here. Although the plain people of Louth have had no difficulty putting him top of the poll in recent elections.

The antagonism

My own guess is that the antagonism is down to fear. The hostility towards Adams seems to have gone into overdrive since the last local and European elections when Sinn Féin won seats in all four European constituencies and secured 15.3 per cent of the votes in the local elections.

The established parties in the Republic, particularly Fianna Fáil and Labour are

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Correction: Friends of Sinn Fein News Update April 1, 2015

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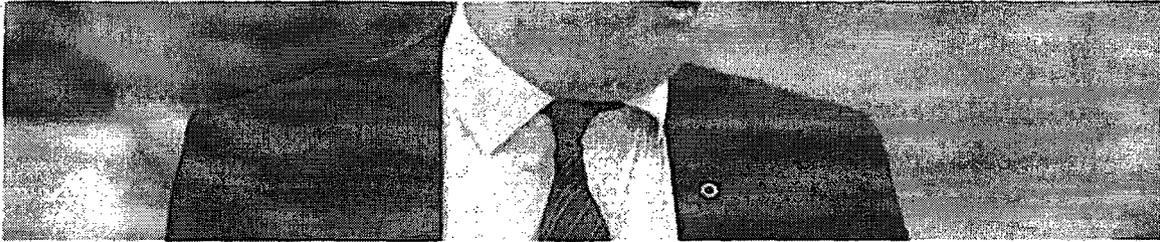


Friends of Sinn Fein News Update Correction

Previously issued newsletter showed incorrect photo of Sinn Fein TD Aengus Ó Snodaigh, corrected photo and article below:

Decision to Rewrite the Proclamation Described as Bad Joke





Sinn Féin TD Aengus Ó Snodaigh has welcomed the government's new programme of events to commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Rising describing it as a marked improvement on what the Government had previously announced albeit late in the day.

He said the proposal to rewrite the Proclamation is a bad joke and a serious mistake by the government.

Deputy Ó Snodaigh is attending the launch of the Government's programme of events in Collins Barracks this evening.

Speaking before the event he said;

"The Government has been under serious pressure, and rightly so, since the debacle of the launch of its commemorative video last November.

"The document launched this evening is a welcome start. It is a marked improvement on what went before it, albeit late in the day.

"I also welcome the decision by the cabinet today to buy the Moore Street Monument. I hope this will be the first step in a process that will see the whole terrace preserved and developed into a 1916 Revolutionary Quarter.

"The proposal to rewrite the Proclamation sounds like a bad joke. This is a serious mistake by the government and it has already received a sizable backlash on social media.

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Who Fears to Speak of Easter Week ? - Opinion Piece
from Gerry Adams

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Who Fears to Speak of Easter Week ? - Opinion Piece from Gerry Adams

When the government first unveiled its commemoration programme for 1916 it was widely viewed as short term, shambolic and superficial.

Since then a former leader of Fine Gael has put forward the view that the Rising was not needed and was a civil war.

Following widespread criticism, and in the run up to the elections the government has now brought forward a more fitting commemoration. This is to be welcomed

However there remains vacuity at the centre of the plans.

This government just doesn't get 1916. It is an inconvenient issue and you get the impression that they just want the commemorations to be out of the way and to return to business as usual.

Their approach has been to strip away any politics and context to the rising. To reduce it to

their approach has been to strip away any politics and context to the rising. To reduce it to a tragedy in which death and injury was inflicted equally on all sides, and so all sides must be equally remembered.

This is a shallow and wholly self-serving approach to our history. Devoid of context or politics the Rising is portrayed as a moment in history that should be kept in a little glass case and studied or in the view of some in the Redmondite wing of Fine Gael an unnecessary moment of madness.

Without a doubt war is brutal. It visits death and injury on all sides.

The grief of a mother and father, brother and sister, or son and daughter is not diminished by circumstance of that loss. The grief experienced by the family of an RIC member was no different from that of a member of the IRA who fought in the GPO or a civilian killed on the streets. All have the right to be respected and remembered.

However it is wrong for the state commemoration to be reduced to solely to an act of remembrance for a collection of individuals.

While each is a story of individual courage and loss, those involved in the Rising were more than a collection of individuals. They were an army and a movement with a shared republican politics, shaped by their experience of the British Empire and world war.

Those who took part in the Rising, gave their lives and liberty, to deliver the republic enshrined in the proclamation. A republic built on the principles of equality and sovereignty, of human rights and civil liberties, and of unity and nationhood. Principles that remain a challenge to successive governments in this state.

It is in these principles that we find the government's problem with the commemoration. For this government it is easier to deal with the notion of individual loss and sacrifice, than promote the ideas of the proclamation.

So the government does not address the inequality, division and lack of sovereignty, that drove a generation of republicans onto the streets of Dublin.

They even proposed to rewrite the proclamation and hope that we forget that the original one has been undermined by the actions of successive governments. Heaven forbid that we even mention the north or the continued failure that is partition.

The memory and ownership of 1916 does not exclusively belong to Sinn Féin, any other party or the government. The commemoration of the rising cannot be limited to a lecture, an exhibition or a parade.

It belongs to the Irish nation all the people that share this island and the Irish nation

It belongs to the Irish nation, all the people that share the island and the Irish nation, spread across the globe.

While the commemoration must be an opportunity for remembrance, it is also an opportunity for national renewal, for building a new republic.

In the last election the government promised a democratic revolution and delivered hardship, inequality, continued loss of sovereignty, a hands off attitude to the North and the Good Friday Agreement. There is a demand across our nation for change, a demand for the republic promised in 1916.

Our history cannot be encased in a museum, or mausoleum it is part of who we are, where we are from, and where we want to go.

That is why Sinn Féin developed a programme of events to mark 1916. We are seeking to encourage communities to engage with their heritage and to rise to the challenge of delivering a republic for citizens.

It would appear that the government is afraid to speak of Easter week, afraid of the challenge that it opens and afraid of the views of citizens.

The most fitting tribute to the loss of past generations including republicans, British and civilians is to deliver the republic promised on the steps of the GPO.

A 32 county republic in which citizens have equality and rights and the sovereignty of the nation is protected.

This generation has the opportunity and ability to deliver such a republic without making the sacrifice of previous generations. There is now a peaceful and democratic way to achieve this. But it will require leadership, determination and putting the needs of the nation above individual political position.

Maybe the real reason that that the government does not want to talk about the unfinished business of 1916 is that it will remind them of their failure and remind citizens that they retain the power to make good the proclamation.

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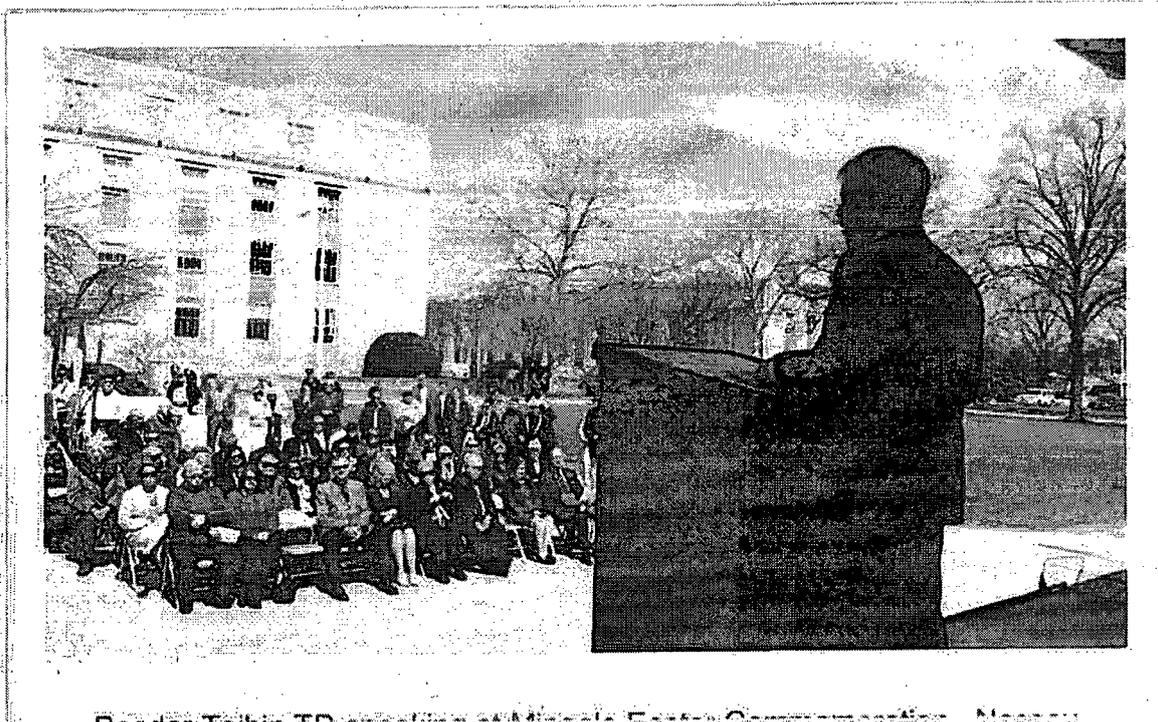
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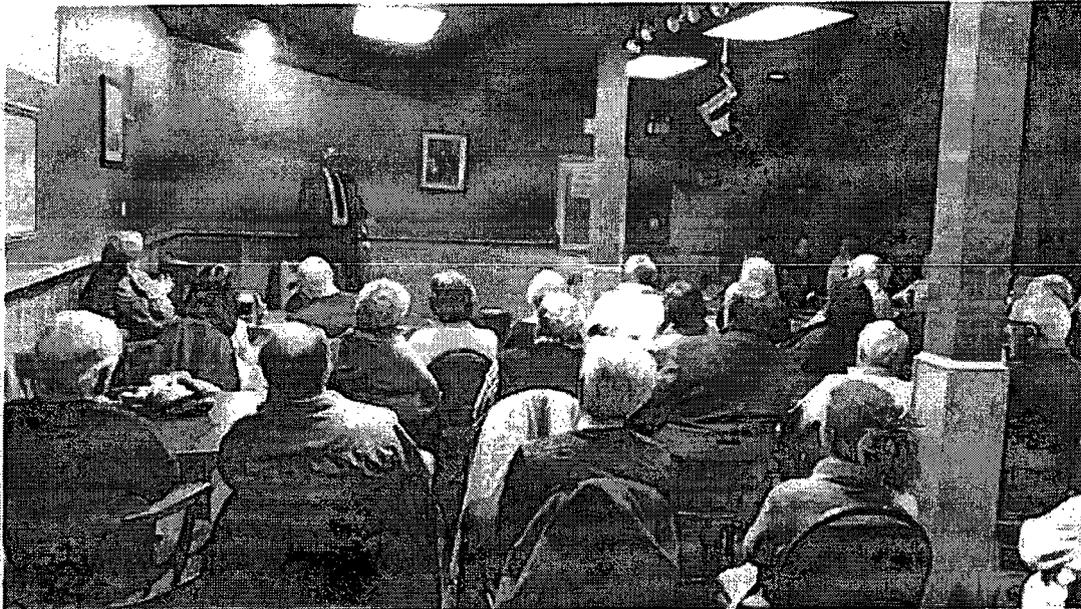
North America Easter Update Friends of Sinn Fein - April 2015



Peadar Kirby TD speaking at Mineola Easter Commemoration, Nassau County, New York, USA



Supporters gather in front of the 1916 Rising monument at the entrance of the supreme court Nassau County Supreme Court House, Mineola, New York, USA



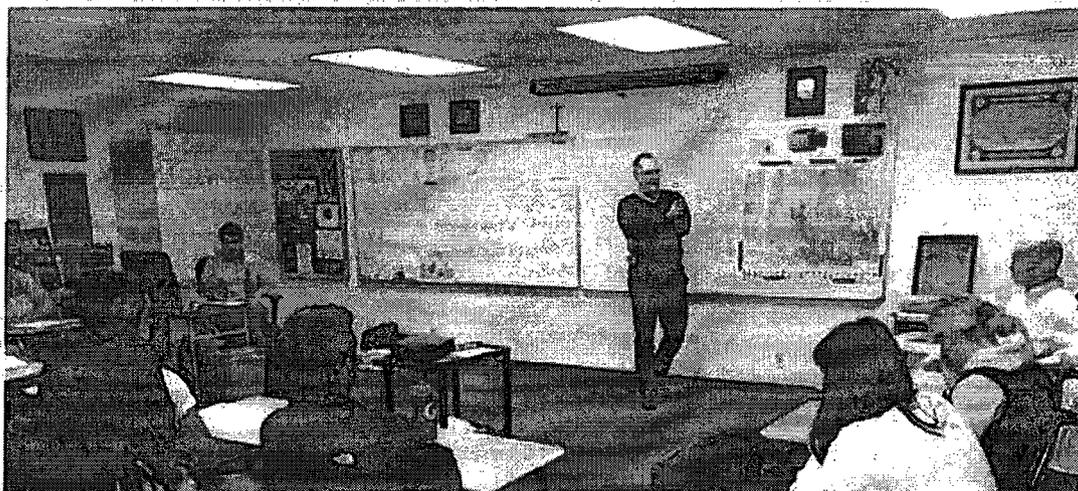
The Irish Cultural Society presented Dr. Ruan O'Donnell speaking on North America and the 1916 Rising in Calgary, Canada

5/28/2015

Campaign Overview | MailChimp

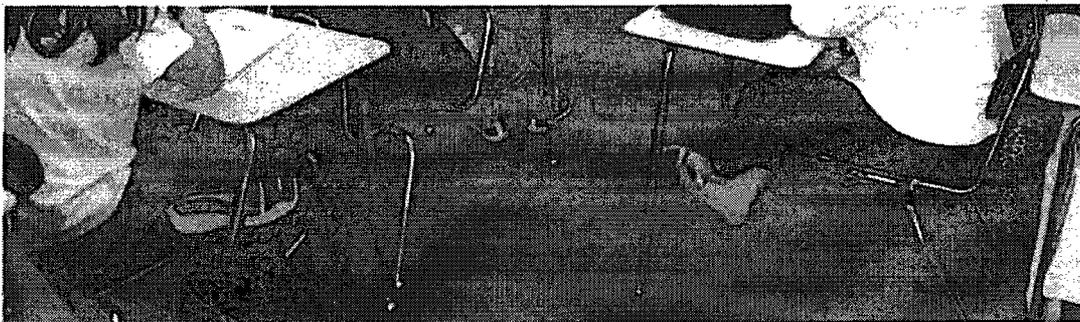


The Calgary event was a roaring success with over 100 in attendance.

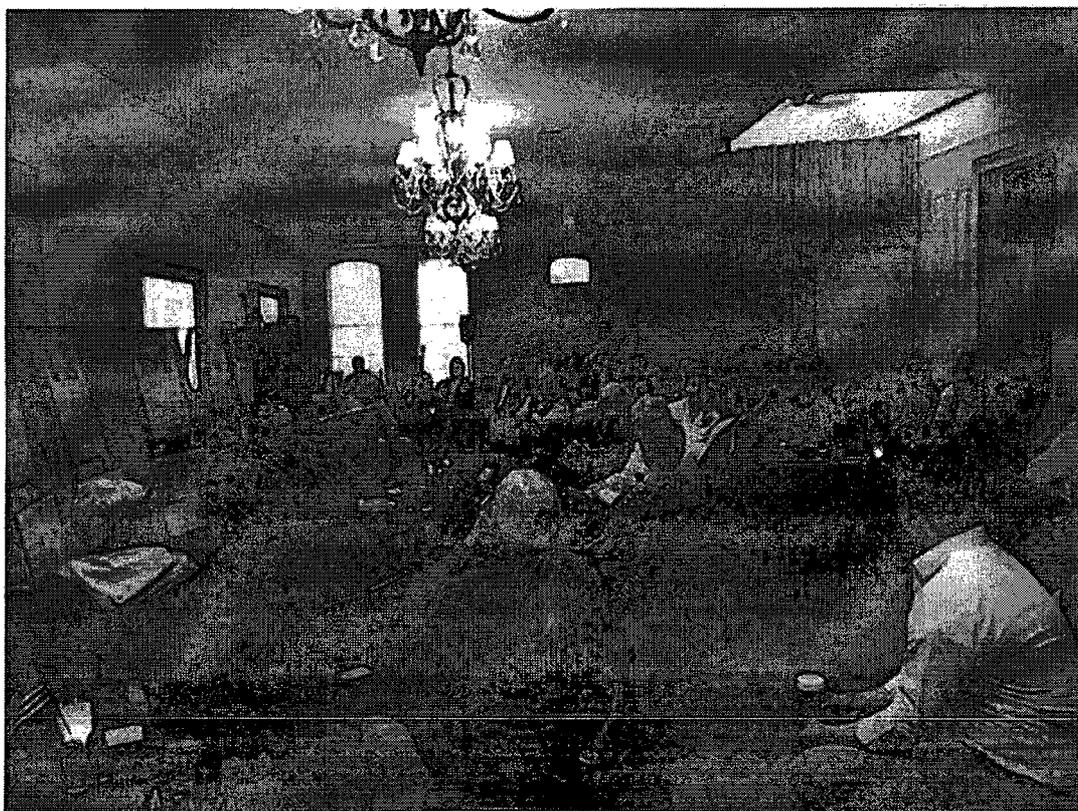


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Ruan O'Donnell Speaks at Valley Catholic High School Portland, Oregon,
USA Class on International Conflicts



Ruan O'Donnell addressed a packed house at Kell's Irish Restaurant in
Portland, Oregon USA. Speaking about the American connections to the 1916
Easter Rising.

-Other Events Included-

Sean Crowe SF TD - Montreal, Toronto and Brampton Canada

David Cullanine SF Senade - Boston USA

Sean Conlon SF Councilor - Philadelphia

Ruan O'Donnell - San Francisco USA, Edmonton Canada

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Insulting to Remember British Army Deaths Equally During 1916 Events

Niall O'Dowd @niallodowd April 09, 2015 01:09 AM IRISH CENTRAL

The families of some British soldiers from 1916 are calling for a memorial in Ireland to the British Army dead in the conflict.

31 British soldiers were killed in the fighting and the grandchildren of one of them, Captain Frederick Dietrichsen, have called for a permanent memorial.

The British Army memorial is becoming a bit of a movement.

Writing in the Irish Times on Saturday political editor Stephen Collins approves of this. He wrote: "The commemorative program for 2016 also recognizes the scale of civilian casualties in Easter 1916, and does not shirk from acknowledging that the British army and police casualties are also worthy of remembrance."

But are they all equal?

If the shoe were on the other foot would the British equally remember IRA bombers who killed themselves planting bombs during The Troubles or would the Irish government forgive the killers of Garda Jerry McCabe as part of an acknowledgment that all participants and victims were equal in some way?

Should we hail the men who strapped James Connolly to a wheelchair, blindfolded him and executed him?

Or the men from the South Staffordshire regiment who, as commentator John Dorney has written, bayoneted 15 innocent civilians to death?

"Infuriated with the losses they had suffered, on late Friday evening and early Saturday morning, the troops broke into the homes of the locals and shot or bayoneted 15 civilian men whom they accused of being rebels. They killed three men at 170 North Kings Street whose dead bodies were found to have bayonet wounds, then broke into number 172 and killed two men. In number 174 two more were shot dead. Two more civilian men were killed at number 177 and in 27 North King Street another four men, who all worked there at the Louth Dairy were found dead in a basement and one more man was killed at number 91. The fifteenth was shot dead on adjoining Coleraine Street by the British troops."

Such massacres were routinely carried out by the Black and Tans in later years and they too suffered major casualties in the War of Independence. Shall we hear calls to commemorate their fallen too equally?

Like it or no the British were in Ireland as conquerors, never accepted by the native people. The British Army in 1916 was defending an imperialist possession and was quite ready to kill maim and massacre those who opposed British rule.

In the new Ireland are these aggressors to be considered on a par with the Irish revolutionaries and the Irish citizens who died?

I think not. The Kumbava theory of history only takes us so far.

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April 2015 News Update

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More than 40 Years and Still No Justice

Michael Mansfield QC has been appointed by the Ballymurphy Families to represent them at the forthcoming inquest into the circumstances of the death of their loved ones.

Pádraig Ó Muirigh, Solicitor for the families, welcomed Mr Mansfield's involvement in the inquest. 'He has been leading human rights advocate for a number of decades. A very accomplished Inquest lawyer, he is also no stranger to injustices in the north of Ireland. His experience in representing the Bloody Sunday families will be invaluable to our inquest team.'

John Teggart whose father Daniel Teggart was shot dead during the Ballymurphy Massacre said – 'This is fantastic news for the campaign. It strengthens our already formidable legal team. We hope the inquest process will proceed promptly and without any further delay.'

A preliminary hearing has been listed for the Ballymurphy Inquests on the 6th May 2015 at 2pm Laganside Court.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!](#)

Kelly Welcomes Determination on Glengormley Parade

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has welcomed a determination by the Parades Commission to restrict an Orange Order parade in Glengormley.

Mr Kelly said;

"I welcome today's decision by the Parades Commission to place restrictions on this parade.

"This is a new parade and Sinn Féin met with the Parades Commission to discuss it.

"It has been diverted away from the Children's Hospice and nearby nationalist homes and that is to be welcomed.

"The original application was unnecessary and provocative and the local community will be pleased with this determination.

"It reinforces the point that dialogue is key to resolving issues around contentious parades." **Ends/Crioch**

Videos: Click the Link to Watch the Clip!

['Uncomfortable Conversations' book launch](#)

[Moore Street Reenactment](#)

[Easter Rising Commemoration, Dublin 2015](#)

[Mary Lou McDonald - The Cabra Historical Society in full verse singing Óró sé do bheatha 'bhaile down at Arbour](#)

[Hill earlier. Watch!](#)

McGuinness Meets with Christy Walsh

Belfast man Christy Walsh has suffered a miscarriage of justice and should be compensated, Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said.

Mr. McGuinness was speaking after meeting Mr Walsh in Stormont today.

"I met this afternoon with Christy Walsh, who is clearly a victim of injustice," he commented.

"He spent many years in prison and should be entitled to compensation for his experiences.

"Sinn Féin has raised this case with David Ford and we will continue to support Mr Walsh in his quest for justice." ENDS/CRÍOCH

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Late April 2015 News Update - Friends of Sinn Féin

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Late April 2015 News Update

**Sinn Féin the only Party in the North
Firmly Opposed to Austerity**

- McGuinness





Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said Sinn Féin is the only party in the North at this election firmly opposed to austerity.

Speaking at the launch of Sinn Féin's Westminster election manifesto in Ranfurly House, Dungannon, Mr McGuinness said;

"This manifesto represents Sinn Féin's commitment to the electorate. It is our vow to continue to resist the disastrous agenda of Tory austerity in Ireland.

"It is our pledge to defend the most vulnerable, to protect public services and deliver a new and better future for this society.

"It is now clear that British governments, of whatever hue, will continue to impose austerity on our society.

"Sinn Féin is the only party in the North at this election firmly opposed to austerity and with a proven track record in negotiations.

"Following this election Sinn Féin will be seeking an immediate negotiation with the incoming British Government to secure a viable budget to deliver public services; return economic powers to promote growth, jobs and prosperity and protect those most in need.

"A new budget is required to end austerity and we need the fiscal powers necessary to determine our own economic policy, to stabilise the political institutions and build on the progress of the peace process."

Gerry Adams Comments on News of a

VISIT BY BRITAIN'S PRINCE CHARLES

Responding to news today that Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla are to visit Ireland next month Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said:

"The visit by the British Queen to the Garden of Remembrance, her words of reconciliation and the subsequent meetings with Martin McGuinness demonstrated the potential of these events

"I am conscious that Prince Charles is the symbolic head of the British army's Parachute Regiment and the grievous wrong they have done including to the people of Derry and Ballymurphy where I grew up.

"However I am also conscious that the British Royal family have also been directly affected by the actions of republicans.

"I hope this visit will be an occasion to promote reconciliation, respect and understanding."

Ends/Críoch

A message from our friends at the Irish American Unity Conference - Philadelphia



The 1916 Irish Rising Countdown to the Centenary

When: Thursday, April 23, 2015
6 PM – 9 PM

Where: James Hoban's Irish Restaurant & Bar
1 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Program: 6 – 7 PM: Social hour
7 – 7:30 PM

- Welcome/Introduction from the IAUC
- Short video on the 1916 Easter Rising
- Reading of the Proclamation by Christopher Griffin
- Closing Comments/Discussion

This is the first in a series of events to be presented by the Irish American Unity Conference in commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising. All events will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact:

Kathy Kelly (katkelly0616@yahoo.com) 410-627-1904
Peter Kissel (peterkissel@kisselaw.com) 202-262-4785
www.IAUC.org

Information for Sinn Féin Easter 2016 Commemorations

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An Appeal to "Our Exiled Children" A Message from Sinn Féin to Irish America

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Friends of **Sinn Féin**



An Appeal to "Our Exiled Children" A Message from Sinn Féin to Irish America

Watch and share this short video appealing to 'our exiled children' in North America to join in marking

the centenary anniversary of the 1916 Rising next year.

[CLICK HERE](#)

How will you mark the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising?