



Irish American Unity Conference National Newsletter

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Working for Justice and Peace in a United Ireland

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UPDATE ON BOSTON COLLEGE SUBPOENAS AND CALL TO ACTION

By Peter Kissel

The IAUC continues its vigorous ongoing efforts in opposing the US Attorney's subpoenas of the Boston College Burns Library Oral History Project, containing potentially sensitive materials regarding the "Troubles." Although the IAUC is not directly involved in the court proceedings because it likely would not have legal "standing" to become a party to the case, we are actively publicizing the odious nature of the subpoenas, pressuring the US Congress to become involved, and requesting the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to rescind the subpoenas. The IAUC is working closely with the AOH and the Brehon Law Society in these efforts, which have been coordinated by IAUC Board member Michael Cummings.

The United Kingdom's request to subpoena the sensitive historical materials, on behalf of the PSNI, is another stark example of British disregard for Irish sovereignty in general and the peace process in particular. The subpoenaed materials contain sensitive information and allegations concerning the "Troubles" which, if released, pose a high potential to destabilize the Irish peace process. Certain interests in Northern Ireland and Britain are staunchly opposed to the peace and would like to reverse the progress that has been made. The subject materials could lead to recriminations and undermine trust among various parties, and possibly lead to a new round of violence in the North.

President Burke has sent letters to Secretary of State Clinton and Attorney General Holder requesting withdrawal of the subpoenas – the letters can be viewed on the IAUC website. IAUC members have also participated in meetings with the staffs of Massachusetts Senator Kerry, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Casey of Pennsylvania. Senator Kerry has spoken with the Attorney General to express his concern and Senator Casey has agreed to discuss the matter with Secretary Clinton. President Burke, together with other Irish-American leaders, also met with Northern Ireland Secretary Owen Paterson regarding the subpoenas.

Although considerable progress has been made in raising public awareness and on the political front, there have been some troubling developments in the Court proceedings. On December 16, 2011 the Federal District Court denied Boston College's request to "quash" the subpoenas, and Boston College, shockingly, decided not to appeal that ruling. The same Court subsequently ordered some of the materials to be copied and prepared for handing over to the British authorities. Fortunately, the Federal Court of Appeals issued a "stay" of the District Court order on December 30, but the stay is temporary and could be rescinded at any time.

The active involvement of all IAUC members is urgently needed and requested. We can all help advance this effort by communicating our concern to our Congressional representatives and writing to the following two key officials: Secretary of State Clinton and Attorney General Holder. Their contact information is listed in this newsletter

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HOW LONG, OH LORD? Psalms 78:5

By Joe Farrell

Some things change slowly, some change quickly, and some things, it seems, never change. The case in point: the U.S. media's coverage of the Troubles.

The Associated Press, home of our old friend "Shawn" Pogatchnik, did a 12 paragraph story October 30, 2011 on the election of Michael Higgins as President of Ireland as a possible bit of good news in an otherwise bleak political landscape. The story (which was not credited) is detailed and factual, covering Higgins' background and stated approach to the Presidency in some depth. Among other things it noted that as Arts Minister in the mid-90s Higgins launched a Television channel in "...Gaelic, Ireland's native but little-spoken language. Higgins, who has roots in the rural western counties of Clare and Galway, is fluent." It's nice to read an article about Ireland in a U.S. newspaper that seems to know something about what goes on there. But, of course, AP didn't stop there.

The last three paragraphs, with a segue in the fourth-from-last turn to the third place candidate, "former Irish Republican Army commander Martin McGuinness". Quoting McGuinness' praise of Higgins, the AP goes on to say of McGuinness' candidacy "He faced stern questioning over his past leadership of the I.R.A., an outlawed group that killed nearly 1800 people before calling a 1997 cease-fire. He then led Sinn Fein into a power-sharing government".

Call it: The Irish Peace Process for Idiots, courtesy of the Associated Press.

Virtually the same phrases appeared in hundreds, possibly thousands, of news stories over the past forty years, since the British first inserted them into the minds and the copy of the U.S. media at the onset of the Troubles. The IRA is referred to as killing "people", to give the impression that they were out shooting passers-by on the street (as indeed the Loyalists were, but that's another story) and not that they were engaging better armed, better equipped British Army units, who were often not looking to take prisoners. It is notable that the AP continues to downplay or refuse to mention the roles of other groups such as the Security Forces for killings during the Troubles in spite of the publication of the Saville Report which put both British Army actions and the origins of the conflict in a different light.

I'm not sure what it will take to be given honest reporting on the conflict in the north; but as long as it is not changed, the Peace Process will always be under threat. As long as it is not changed, it will provoke a double-standard of some individuals in government who deserve to face "stern questioning" about their right to be involved in the democratic process of their own country. Denying that right to the Irish was indeed the aim of the British. Irish America's work is not done.



NO COINCIDENCE

By Thomas J. Burke, Jr., National President

The President of IAUC's great Washington, D.C. chapter, Peter Kissel, has told us in detail in his article in this newsletter about the so-called Boston College subpoena controversy resulting from British subpoenas of the archive of the Troubles' tapes and other documents established by Boston College despite promises of confidentiality to its depositors. The British misuse of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with the U.S. to effectuate British political goals makes a mockery, as Peter details, of a treaty established to subpoena information on noncontroversial international drug, money laundering and other obvious criminal conspiracies, and how Britain has once again bent the law to its own political ends.

In another action, the British government, in plain abrogation of its obligations under the Weston Park agreement, has now disavowed its obligation to conduct a public inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane in 1989. Some uncannily common features of the Boston College-MLAT controversy and Britain's decision to repudiate its Finucane inquiry obligation ought to be obvious.

In late October, 2011, Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Owen Paterson, invited representatives of the three largest Irish American advocacy organizations, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Brehon Law Society, and IAUC, plus a representative of the Irish American Bar Association of New York City, to meet with him at the British Consulate in New York, I was honored to represent IAUC as National President at the meeting, which was scheduled for Wednesday, October 28. All of us had learned from media accounts of the previous week that the Finucane Inquiry would be off the table. We had also learned of a tense and unsuccessful meeting Geraldine Finucane, Patrick's widow, held with the British Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street a week or so before, along with one of her sons. Mrs. Finucane had rejected a qualified British "apology" for the events of the Sunday on which Patrick's life was taken, and had walked out of the meeting after rejecting it.

Paterson characterized an official Inquiry as being so expensive as to be simply unaffordable. The British Prime Minister, Paterson said, had already offered the Finucanes a "fulsome" apology for what he conceded was the authorities' collusion in her husband's murder. As an alternative, the British government had retained a distinguished London barrister, Desmond De Silva, to review an extensive ten-year old report prepared by Lord John Stephens, then the head of the London Metropolitan Police, on the subject. Ironically, the British government had suppressed the Stephens Report for about ten years but inexplicably resurrected it for this purpose when it was in its interest to do so. The Stephens Report had reportedly found grievous fault with British authorities, acting in tandem with a Loyalist murder gang, resulting in the Finucane murder. The Secretary went on to describe Mr. De Silva as an unimpeachable barrister of the highest integrity on whom all could rely for accuracy in summarizing the Stephens Report. (Mr. Paterson was reminded that another "unimpeachable" British representative, Lord John Widgery, the 1971-1980 Lord Chief Justice, had conducted the original Bloody Sunday Inquiry later demonstrated to be based on fabrications and falsehood). Mr. Paterson repeated that the Government's mind was made up and that it would not be deterred from its decision.

In my view, the common thread between the Boston College subpoena issue and the disavowal of a solemn British promise to conduct an official Inquiry into Patrick Finucane's death consists of an implicit decision to nibble away at the edges of its various promises under the Belfast Agreement and its progeny. The British have decided that it is worth it to put Irish nationalism on the back foot. There is ample evidence in both developments to conclude this is precisely what is in the process of taking place. Once again, Irish America, and IAUC in particular, cannot take these developments lying down. Contact your member of Congress and your Senators. Tell them not to countenance the disintegration of the Northern Ireland peace process. The alternative would be catastrophic.

Finally, and on another subject, IAUC is engaged in a thorough overhaul of its web page and its online presence in general. At this writing, the project appears to be about halfway on the road to completion. The result will be a much more modern website, with lots of live links and video capabilities. By the time of the next IAUC newsletter, I hope to be able to share the results of our efforts and to enjoy them along with all of you. Please accept my best wishes for a fine New Year and that all your families will be both prosperous and well in 2012.

IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE, ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS & BREHON LAW SOCIETY

Great Britain Subpoena of Boston College for Belfast Project Oral Histories—Key Facts

Great Britain is using two subpoenas to compel Boston College (BC) to deliver oral history interviews of participants in the conflict in Northern Ireland. The interviews are known as the Belfast Project. In March, 2011, the subpoenas were issued pursuant to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) between the United States and Britain (UK). Technically, The U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts issued the subpoenas at the request of Great Britain. BC has moved to quash the subpoenas. The case is now on appeal in the Federal District Court for Massachusetts. Great Britain is not, technically, a party to case. Rather, the U.S. Attorney is defending the subpoena on Britain's behalf. There have been a couple of rounds of briefs by the parties. On September 1, 2011 the Belfast Project's two principal interviewers filed a motion to intervene in the case. The case is numbered 11-MC91078 (JLT) Docket # 18.

BC is arguing that the subpoenas should be quashed because they threaten oral history research and because disclosure could put people's lives at risk. The U.S. Attorney argues that the MLAT automatically entitles Britain to subpoena the interviews with no discretion by the court to consider the kind of damage that concerns BC. The intervenors argue that Britain made assurances to the Senate during Extradition Treaty hearings that offenses prior to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement (GFA) offenses were off the table, and that those assurances preclude Britain from using the MLAT for a politically motivated investigation or prosecution. The case is scheduled for arguments in January 24, 2012.

The Belfast Project is an academic effort to create sources for historians and others to help understand the conflict in Northern Ireland. Between 2000 and 2006, the Belfast Project recorded oral histories of Irish Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries. The interviews are archived at Burns Library at Boston College with the understanding that none would be released until the death of the interviewees. The contents of the interviews are not even known to Boston College officials. The Project's two principal interviewers were Ed Moloney, a journalist and author, and Anthony McIntyre, a former IRA member and now a PhD.

The subpoenas revolve around the 1972 killing of Jean McConville in Belfast. In 1999, after the Good Friday Agreement, the IRA admitted that it has killed Mrs. McConville for alleged informing. In 2006, the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman issued a report finding that the police and other government authorities never conducted a significant investigation of Mrs. McConville's death.

The first subpoena sought interviews of two former IRA members, Brendan Hughes and Delours Price. They had given newspaper interviews stating that they had been involved in Mrs. McConville's killing and that Gerry Adams had somehow been involved in ordering it. Mr. Hughes has since died. Boston College has already delivered the Hughes interviews to the British government voluntarily, because his death satisfied the condition of confidentiality until death under which the interviews were given. The second subpoena seeks all interviews, of anyone, that mention Mrs. McConville.

Great Britain's motivation for the subpoenas is apparently highly political, rather than a matter of ordinary law enforcement. Over 3,000 people were killed during the conflict in Northern Ireland. The perpetrators included republican and loyalist paramilitaries, as well as British security forces. There are hundreds of unsolved cases where the individual perpetrator was never arrested or prosecuted. The British Government has never before used the MLAT for subpoenas about the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The Belfast Project interviews include dozens of interview from both republican and loyalist paramilitaries which may well discuss a large number of killings. So, the question looms. Why this one 39 year old case? Why now? Mrs. McConville's death was terrible and tragic. But so were hundreds of others. Why is the UK not seeking evidence regarding Pat Finucane or Rosemary Nelson or some of the hundreds of others killed by loyalists? The answer has to be a British political decision to pursue the McConville case, and to not pursue others. Only one fact sets the McConville case apart from the hundreds of other tragic unsolved killings. There is some indication that interviews in the McConville case might somehow implicate Gerry Adams—a highly political figure.

The exact nature of the Britain's political reason for targeting Adams now is not publicly known. The British Government has kept its decision making process on this matter secret from the outside world. It may well be that even the United States Government does not know Britain's motivation. Legal experts and journalist examining this case have put forward two theories as to why the British Government is targeting Gerry Adams now. The theories are not mutually exclusive. One theory is that a rogue element within the Police Service of Northern Ireland, with long standing hostility towards Adams, started the subpoena process and higher-ups in the British Government feared public embarrassment if they stopped the subpoena.

(Continued on page 20)

10 Reasons to Oppose Attorney General Holder's Subpoena of Boston College Irish Records

By Mike Cummings

Few would doubt that over the last three decades the Royal Ulster Constabulary (re-named the Police Service of Northern Ireland) is one of the most incompetent, lawless, violent and political police forces in Europe. Just this past September, the parents of Brian Frizzell were told the records from 1985-1993 in Gough barracks in Armagh were destroyed. How convenient! This just happens to be the time when their son Brian was murdered. Britain has failed to disclose records to the Irish government on the Dublin/Monaghan bombings and has revealed they won't publicly disclose their records on the assassination of lawyer Patrick Finucane. Can you now believe the British have snapped their fingers and demanded Attorney General Holder produce Boston College records for this same discredited police force? He has bowed obediently to Her Majesty's Government per a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) but is being opposed in litigation. Here are 10 reasons you can give to Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and U.S. Senator Kerry (MA) to withdraw the subpoena.

1. The letters signed by President Bush exchanging the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty affirmed that U.S. compliance can be waived if to comply would be contrary to public policy. If being a doormat for British treachery in Ireland isn't against U.S. policy it should be.
2. Federal judicial precedents have held that assistance can be declined if the sought after information is likely to be used in a foreign proceeding that departs from our concepts of fundamental due process and fairness. Think juryless Diplock courts and the false imprisonment of Gerry McGough.
3. The Irish peace process is a work in progress, one in which the U.S. has invested heavily. Holder's subpoena gives a victory to loyalists and Nationalist dissidents who prefer arms.
4. North Ireland Secretary Patterson claims he knows nothing about the subpoena that the Home Secretary had to send to Holder. It took 40 years for the British to stop lying about Bloody Sunday; don't expect the truth anytime soon from Her Majesty's Government.
5. The British led U.S. Senators to believe during the ratification of Extradition/MLAT treaties that they were not interested in pursuing pre-1998 offenses. Why respond at all to a request for information on a 1972 offense?
6. The Dublin/Monaghan bombing was the Irish equivalent to 9/11. Why share information with a government that refuses to disclose what they know of the terrorist attack?
7. During its repressive rule in N.I. the British derogated from provisions of the European treaties dealing with human rights, political and civil rights violations more than any nation.
8. The oral records from the Boston College archives are unsworn, not subject to cross examination and of no probative value in a normal legal proceeding. This was a fishing expedition with a political motive.
9. Patrick Finucane, an officer of the Court is murdered with police collusion and the Prime Minister says no to a public inquiry? Do we want to collaborate with such hypocrisy?
10. The 1998 pact called for a Historical Enquiries Team (HET) to review the murders of hundreds of innocent Catholics like those at Ballymurphy (11 murdered) and McGurk's Bar (15 murdered) which have never had the semblance of a police investigation. Shouldn't Her Majesty's Government release the Stalker and Stevens Reports to see how many were murdered by uniformed terrorists and to determine the necessity for an independent investigation of their carnage before trading on the "special relationship" to join their dirty work?

It is important for the British to continue to label their savage repression, discrimination of Catholics and their violent suppression of democracy as a fight against terrorism. Think that didn't happen? Think again. This subpoena is another cover-up of their dirty war. Justice in Ireland is just a bargaining "chit" whenever America wants something. You can put a stop to this by calling, writing, or faxing the offices of and meeting representatives of Attorney General Holder, Secretary of State Clinton and U. S. Senator Kerry. Visit iauc.org, aoh.com or the Brehon Law Society for more information.

Pittsburgh Chapter Update

Members of Pittsburgh's IAUC Chapter have been busy this past fall and winter with Irish political action issues that have been in the news and the courts. IAUC members along with members of the AOH visited the Pittsburgh Office of Senator Robert Casey to discuss the British Government's attempts to obtain oral history recordings housed at Boston College to conduct a so-called criminal investigation against certain Irish Republican political leaders. Members have been in frequent contact with Senator Casey's office, urging the Senator to contact Attorney General Holder about the real dangers to the Irish peace process. While Senator Casey has been responsive to members about his concerns on the issue, he has deferred to Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts since Boston College is in the Senator's home state, in taking the lead on this issue. PA members do not feel this stance is strong enough and will continue to ensure that Senator Casey is reacting to the concerns of his PA constituents on this matter. Members have also been in contact with Senator Pat Toomey about the use of the E-3 visa to allow Irish nationals to come to the United States. The E-3 visa is an option for citizens of other countries including Australia. Senator Charles Schumer of New York sponsored a Senate bill that would include up to 10,000 visas for the Irish. No word on whether Senator Toomey will support this bill.

Boston College- Contact Senator Casey: Toll Free Phone: (866) 802-2833 Fax: (202) 228-0604
E-3 Visas Irish- Contact Senator Toomey Phone: (202) 224-4254 Fax: (202) 228-0284

In early December, the Pittsburgh Chapter hosted a "Celtic Christmas" raffle at Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle for all members and friends. Pennsylvania LAOH Past President Colleen Bowers won one of the baskets of Celtic Culture and Cheer. Another basket was won by a Pittsburgh Penguins hockey fan who just happened to be at the pub and took a chance on a ticket!

We are looking forward to spring and of course St. Patrick's Day and the annual Pittsburgh parade which will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012.



Pittsburgh Chapter Members at the Celtic Christmas Party

Washington, DC Chapter Activities

“Let’s meet at the Barry Gate” – The US Naval Academy has agreed to the design and construction of an entry gate, plaza and memorial at the Academy to honor Commodore John Barry, a Wexford native who became the first Commandant of the US Navy. The agreement for the Barry memorial gate represents several years of dedicated effort by chapter member Jack O’Brien and the AOH’s John McInerney, and will establish a focal point for visitors to the Academy. More importantly, it will serve to accord Barry long overdue recognition as an American Naval hero and proud patriot son of Ireland. The archway and gate were installed on January 6, 2012, and efforts are now underway to fund the memorial plaza. The project is being funded solely through private donations, which may be sent to Jack O’Brien, 11109 Belton St., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Checks should be made payable to “Hibernian Charity Barry Project.” Please help to make this project a reality by contributing now.

Chapter members are also planning a Hunger Memorial event under the leadership of Michael Mellett and Irene Jillson. Plans are underway for an event, or series of events, to publicize the sacrifice of the strikers and the cause of justice in a united Ireland. The event will feature speakers from Ireland and the US.

The Chapter celebrated its annual Robert Emmett Commemoration on Sunday, September 18 at the Emmett statue on Massachusetts Avenue. This annual ceremony honors and celebrates the Irish patriot’s life and death in the cause of a United Ireland. The ceremony started with traditional Irish music, followed by a reading of Emmett’s Speech from the Dock – considered by some as the most powerful speech ever delivered in the cause of Irish freedom – by chapter members. This was followed by selections from Washington Irving’s and Patrick Pearse’s writings on Emmett, poems by Thomas Moore (“O Breathe Not His Name”) and Oscar Wilde (“Le Reveillon”), and from *NINETEEN-SIXTEEN: Anthology*. The occasion concluded with several jigs and reels, and the members then gathered for their traditional brunch at a nearby bistro. The event was covered by DC journalist and blogger Eric Zhang and can be seen and heard on the website: <http://www.ayearindc.com/2011/09/robert-emmett-commemoration/>. The IAUC’s Emmett Commemoration is held annually on the third Sunday in September and all are welcome.

The DC Chapter continues to be actively involved in the efforts to halt the release of sensitive materials held by Boston College to Northern Ireland security forces. The materials, which contain oral histories of the Troubles, have been subpoenaed by the British government on behalf of the PSNI. DC members have compiled detailed lists of contact information for Congressional representatives and government officials. These lists have been shared with AOH and the Brehon Law Society to communicate with officials to withdraw the subpoenas. See separate report in this Newsletter for more details on the case.

Florida Chapter Notes

Special thanks to IAUC member Ed Walsh who is Southern Representative and member of the Florida IAUC Chapter. Ed made a very generous donation to the IAUC recently and the entire board thanks him for his thoughtfulness.



California News

The Rising of the Moon Irish Festival was held on September 17, 2011 at the Poet & Patriot Irish Pub in Santa Cruz, California. The festival kicked off the California Irish Cultural Society's fundraiser for the proposed Irish Hunger memorial to be erected in San Francisco.

Rick Trujillo from San Diego gave a moving tribute to Chris Mathews and John Fogarty, two Irish American icons who have recently passed away. The full capacity crowd was entertained by Wild Rovers, Pat Hamilton, Sea Dawgs, Sean "the Piper" and Poor House.

A commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Hunger Strikers concluded with Cathy Miller winning a beautiful handcrafted harp by a former Irish political prisoner.

George Trainor spoke about An Gorta Mór (The Great Hunger) "The Irish hunger of 1845 - 1851 resulted in the death of millions people and the forced emigration of further millions. This tragic event changed Ireland irrevocably and the Irish emigrants shaped the face of many international communities in the years that followed. It would be a fitting tribute to have the legacy of the famine marked with a memorial to the victims of the Irish Hunger as well as the victim's starvation worldwide." Trainor went on to say "The dictionary describes the word famine as an extreme scarcity of food. There was plenty of food in Ireland. There was no FAMINE!!!! It can be called many things, but never a FAMINE."

The proposed Irish Hunger memorial was unveiled to the crowd by San Jose artist Patricia Hanlon. "As I drew this woman I swear I fell in love with her and her story. I named her Maggie and I believe her story needs to be told and a monument in San Francisco is a great start. I really want to thank the California Irish Cultural Society for the insight, the education and the experience drawing this portrait brought me. Although I was hesitant in the beginning now I can truly say it was an honor.



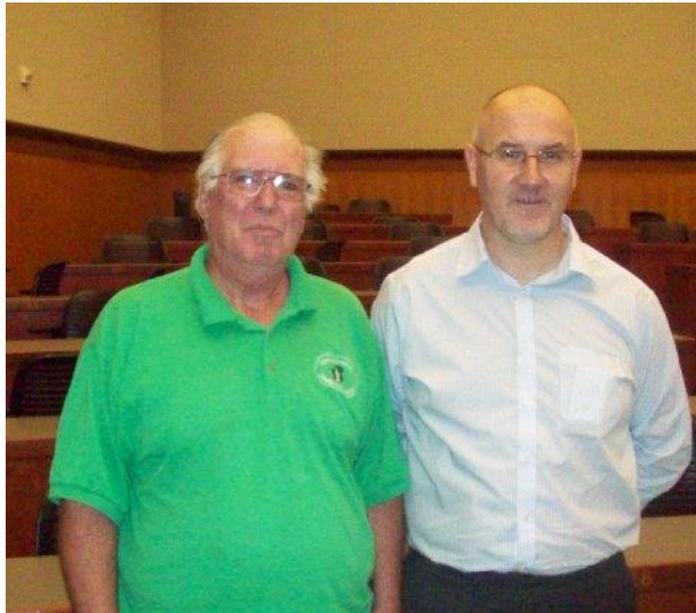
George Trainor from the San Francisco Chapter



RFJ-USA Kicks Off Its First West Coast Event

Relatives For Justice -USA presented their first West coast event at the Berkeley School of Law, on the campus of the University of California in September, 2011.

Seamus Finucane discussed British state violence and collusion, the current human rights situation in the North of Ireland, and the life and legacy of his brother Pat Finucane, a human rights lawyer who was murdered by loyalist paramilitaries in collusion with British security forces in 1989. Seamus also explained to the audience the Finucane family's ongoing struggle for an independent, international inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Pat's murder. Also speaking at the event was California State Senator Loni Hancock, who recently returned from the north of Ireland. This event was co-hosted by the Boalt Hall Committee for Human Rights at the University of California, Berkeley.



IAUC Western Regional Rep George Trainor and Seamus Finucane, brother of slain human rights lawyer, Patrick Finucane

Is the Irish Peace Process in Peril?

By Mike Cummings

In April, 1998 the latest phase of the Anglo-Irish conflict ended with the signing of the Belfast Agreement at Hillsborough Castle. Three decades of armed hostilities that began with Britain's violent suppression of the Catholic civil rights campaign, came to an end. The difficult work of securing the peace began. Implementing the terms of the Agreement has proven difficult and fears remain. However, the fruits of non-violence can be found throughout the North. The British seemed genuinely surprised at the progress once they stopped murdering Sinn Fein elected officials. The collaborative work of First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy Minister Martin McGuinness is proof of that progress. But can this peace last if built on a lie and not justice?

There were two key elements leading up to the adoption of the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement which are not present today but which then brought a halt to British treachery. First, the United States envoy, former Senator George Mitchell, not only gave added voice to the Irish government but insured the inclusion of several justice provisions of the Treaty. But that was then and this is now. Our President's only reference to Ireland to date was in a 24 hour stop-over visit at the Obama ancestral home on his way to London and even then there was no referral to the pact. Second, the attention of the American media in 1998 hindered British attempts at sabotage and smear while talks struggled. After decades of censorship of Sinn Fein and British dirty tricks with tabloids like the *News of the World*, Americans were for the first time hearing the other side and smelled a rat. Today, understandably, the work of securing the peace attracts less media attention than drone strikes in Afghanistan, bombs in Iraq and the roar of the Arab Spring.

Perhaps that explains how the latest British efforts to undermine the Irish peace process received scant attention. In February 2011, the British, pursuant to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), requested Attorney General Eric Holder issue a sealed subpoena for oral history records held in the Burns Library of Boston College. The College opposed the subpoena because to respond would violate the promise to loyalist and Irish republican interviewees to not reveal their recordings until their deaths. It became apparent that this request was not so much a request to help in a criminal investigation as it was as a politically motivated attempt to smear Gerry Adams, the President of Sinn Fein and a member of the Irish Dail or parliament. Such ham-fisted tactics certainly cast doubts upon the credibility of the British and their commitment to peace but is it enough to destabilize the peace process? It well could be.

In recent years there have been other distressing signs that the fruits of justice, the very foundation of peace, are proving elusive. The Treaty's promises of justice and truth in the pact are being undermined in subtle and sinister ways. Consider these related developments:

- In June, 2010 British Prime Minister Cameron ended forty years of lying about 14 Catholics killed on Bloody Sunday but no one was held accountable. Not Chief Justice Lord Widgery, the author of the whitewash report in 1972, nor Lt. Col Derek Wilford who still wears his Order of the British Empire awarded by the Queen for his 'service' on that day! The media proclaimed a new day had dawned but no one asked why they stopped lying. Here's why:
- The mass murder in Derry was known from that fateful day. Not so well known was the mass murder in May, 1974 of British Army no-warning bombs in Dublin & Monaghan shopping centers which killed 33 civilians. Cameron has refused to respond to the 2008 unanimous declaration of the Irish Dail for an explanation of the British Army role. Without media scrutiny or U. S. questioning or concern, the British government feels under no obligation to explain their involvement in Ireland's equivalent of a 9/11 terrorist attack. It is still the largest loss of life since the 1916 Easter Rebellion.
- Al Hutchinson, the Police Ombudsman was forced to resign early due to criticism he slowed the pace of investigations and edited out of draft reports the role of police corruption The RUC/PSNI have been hiring back retirees to work on the very cases under question and have suspended a program to recruit more Catholics as required by the Patten Report. A Judge, embarrassed by the political imprisonment of Gerry McGeough, has given instructions from the bench for loyalists to sue against Royal Pardons lest he continue to look like a jackass in continuing his imprisonment. The 'justice' system there is rife with such horrors that underscore British deceit.
- In October, Prime Minister Cameron acknowledged that security forces colluded with loyalist death squads in the killing of attorney Patrick Finucane. But he rejected the long promised independent public inquiry into the defense lawyer's assassination. He instead pulled "a Widgery"; opting for a private review of documents by a respected solicitor. The same sham whitewash can be expected. The Government would rather cover up the facts and truth of the murder than risk any more exposure of its 'dirty war' in Ireland.

Bret Stephens of the Wall Street Journal insists that "credibility is the coin of the realm in international relations." Britain's actions in the 'long grass' away from a probing media or U. S. demand for accountability, are without credibility and threaten the Irish peace process. The bona fides of the U. S. come into question, if its presumed 'ally' seeks to undermine a pact it worked so hard to achieve.



AOH Western Rep. Mike O'Connor, Rita O'Hare, United Ireland Campaign Rep. George Trainor, State President Tom Pahut and Bob Mehrens

Montana welcomed Sinn Féin Representative to the United States, Rita O'Hare to the state's 2011 Ancient Order of Hibernian's convention in Missoula, Montana. Rita, the keynote speaker emphasized the importance of a United Ireland. "Our objective is a republic that serves the needs of all the Irish people. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally."

Resolutions calling for Irish reunification by democratic, electoral means, as provided for under the Good Friday Agreement, have been adopted by the New Jersey General Assembly, Lawrence, Massachusetts, Boston, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Cleveland, Rockland County, New York, The California Democratic Party, The San Francisco Labor Council, and The San Francisco chapter of the Veterans for Peace.

Campaign for a United Ireland representative George Trainor also addressed the AOH attendees. "We need to hear your voice. We need Montana to join the chorus of growing states, counties, cities and organizations whose voices are calling out for a United Ireland."

AOH Western Rep Mike O'Connor observed, "The United Ireland Campaign is very important to Montana because of its history. The Irish came to Montana knowing that they would never be able to return home. It's important that we support Irish unification."

There are strong ties between Montana and Ireland. In 1919, when Dev Valera went on a tour of the United States to encourage support for Ireland's fight for independence, over 10,000 Butte, Montana residents turned out to hear him speak. The next day, Valera addressed a joint session of the Montana State Legislature.

The IRA in English Prisons

The re-eruption of the Troubles in 1968-9 ensured the return of the IRA to English prisons where militant Irish republicans had been detained in almost every decade of the previous century. Over 200 were jailed in England during the 'Long War' ended by the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Attempts to import weaponry from Britain were underway prior to the 'split' in the Republican Movement into 'Provisional' and 'Official' factions in December 1969. This complicated the provision of welfare support for imprisoned IRA members and their families, most of whom were obliged to undertake arduous and expensive journeys to England for the occasional visits permitted by the Home Office. Strict vetting procedures applied and for the most part IRA prisoners could only receive close relatives. With rare exceptions, compassionate parole for family bereavements was denied.

The Home Office had overhauled its regulations on the treatment of long term maximum security prisoners as recently as 1966 when Lord Louis Mountbatten reclassified such men as 'Category A'. Economic considerations ensured that by 1968 captured IRA personnel in Britain were held in the 'dispersal system'. Instead of being concentrated in a 'fortress' or Alcatraz style prison, Category A prisoners were rotated between a network of seven suitable and adapted facilities. They were also periodically dispatched for short periods of solitary confinement in 'local' jails such as Strangeways in Manchester. Certain IRA prisoners were destined to be moved over seventy times in the course of their sentences and many accumulated years in solitary confinement.

Re-equipping of the IRA from convenient British arms suppliers resulted in the jailing of a diverse range of persons by 1970. Reflecting the Civil Rights dimension and sense of communal threat, they included IRA Volunteers, communist activists, trade union leaders and professionals. A number of persons involved in the shipment of weaponry acquired by networks in Chicago, New York, Boston and Philadelphia were imprisoned in England. The significance of shipping routes between New York and Southampton, England, was appreciated and exploited by Irish republicans and their American supporters.

The early gunrunners were joined by Provisional IRA members such as Jim Monaghan, arrested in London in possession of war material, and Michael Gaughan, a Mayo born resident of Manchester jailed in connection with a bank robbing 'financial' operation in the British capital. The first major bombings of the campaign occurred in March 1973 and from that time the prisoner population was augmented by increasing numbers of IRA personnel based in England as well as those dispatched from Ireland. San Francisco Irish-American Liam Quinn was ultimately convicted of his role in IRA attacks in England following his highly controversial extradition from the US to Britain. By the late 1970s approximately ninety persons regarded as IRA members were being held in English prisons.

Category A men were closely monitored in their daily routines and frequently moved. The original logic of progressively re-grading men serving more than ten years imprisonment from A to B to C prior to release did not apply to republicans and few were ever reclassified. Communication with lawyers, friends and family were severely curtailed and led to a series of submissions to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Generally, only immediate family were permitted to visit sentenced republicans and a vindictive spirit on the part of police and prison authorities was clearly in evidence. Those approved by the Home Office were subjected to intensive searching and oppressive surveillance. 'Closed' visits, in which no physical contact was permitted, were common. Most families experienced the disappointment of arriving for long planned visits to be told that their relative had been moved elsewhere that morning. This could entail travelling from the Isle of Wight off the south coast of England to Hull in the northern county of Yorkshire.

Prison moves usually involved periods of twenty-eight days in 'local' jails which lacked the facilities for long term incarceration. Those sent to 'local' prisons were essentially subjected to solitary confinement and confined to their cells for twenty-three hours a day. The overuse of 'Rule 43' was also alleged, a regulatory device in which a Governor could relocate a prisoner to a segregation unit if he believed that the 'Good Order and Discipline' of the establishment was under threat.

(Continued on next page)

IRA men were frequently segregated against their will on the spurious grounds that they were in danger of being attacked by other prisoners. While such attacks did occur, often with the connivance and instigation of prison officers, relations between republican and social prisoners were generally good. A high degree of co-operation was achieved in major protest actions and escape attempts.

It was suspected that the Home Office exerted maximum pressure on sentenced IRA men and women in order to deter Volunteers from going to England. In a parallel move at least eighteen totally innocent people were framed for IRA attacks in order to intimidate the Irish population in Britain. The draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act was a vital tool in this patent injustice after November 1974. Against this negative trend, Sinn Fein, An Cumann Ca-brach, Prisoners Aid Committee, Irish Political Hostages Campaign, Troops Out Movement and other bodies agitated vigorously to ameliorate the conditions faced by imprisoned republicans. Sr. Sarah Clarke, Jacqui Kaye, Maureen Maguire, Mary Pearson, Nina Hutchinson and many others worked for years on behalf of the prisoners and their dependants. In America support was provided by such organizations as Irish Northern Aid and Clann na Gael both of whom raised funds to assist the families of imprisoned Irish republicans and arranged morale boosting letter writing campaigns. Sr. Clarke was also instrumental in engaging Bishop Thomas Drury of Corpus Christi, Texas, in the campaign to exonerate the wrongfully convicted 'Birmingham Six'. Fr. Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus, Washington DC, was also deeply engaged in raising consciousness of this major injustice.

IRA prisoners tended to receive disproportionate punishment for infraction of prison rules and the amount of remission lost during protests had the effect of dramatically lengthening their sentences. Given the necessity of acting in self-defence, asserting political status and resisting petty persecutions, IRA prisoners were invariably involved in incidents that ranged from sabotage of workshops and arson to lengthy rooftop occupations. As the numbers of republicans grew within the Dispersal System, it proved impossible to keep them as isolated and vulnerable as had been the case in the early to mid 1970s. Republicans were heavily involved in major protests in Gartree, Hull, Albany and Long Lartin; inflicted significant damage on Wakefield and Wormwood Scrubs and escaped from Brixton and Whitemoor Special Secure Unit. The Whitemoor incident proved that the 1990s concept of concentrating IRA prisoners in detached, ultra high security units was no guarantee of containment.

The prison struggle frequently commanded the attention of the Irish public between 1969 and 1998. A major hunger strike in 1973-4 secured the repatriation of four IRA Volunteers and led to the death of Michael Gaughan in Parkhurst in June 1974. Irish-Americans protested vociferously during the gruelling ordeal which resulted in Gaughan's death and subsequently arranged a mock funeral outside the United Nations. Many leading New York based personalities participated, not least Paul O'Dwyer, Frank Durkan and George Harrison, all of whom shared Gaughan's Mayo heritage.

The long term campaign to win political status, humane treatment and ultimate repatriation claimed the life of Frank Stagg in Wakefield in February 1976. Stagg died on his fourth hunger strike and the appalling behaviour of the Irish Government during his funeral did much to hasten its collapse. George Stagg, in the course of a memorable visit to New York, shocked many with his eyewitness description of his dying brother resembling a concentration camp victim. The intervention of the Irish Government resulted in Stagg being buried under concrete outside the Republican Plot in Leigue Cemetery, near Ballina, Mayo. Within the year, his comrades fulfilled a promise given by Joe Cahill to rebury him alongside Gaughan as his will expressly stipulated. Medical neglect and the ingrained culture of brutality in the English system hastened and possibly caused the death of Noel Jenkinson, Sean O Conaill and Paddy Kelly.

Irish Academic Press will release Special Category, The IRA in English Prisons, 1968-1978 in early 2012. The author, Dr. Ruan O'Donnell of the History Department, University of Limerick, has published extensively on the history of Irish republicanism. It is anticipated that a US launch will take place in New York in early 2012. For further details contact colin.eustace@iap.ie.

Montserrat, Emerald Isle of the Caribbean

By Marie Smith

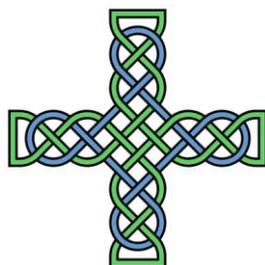
In 2011, the Emerald Island choir from the island of Montserrat performed in concert in Dublin and Cork. Memories flooded back to me of years ago watching a T.V. program on languages and how on the island of Montserrat the natives, descendants of Irish slaves and indentured servants, spoke with a brogue, danced a side step reminiscent of the Irish jig, and whose native dish "goatwater" had its origins in the Irish stew, goat being substituted for beef.

This interest was further nurtured when I read in my local newspaper, that John Osborne, chief minister of Montserrat for 18 years, still under the control of Britain, was a descendent of Irishman, John Osborne, an early settler. As chairperson for the IAUC convention in Fort Lauderdale in 1990, I invited Minister Osborne to be a speaker at our convention. He confirmed he would attend but as the date grew closer, I received his cancellation from his secretary and the reason was soon clarified when I read in the newspaper that Scotland Yard had descended on the island, relieved John Osborne of his duties and he was recalled to London. The island under John Osborne had become a center for international banking fraud and money laundering

However, our chapter was still fascinated with the proximity of this piece of Irish history and member Bea Page, a travel agent arranged for our chapter to visit the island three years later. Our late president Bob Linnon, Eileen, Bea Page, and other members of our chapter together with a Sun Sentinel reporter, Barbara Walsh, flew to Montserrat via Martinique. We landed in Plymouth and our passports were stamped with the island's symbol, the shamrock.

In 1632, just 12 years after the pilgrims had landed at Plymouth Rock, Irish settlers from Virginia and St. Kitts, escaping religious bigotry settled Montserrat. Cromwell's genocidal policy of Irish suppression in the 17th century, sent upwards 100,000 Irish into slavery in Virginia and the Caribbean. In 1669 a Fr. Gargan, S.J. Superior on the island of Martinique, asked for additional Irish priests for the neighboring islands which were "full of the Irish." He continues, "every year shiploads of men, boys and girls from Ireland are carried off by force by the English for the purposes of the slave trade." The census of 1678 on this tiny volcanic island showed an Irish population of 1,669, English 761 and African 992. Gaelic was the spoken language. Because we had a reporter with us, we were given an appointment with the acting minister, a Professor Howard A. Fergus, a Montserratian who had written a revisionist history of the Irish on the island. Since we had a reporter with us, he thought it would be about tourism but he was surprised when we started questioning him about Irish slavery. His reply was in the negative, there were no slaves, only indentured servants. When we questioned if he had ever studied Irish history or been to Ireland, his answer was in the negative - the closest he had been was to London at the behest of the British government.

On our return from Montserrat our reporter Barbara Walsh wrote a front page article on our visit and the Irish connection. Sorrowfully, seven years later the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted and many of the natives were sent to different countries for refuge, including the U.S. Many have now returned and are trying to rebuild. It was wonderful to read that their choir, for the first time, had performed and visited Ireland, reconnecting with their heritage and singing their songs of exile and rebirth.



The Divide and Conquer Strategy

By Jim Gallagher, Past National IAUC President

The rallying cry of those Irish seeking self-rule, “England Get Out of Ireland” is as relevant today as it was three centuries ago, particularly as it applies to partition and human and civil rights in the north of Ireland. Clearly, as long as Britain controls governance in the six counties, Ireland will be a divided island. The “Divide and Conquer” policies that served the crown in creating and nurturing division in Ireland continues in a deliberate and forceful manner.

Britain’s “Divide and Conquer” policies in the north today are designed to retain British control-politically, economically and socially. Their present policies are mere local extensions of 800 years of repression and discrimination in the whole of Ireland. A brief recount of major examples follows. Consider:

- As early as 1366, the Statutes of Kilkenny sought cultural and political dominance over the Gaelic Irish.
- Under Henry VIII politics and religion became inseparable. Under Queen Elizabeth I (1553-1603) Gaelic meant Catholic and her policies ended any hope of cultural assimilation of Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish. Under James I (1603-1625) Ulster was ruled under British Law, which was reinforced by the “Plantation” of British and Scottish Protestants to displace the Gaelic Irish from their own lands and subjugate them to serf status.
 - From the beginning, British preferential treatment in land, housing, employment and economic practices were contentious issues that divided Gaelic-Irish and “Planters”.
- Alienation intensified a half century later when the anti-Catholic bigot Oliver Cromwell put Catholics to the sword, drove survivors to the poorest agricultural lands west of the Shannon River, and, sold others as free-labor slaves to English colonies in Virginia and the Caribbean. By the end of the 17th century, during the reign of William and Mary, Gaelic Irish were relegated to non-human status under the imposition of the “Penal Laws”. By this time, the Protestant minority controlled three-fourths of the land of Ireland.
- The American and French Revolutions inspired a brief Catholic-Protestant shared desire for independence from repressive British rule, in the form of the “United Irishmen”. Britain suppressed any aspirations for a truly representative Irish Parliament, inciting the Uprising of 1798. Following the Uprising, Britain choked any hopes for Irish independence with the 1800 Act of Union, and a growing dominance of absentee landlords and Orange Order. Also, in north-east Ireland, England supported urban industrialization and agricultural improvements for Protestants only, resulting in sectarian violence. Thus, by design the divide deepened.
- Post Hunger (extended potato blight) agrarian reform and Home Rule dynamics in the late 1800’s exposed both the increasing confidence of Protestants, now largely Unionists, that Britain fully supported them and a fear of Catholics gaining a foothold in governing their own fate.
- Eventually, Irish Nationalists turned to military action to achieve independence. The Uprising of 1916 and the Anglo-Irish War resulted in a Treaty approved under British coercion – the threat of continued full scale war. Under the terms of the treaty Partition of Ireland was implemented, manipulated by British deceit.
- Thereafter, in the partitioned six counties representative government was denied to Nationalists and Catholics. Gerrymandering of political districts, discriminatory housing, employment and voting laws, an anti-Catholic police state-including widespread murders, house burnings and evictions were widely practiced, all under the control of the British Government.
- Recent History
 - - After almost 50 years of this reign of terror in the north, Nationalists rose up in peaceful demonstrations in 1968. They were met with the same terrorism that sparked their demand for human and civil rights reform. The resulting confrontations led to 30 years of the “Troubles”.
 - – Allegations and later admissions by Britain, of collusion of the British army and intelligence services and a Loyalist police force leading and supporting Loyalist paramilitaries in the murders of unarmed civilians, largely Nationalists and Catholics, revealed Britain’s guiding hand.
 - – Since the Reformation and continuing today, Catholicism was the voiced target in British aligned atrocities and in social and cultural opposition. However, the real objectives were, and clearly remain, political and economic power.
 - – After almost 15 years after the 1998 Good Friday Agreement British Government cover-ups and refusals to obtain truths in many collusion cases continues unabated.
 - - While Britain dominates the international media and conducts non-democratic practices without international condemnation, little to nothing will force cessation of Britain’s “Divide and Conquer” policies.
 - - Indeed, unity-of peoples on the island of Ireland can only be achieved by all the people working and living together for the mutual benefit of all. A United Ireland must be initiated and pursued from the bottom up, that is, the people and their communities. – Britain will remain a strong adversarial force. So, the enlightened people in the north, and south, of Ireland must be encouraged and supported by the international community if they are to prevail.

A Trip of Wonderful Memories or, the Things I Saw on Mulberry Street

By Andy Somers, Past National President

Mary and I were favored by winning the IAUC raffle to Ireland last year. What a trip! Thank you IAUC. We got the chance to see and chat with all my friends from yesterday. I met with Tina McGarvey and the Shanaghans from Tyrone. Good old Paddy Devlin was there as always. All of us had gone to the Shanaghan inquiry and the European Court of Human Rights as a group of litigants and we won a unanimous decision from that Court. One more nail in the British coffin. One more victory for The IAUC! Mary, Bill Berardo and I were there for IAUC. The court ruled that the UK had violated Patrick Shanaghan's right to life under the European compact for Human Rights. How many of these hearings have to go on and conclude the same way? The Court found ample evidence of collusion and the Brits folded their tents and went home. We had three lawyers arguing for Shanaghan and the Brits had about 12. It didn't help them.

After Tyrone, we met Mary Nelis in Derry and then we walked the walls and visited the Derry Free Museum. Martina Anderson came by and made my trip worthwhile. I last saw Martina in Maghaberry Prison. During that visit, Martina and her co-inmate Ella O'Dwyer were surrounded by dour faced women guards who watched our every move to see who was going to break-out first. She is now one of the most active people in the North. She is an elected member of the Assembly and she serves on the Police Board. She is also a star in Sinn Fein and I was so proud to be there and see all the wonderful changes. At any rate, all the bars and the dour faced guards are gone and a smiling, healthy and successful people have filled the scene. The things we saw on Mulberry (Falls Road) Street.

In Belfast City (Falls Rd) we met Fr. Des Wilson and Noelle. He sent us some good and gentle people from Ballymurphy survivors of the massacre to see us. They are still telling their stories and we must continue to repeat their tales. Yell it from high; don't let anyone except the Irish write their history. Stop letting the Brits get away with calling it the "troubles" It was a war, pure and simple!

Joe Doherty came by at the Conway Mill. Joe is counseling and helping ex-prisoners and he looks great. I first met Joe at the Metropolitan Correction Centre (jail) in Manhattan. He had a great attorney who (pro bono) kept fighting the good fight for Joe. Mary Pike was a Jewish lady and a diligent attorney whose actions inspired me to get on board the Irish train. With also a little push and guilt reminder from Paul O Dwyer, I joined on.

Conway Mill itself was a surprise; I found it to be a wondrous place to behold - a bubbling hub of activity for vocational and educational activities. They have a great lunch room but don't order the Irish breakfast. There is too much food. I couldn't believe the change in the Mill. I was there when it was a rubbished factory in constant harassment by the Brits who objected to the Irish trying to do things in Ireland. Thank you Brenda Kelly, Pauline, Elsie McGowan, Father Des and all who kept on working and hoping. They kept turning the wheel and singing the songs. The Mill is doing very, very well, but don't forget to send a check to the Conway Mill Trust to keep up the great work.(P.O. Box 101529 Pittsburgh, PA 15237 <http://conwaymilltrust.org/>)

Later we meet with Danny McNamee who no longer wore prison garb separated by full front plastic shield. He now wears button down collars and striped ties leads a full life as a leading solicitor from Newry. Danny just married a beautiful and smart barrister named Eileen about 3 months ago. The British really want them to go away but as Gerry Adams said "we haven't gone away, you know." Danny got his law reading in various English prisons and now the Brits probably wish they never arrested him in the first place. It took 13 years to clear him but with the help of Gareth Peirce and Mike Mansfield and the IAUC's confidence and help, he was cleared of wrongdoing. One more story to keep on telling.

Mairtin O'Muilleoir met with us to speak of yesterday and today. He's so active and involved in covering the news of the North. There is no question about whether the war was worth it. There is no doubt about who fought the war and about who won.

We were surprised to find out the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis was beginning the next day and we cancelled our plans to leave and we stayed a few extra days in Belfast. We attended the convention and I got the chance to meet and see all the people I had worked with and loved for over 20 years. Alex Maskey was all over the place. He still looks like Tom Fox. No wonder we did so well over there, everybody looks like our cousin or sibling. And they are all so good looking.--especially without prison garb.

(Continued on next page)

Dessie Ellis was there looking very official , The free state still bears the shame of extraditing Dessie to England . It was the first such extradition and was an act of weakness on the Irish government's part. Can you imagine how shamed the government felt when he returned after an acquittal? Yell these stories to the roof. Martina Anderson gave some wonderful speeches. The Rev. David Lattimer, a Presbyterian minister addressed the cheering crowd. Wow, have things changed. The unionists went wild in anger over the Reverend mingling and speaking to the Fenians. The papers were not friendly .This was the only thing the media commented on. This Ard Fheis was held for the first time in the North and in Belfast. The crowd of about 3000 went wild over Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, Caitriona Ruane and Caoimhghin O'Caolain were proud to be there. If you can spell Caoimhghin's name you are Irish and definitely not affected by the Guinness. I remember when Caoimhghin (Monaghan) was the only Sinn Fein Representative in the Irish Dail. Now there are about 16. Oh, the things that we see on Mulberry street!

In addition to all the joys of friendship and memories, I was still able to get a plate of oysters au naturale in Belfast. Life is so sweet! Thank you IAUC

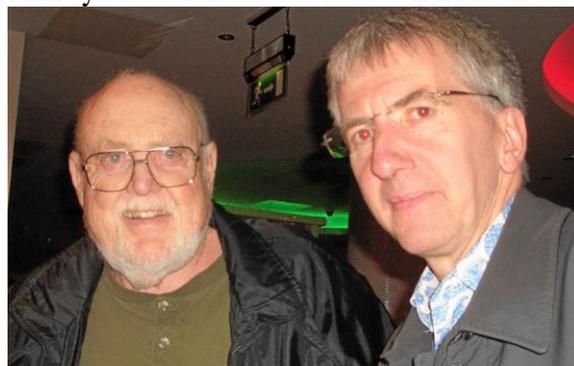


The Sinn Fein Ard Fheis



Andy and Mary Nelis in Derry

Andy and Mairtin O'Muilleoir in Belfast



IAUC ANNUAL RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Win airfare to Ireland and support the IAUC! Tickets are \$5.00 each.

The drawing will be on March 31, 2012. All tickets and proceeds are to be returned to 2900 Coolidge Highway, Berkley Michigan 48072 prior to that date. Contact Raffle Chairmen:

Bill Berardo wberdo@aol.com 248/542-5800 or George Trainor steeler059@aol.com 209/858-8124.

New Toll Free Number for IAUC!

The IAUC National Board has a new toll free number: **888-295-5077**

Please use this number to contact national officers about membership dues, issues that are of interest or concern to members and friends, filing Chapter reports or for media follow up. At the prompt, leave your name and telephone number and your call will be returned promptly.

New Website for the IAUC!

The IAUC has contracted with Brand Mill, LLC of Carnegie, Pennsylvania, to update and expand its current website. The new website will provide:

- Easier to navigate pages,
- Better graphics,
- The ability to pay dues or make donations online,
- Purchase books and other items of interest,
- Receive updates to your Facebook account automatically;
- View archived editions of not only the newsletter but other important material and documents that the IAUC has been involved in over the past 30 years.
- Users will be able to comment on posted material as well as blogs from our National President and others.

This redesign is crucial in order to keep its members and friends current about developments in the north of Ireland, peace and justice concerns, the quest for real truth recovery in the north and the goal of a reunited Ireland.

Notes of Interest:

Boston was chosen by National Famine Commemoration Committee as the location for 2012

<http://irishhungercomm.wordpress.com/>



Irish Radio on the web:

ECHOES OF ERIN, WEDO 810 AM Sundays 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM EST with host, Diane Byrnes. Listen to Echoes of Erin on the internet at the same time as the actual broadcast through 'live-stream',

<http://www.wedo810.com/>, click 'Listen Live'.

Irish Radio Network – the Adrian Flannelly Show Saturday 9AM to 12PM EST <http://www.irishradio.com/>

Important Financial Reminder!

Keep this page handy for future reference

IAUC Memberships: As we start 2012, don't forget to renew your membership! Renewing memberships are due at the beginning of the calendar year. Chapter members may pay directly to their chapter treasurers. All Chapters collecting member dues must send their affiliation fee to Kevin Barry, National Treasurer by **April 1, 2012**. If you have a question about affiliation fees, please contact Kevin directly at kevinbnj@aol.com by phone at 973-812-8915 or via the IAUC's toll free number: 888-295-5077.

Financial Reports and Member Reports: Chapter Treasurers and Secretaries shall also send to the National Treasurer and Secretary an annual chapter financial report for 2011 no later than **June 1, 2012**. The reports shall include all income and expenses for the chapter for through December 31, 2012. Membership reports shall include the names and addresses for all chapter members. Copies of the reports may be mailed directly to the IAUC PO Box or emailed to the treasurer at kevinbnj@aol.com and Secretary Kathleen Kelly at katkelly0616@yahoo.com

IRS Form 990: Per changes in the Internal Revenue Code, all nonprofits organizations must file a Form 990 with the IRS annually. All IAUC chapters must file their own 990 and obtain their own EIN from the IRS (this is free). An e-990 postcard can be filed electronically by chapters if chapter income is under \$50,000. For more information go to: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/> Failure to file this document with the IRS will result in automatic revocation of the organization's tax exempt status. **A copy of the chapter 990 must be sent to the National Treasurer no later than June 1, 2012.** Any questions, please contact Kevin Barry, National Treasurer.



A second possible British motivation is that higher echelons in the British Government want to damage Adams and Sinn Fein now because of their rising political power in the government of the Republic of Ireland. Ireland has suffered a devastating financial and economic collapse. Sinn Fein's party platform is that the Irish Government and people should not bail out the financial institutions and bondholders left holding billions in bad debt. A very high portion of those financial institutions and bondholders are British. In the February 25, 2011, Irish Dail elections, Sinn Fein had remarkable success. Gerry Adams led the party's ballot. Sinn Fein is now the largest party in the Dail opposed to the Irish Government's bailout of bondholders. The British Government, acting through the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts started the court process for Boston College subpoena in March, 2011.

The United States has a long standing policy against helping other countries, particularly Britain, with politically motivated law enforcement and prosecutions. That conflict has usually played out in extradition cases, where "political offenses" were traditionally exempted from extradition to Britain, as well as to virtually all other countries. During the 1970s and 80s, American federal judges regularly refused to extradite IRA members to Great Britain because their crimes were committed as part of a political struggle. Joe Doherty might be the most famous of these cases. Unhappy with this outcome, Britain in 1985 prevailed upon the U.S. State Department to accept a Supplementary Extradition Treaty which took away the political offense exemption for many types of offenses. The U.S. Senate eventually approved the Treaty, but only after inserting a defense to extradition if a court finds that the person is sought, or would face trial or punishment, because of his race, religion, nationality or political opinions. The end result might be characterized as "political offense exception light."

Yet, Great Britain was still dissatisfied with Extradition Treaty. In 2003, Britain persuaded the State Department to further weaken protections from politically motivated prosecutions. For several years, the U.S. Senate refused to accept the changes because of the history of politically motivated prosecutions during the conflict in Northern Ireland, especially for offenses prior to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a series of hearings on the subject. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Brehon Law Society, and the Irish American Unity Conference led the opposition to the new treaty. On at least eight occasions during the hearings, the British Government and the U.S. Justice Department assured the Senate that pre-GFA offenses arising from the conflict in Northern Ireland would be off the table for extradition under the new treaty. The Senate eventually ratified the 2003 Extradition Treaty in 2006. The Senate partially accepted Britain's assurances about pre-GFA offenses being off the table, but felt compelled to incorporate those assurances into the Treaty ratification, itself.* The whole story is laid out in Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, "Extradition Between the United States and Great Britain: The 2003 Treaty," 10/10/06 <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32096.pdf>

The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and Extradition Treaty are closely connected. They were negotiated, signed, considered by the Senate, and ratified contemporaneously. The treaties were sold to the Senate as being necessary for effective cross border law enforcement in a post-9/11 world, particularly for terrorism and money laundering. It appears that the Boston College subpoenas are the first time that Britain has sought U.S. subpoenas for offenses stemming from the conflict in Northern Ireland, ostensibly ended with the GFA 13 years ago. When the MLAT was signed and approved by the U.S. Senate, there was no ostensible reason to believe that the MLAT would be used for subpoenas for pre-GFA offenses—especially in light of Britain's assurances that pre-GFA offenses were off the table. If the courts allow Britain to use the MLAT in this obviously politically motivated case, the MLAT should be revised similar to the Extradition Treaty, to ensure that it is not used for pre-GFA cases.

Summary prepared by Thomas Fox in conjunction with Jim Cullen and Ned McGinley Special Advisors to the National Presidents of the IAUC, Brehon Law Society and the Ancient Order of Hibernians respectively.

* **SECTION 4. PROVISOS**

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following provisos:

(1)(A) The Senate is aware that concerns have been expressed that the purpose of the Treaty is to seek the extradition of individuals involved in offenses relating to the conflict in Northern Ireland prior to the Belfast Agreement of April 10, 1998. The Senate understands that the purpose of the Treaty is to strengthen law enforcement cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom by modernizing the extradition process for all serious offenses and that the Treaty is not intended to reopen issues addressed in the Belfast Agreement, or to impede any further efforts to resolve the conflict in Northern Ireland.

(B) Accordingly, the Senate notes with approval —

- (i) the statement of the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, made on September 29, 2000, that the United Kingdom does not intend to seek the extradition of individuals who appear to qualify for early release under the Belfast Agreement;
- (ii) the letter from the United Kingdom Home Secretary to the United States Attorney General in March 2006, emphasizing that the "new treaty does not change this position in any way," and making clear that the United Kingdom "want[s] to address the anomalous position of those suspected but not yet convicted of terrorism-related offences committed before the Belfast Agreement"; and
- (iii) that these policies were reconfirmed in an exchange of letters between the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the United States Attorney General in September 2006.

ACTION ALERT – CONTACT LIST
Save this information!

ASK THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BELOW TO PLEASE USE THEIR GOOD OFFICE AND CONTACT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER JR. AND SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON ASKING THEM TO PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO THE BOSTON COLLEGE SUBPOENA AND STRESS THE THREAT TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND THE POLITICAL NATURE OF THAT THREAT TO THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

If you don't know your Senator's or Congressperson's contact information, you may look it up on line at:

Senators: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Congressional Representative: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

Key Contacts:

Senator John Kerry, Boston, MA 02114 [\(617\) 565-8519](tel:6175658519) Washington D.C. [\(202\) 224-2742](tel:2022242742)

Senator Richard Lugar, Mark String – Aide, Indianapolis, IN Phone [\(317\) 226-5555](tel:3172265555) Fax [\(317\) 226-5508](tel:3172265508), Washington D.C. [\(202\) 224-4814](tel:2022244814)

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State

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To email go to form at: <http://contact-us.state.gov/app/ask>

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Fax: 202-514-4371

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INFO & MEDIA CONTACT LIST—BRITISH V BOSTON COLLEGE & ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER SUBPOENA
By Mike Cummings

In order to make sure information is distributed in a timely fashion and to take advantage of key AOH, IAUC and Brehon Law members, I list below their contact info. I will make every effort to distribute available updates to these people. Also noted are media contacts who have written a story or who are contemplating doing so.

Our goals are to get members of the Senate, particularly Senator Kerry (MA) and Senator Casey (PA), Secretary of State Clinton and Attorney General Holder to publicly express their opposition to the subpoena and to withhold whatever records may come into Attorney General Holder's possession as a result of the Attorney General's subpoena issued under seal at the request of the British. It is well within your power to make this happen. Your action on this is urgently needed and greatly appreciated.

Apart from the legal arguments advanced in the Boston College litigation are these two critical points: the request is politically inspired, not the result of a bona fide criminal investigation, and can only benefit those loyalist and dissident elements intent on destabilizing the stability of the Good Friday Agreement.

The spokesman for the Presidents of the three coalition groups are: Ned McGinley for the AOH at 570-905-5715 or ne-daoh1@aol.com; Jim Cullen at 212-278-1565 or jcullen@andersonkill.com for the Brehon Law Society; and for the IAUC Tom Burke Esq., President at tjburkejr@gmail.com or 303-478-8473

CT: Jim Gallagher jimgall98@juno.com, Rich Lawlor, rplawlor@sbcglobal.net 860-798-1840

MA: John Foley Esq. john@foleylawoffices.com Richard Wall rjwall@aol.com 105 Federal St, Lynn, MA 01905 State AOH President, Mass.

NY: Dan Dennehy, AOH Nat'l Board danieldennehy@gmail.com 22 Andre Lane, Cortland Manor, 914 -588-2170 Tim Myles, 516-660-7456 tamtam614@aol.com 19 Howard PL, Lynbrook, NY 11563 Mike Cummings (IAUC) at saoirse64@hotmail.com or 518-482-0349

John Dearie Esq. at jcd@dearie.com or 1-800-2-Dearie

NJ: Sean Pender, State President AOH paddyspeed@yahoo.com , 13 Scullin Dr, Yardville, NJ 08620
Michael Glass, Ph. D, at drmike5@aol.com

Sean Hughes at shughes@prcg.com or 212-683-8100 x 239—Media Contact

PA: Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin (LAOH) 412-512-9388 sarahm1916@comcast.net

Seamus Boyle, Nat Pres. AOH at shay39@comcast.net

MD: Kathleen Kelly katkelly0616@yahoo.com

DC: Peter Kissel (IAUC) pckissel@gkrse-law.com or 202-408-5400

FL: Joe Roche at jar32aoh@aol.com, 410-638-2227, 1900 Ocean Blvd, Apt 2j, Pompano Beach, FL

I note below the relevant contacts for people who have done stories in blogs, newspapers and websites for those who wish to have more background information on the British v. Boston College subpoena case.

<http://bostoncollegesubpoena.wordpress.com/>, a Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boston-College-Subpoena-News/214819168575025>

and a Twitter account <http://twitter.com/#!/BCSubpoenaNews>

Media: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2012/jan/02/medialaw-usa?INTCMP=S>

Media--Kathy Liu, Associate Producer 60 Minutes

555 West 57th Street 9th Floor

New York, New York 10019

Tel +1 212-975-2169

Media --The Hill <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/187483-sec-clinton-asked-to-intervene-on-subpoena-for-oral-histories-of-ira-members>

Media—Devin Barrett

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Desk 202-862-6624

Cell 202-617-6330

Media—Jennifer O'Leary

BBC Dublin

353-1-208-4693

353-87-947-9617

Fx-353-1-208-4691

Jennifeer.o'leary@bbc.co.uk

Membership in the IAUC

To renew or become a member of the IAUC, please fill out the following and mail to:

**Irish American Unity Conference
PO Box 55573
Washington, DC 20040
Attention Kathleen Kelly, Membership**

Dues

Regular Member: \$30.00
Family Membership: \$40.00
Senior Citizen/Student: \$20.00

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Checks or money orders should be made payable to "IAUC"

The IAUC has some chapters in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California, Michigan, Florida and Washington, DC.
If you would like chapter information please let us know.

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