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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

A Few Bad Apples

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

In the history of the conflict in Ireland, truth like peace comes dropping slow. This week, Operation Kenova, a police led investigation into the actions of state agents and agencies suspected of involvement in killings, published its final report.

The report brought various strands and murders together. One strand of investigation was into 127 killings by one group of “loyalist paramilitaries” known as the Glennanne Gang,

I put “loyalist paramilitaries” in quotes because there is little distinction in the actions of the British military and paramilitaries. Some of the killings were conducted by members of the British Military.

In several cases, the report found “clear evidence of collusion with loyalist paramilitaries by state actors”.

Branches of the military provided intelligence and materials for this gang. They also covered up their actions and failed to prosecute the known killers and the murders continued. The Kenova investigation was hampered by the destruction of military files and evidence.

Another section of the report dealt with the actions of a State Agent within the IRA. This agent, codenamed Stakeknife, aka Freddie Scappaticci, was involved in providing over 3,500 intelligence reports to the Irish Republicans. He was also directly implicated in the killing of 14 murders.

Most of those cases involved the killing of suspected British agents. The report makes clear that to protect Scappaticci, the British allowed the killings of others, including

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Kenova reported that Stakeknife killed more people than his intelligence saved. As if there would be some morally devoid ledger in which these actions would have been acceptable.

In the case of Stakeknife, the report details how files had been destroyed or withheld by MI5, who had claimed to have little or no interaction with the agent.

The report found that British Military Intelligence had handled Stakeknife from the beginning and for decades had protected him. They funded him, advised him on hiding assets, took him on holiday when the police had a warrant for his arrest and finally resettled and supported him in Britain until he died.

Even after his death, they protected him by blocking the publication of his will for 70 years. The British Military still refuse to acknowledge that Freddie Scappaticci was Stakeknife.

The Kenova Report is not definitive, as evidence was destroyed and information withheld.

The report nails the lie that the British were neutral referees between warring tribes. The British pursued a war against Irish Republicans by any means necessary. That included working with unionist paramilitaries in the case of 127 killings by the Glennane Gang and the killing of 14 to protect their agent in the IRA.

Margaret Thatcher famously said in denying political status to Bobby Sands and the Hunger Strikers, "A crime is a crime, is a crime". At the same time, her agents and agencies were killing and covering up the murders of hundreds.

There are some who might say that these were the actions of a few bad apples. The evidence points to a widespread and ongoing cover-up. We now know the whole orchard was rotten.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Watch: December Video Update

Watch our latest video update! Sinn Féin's Representative to North America and Friends of Sinn Féin's Executive Director discuss the latest legacy developments, a

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The British State must finally confront the truth of its actions in Ireland

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD has said that the legacy investigations and reviews published as part of the Kenova Final Report confirm, yet again, that the British state played a central role in the murder of Irish citizens, North and South.

Teachta McDonald said, “My foremost thoughts today are with the families whose loved ones were murdered, and who have carried unbearable grief for decades. The scale of loss, trauma, and injustice inflicted on families across Ireland is profound. I am sorry for every life lost during the conflict, without exception.

“Today’s final Kenova report exposes corruption, criminality, collusion, and cover-up at the highest levels of the British State. It lays bare a system in which British intelligence agencies, sections of the RUC, and the British Army repeatedly obstructed justice, concealed evidence, and protected agents involved in murder.

“The Dublin and Monaghan bombings of 17 May 1974 – the single worst day of violence in the conflict – claimed 34 lives. Operation Denton confirms that British state

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“The Denton Report shows that loyalist gangs were regularly supplied with intelligence, assistance, and freedom of operation by members of British state forces. This was not random or rogue behaviour – it was part of a recurring pattern in which loyalist violence was enabled, facilitated, and exploited as a strategic tool.

“While Denton states that no documentary evidence was found of high-level political intent to collude, it crucially acknowledges that such records were unlikely ever to have been created or preserved. The absence of such documentation cannot be used to wash away responsibility. The truth is that collusion was resourced, financed, directed, and protected by arms of the British State.

“Families know this. Irish society knows this. And the British state has spent decades seeking to ensure that the full truth cannot be uncovered...

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with guest Gerry Adams**

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President Gerry Adams.



Families of those killed in Dublin Monaghan bombings deserve truth – criminality, collusion and cover-ups at the highest levels of the British State

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Matt Carthy TD, said that while the publication of the final Kenova report showed collusion did exist, it failed to deliver truth for the families of those killed in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

Deputy Carthy said it was now crucial that the Irish Government redouble its efforts to ensure all information related to this atrocity and all instances where the British state or its agents are suspected of colluding in attacks and murders be released and made available to Irish authorities.

Teachta Carthy said, “Headlines suggesting there was no collusion in the case of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings will have come as a shock to the families of those killed and injured in the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings. Those headlines don’t

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“Operation Kenova was deliberately undermined by the British state agency MI5. These actions were designed to block the truth....”

Sinn Féin Chief Whip Pádraig Mac Lochlainn has called for an urgent Dáil debate on the findings of the legacy investigations and reviews published today as part of the Kenova Final Report.

Speaking in the Dáil today Deputy Mac Lochlainn said the reports provide further confirmation of collusion, criminality and cover-up by the British State and expose the central role of the British State over decades in hundreds of targeted assassinations and murders of Irish citizens.

The final report on Operation Kenova, alongside reports on Operations Denton, Mizzenmast and Turma, were published in Belfast this week.

Teachta Mac Lochlainn said, “My thoughts are with the families who lost loved ones and who continue to campaign tirelessly for truth and justice.

“These reports expose the central role of the British State over decades in hundreds of targeted assassinations and murders of Irish citizens....

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IN THE USA

DASPORA MEET ON UNITY

By Greg O'Loughlin

Friends of Sinn Féin hosted a series of three Irish Unity People's Assemblies for the Diaspora in the Northeast of the United States in late October. These were the ninth, tenth, and eleventh Irish Unity People's Assemblies organized across the US over the last year, which drew more than 1,700 people in attendance from coast to coast. Previous events featured Sinn Féin spokespeople Pat Caffrey, John Fitzmaurice MP, and Dara Hughes MP, with stops in Cleveland, OH; Columbus, OH; Pearl River, NY; Washington, DC; Cincinnati, OH; Nashville, TN; Chicago, IL; and San Francisco, CA.

This run of events included stops in Hartford, CT; Boston, MA; and Philadelphia, PA. Special guest Niall Farrell, TD for Galway, addressed hundreds of supporters and activists from all over the region.

Late autumn in New England can feel like a more idyllic, vibrant foliage, fall festivals, pumpkin patches, and apple orchards abound as Niall made his way from city to city accompanied by Sinn Féin's Representative to North America Clarian Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin's Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin. The setting was heated only by the energy and engagement at every stop where the crowds that gathered jumped right into the work of planning and preparing for a new and united Ireland.

In Hartford, more than 120 activists gathered

at the Irish American Home Society to hear from Ms. Farrell and to work in small groups at their tables in order to make plans and organize action. A rare weekend afternoon event made it possible for families to participate, and featured pipers, a local Irish dance school, and a reception after the work to help solidify the connections made.

The friends chat portion of the event was hosted by Irish activists, who led Ireland through a series of questions that had been suggested by organizers. It was a highlight of the series, and it provided the audience with an opportunity to learn more about the role of activists in the work.

Later in the week, more than 100 people gathered at the home of the Boston firefighter's local 718, Florian Hall. Boston's host for the friends chat portion was none other than long-time activist and Irish Republican Kathleen Savage. Kathleen and Niall not only answered the many questions suggested by the attendees, but also worked their way through a myriad of topics and events that provided a special review of Boston's long history of support.

Activists young and old jumped at the chance to discuss the action and the work involved in creating a new and united Ireland and to make plans for next steps.

More than 100 people came out to

Philadelphia's Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Irish Centre in spite of pouring rain and flood warnings. The room filled quickly and the warmth of the greetings and of the gathering quickly vanquished the cold, raw evening.

The friends chat in Philadelphia was hosted by Terry Webb, Pennsylvania's Chair of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Freedom for all Ireland Committee and was a great conversation. Afterwards, attendees were eager to engage with the small group work and discussion portions. Philadelphia has been a center of Irish Republican activism in the United States for decades and the crowd was ready, willing, and able to dive into the deep end of organizing and next steps.

All of these events were made possible by the work of volunteers, activists and supporters. The progress made and the work to be done on the horizon is clearer than ever and that it thanks to the dozens of volunteers, hosts, donors, and activists.

Plans for events next year are already underway. In the meantime, it is clearer than ever that Irish America is ready to work for a new and united Ireland and to be part of the generation that makes it happen!

Greg O'Loughlin, Executive Director, Friends of Sinn Féin

A LETTER FROM NORTH AMERICA

By Clarian Quinn



I have just returned from attending Irish Unity Commission hearings in Hartford, Boston and Philadelphia. Over the past thirteen months, Friends of Sinn Féin USA has hosted eleven such events in cities across the USA, and I think all Sinn Féin Canada has hosted four events in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver.

The Commission events allow for activists and supporters to meet directly from Sinn Féin Representatives and to discuss the way forward to secure and win Irish Unity Referendums. One common factor across these events has been the need for the organizers to call a halt to the discussions as each event went over time. This is a measure of the interest and energy of activists hungry to see Irish Unity.

One question that arises in both North America and Ireland is, "Why do we put so much time and resources into these events?" It was fitting that the last Commission of the current year was held in Philadelphia, a city to which Wolfe Tone travelled in exile to meet and learn the lessons of American Revolutionary leaders. It was there that he made contact with the French Government Representatives and began his journey to Paris.

In each phase of Irish revolutionary history, North America has been crucial. There would have been no Easter Rising without "our exiled children." Throughout the years of conflict, activists and supporters in Irish North America, the Volunteers, Clann na Gael and others stood on the side of justice and Irish Unity.

It was US and Canadian activists who campaigned in support of the 1916 Principles and against endemic discrimination in the North of Ireland. As the peace process developed, US-based activists campaigned for a visa for Gerry Adams and for the appointment of a special envoy to the North as part of the 1992 Presidential campaign.

President Clinton upheld his campaign promises and remained engaged throughout the negotiations that would lead to the Good Friday Agreement. He took these actions despite British Government objections and set an era in which US foreign policy in Ireland would be independent of both governments, with peace and progress at its core.

The US and Canadian involvement in our peace process did not end in 1995. The OIA remains the most successful US foreign policy initiative in a generation. Each administration and both parties have remained engaged, acting as a guarantor for the agreement, peace and progress. This became evident in the Brexit process, as a bipartisan basis, the US Congress voted that a trade agreement would not be progressed unless the Good Friday Agreement was protected and a hard border across

Ireland was avoided. A similar position was supported in the Canadian Federal parliament.

This focused the attention of the British Government, which returned to the negotiation table with the EU.

Every election cycle throws up new challenges and opportunities. We have a Labour Government in Westminster and a Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Government that are desperate to build relationships with the Trump White House and lobby allies across the US political, economic, and civic society. Both governments also oppose the implementation of the referendum on the terms of the OIA.

The role of Sinn Féin in the US has been both as a partner in the peace process and a critical friend to the US political establishment. We need to protect the Good Friday agreement and promote the cause of Irish Unity. That does not mean that we support or endorse all US foreign policy. We use our meetings to raise concerns and share our perspective or peacebuilding, most recently on the genocide in Gaza.

History demonstrates that the main driver for progress and Irish unity in the US and Canada will come from Irish Citizens and the wider diaspora.

The Irish Government has retained a special relationship with the diaspora. It will support Irish cultural projects in the US and Canada, promote Irish Government priorities, but not stand voting rights to the Irish diaspora. It appears that you are a privileged part of the nation will you seek a voice in shaping the politics of the nation. Full on the green jersey, he was not not heard.

Yes the Irish in America and Canada have a role to play in shaping Irish, British and domestic policy.

The MacBride Principles campaign was met by British objections, Irish Government official ambivalence and unofficial opposition, which shaped the US White House and Congress positions. Yet the campaign built momentum across city councils, state houses, about unions and Irish American civic society. In the end, it was used for employment laws and practices in the North.

In every city we have visited, the demand from the floor has been simple. It is time to implement the referendum commitments in the Good Friday Agreement. It is time for the Irish Government to plan, prepare and advocate for Irish unity.

The Irish in North America now need to be heard.

Clarian Quinn is Sinn Féin's representative in North America

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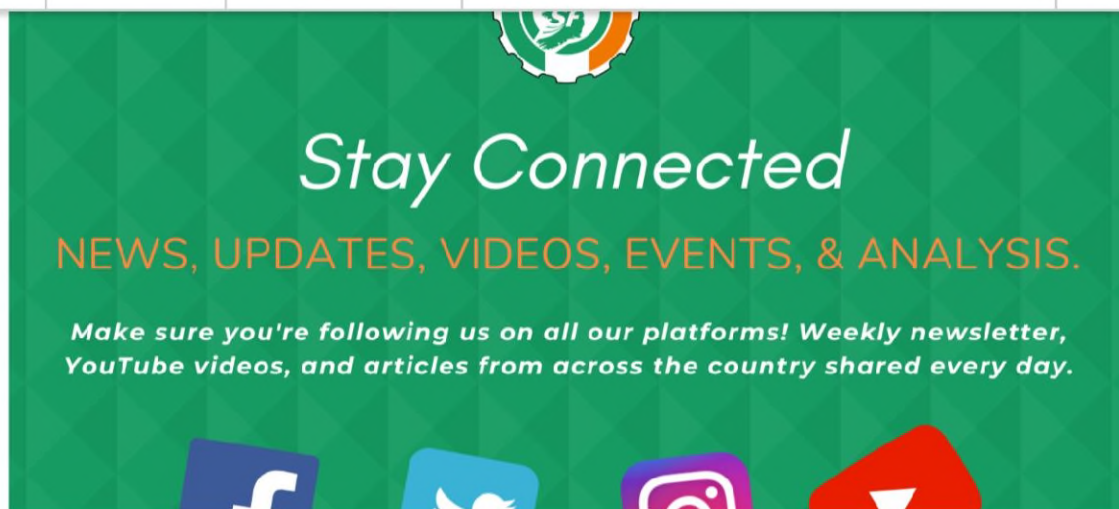
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The Irish language is thriving right across society

The soaring demand for Irish language classes at Queen's University Belfast speaks to the 'energetic' revival of Gaeilge, Sinn Féin MLA Aisling Reilly has said.

The party's Irish language lead made the comments after a 227% rise in enrolments on Irish language courses was reported at the university.

"It is heartening to witness such an unprecedented demand for the language at Queen's University," said Ms Reilly.

"This surge reflects an increasing societal desire to connect with our heritage and ensure it is preserved, maintained and promoted.

"The Irish language is well and truly alive, with its energetic revival continuing at pace across Ireland and every section of society.

"The vibrancy and positivity the language brings to our communities is unmatched and Sinn Féin will continue doing all it can to build on this."

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