

ANTI-EXTRADITION *News*

Newsletter of the Dublin Anti-Extradition Committee, Imleabhar 2, Uimhir 2, Márta /Aibreán 1992.

Angelo Fusco

The classic political offence



Angelo Fusco

Angelo Fusco is a Belfast-born Irish citizen, who is at present living in Tralee with his family, having been released on bail. The District Court has ordered his extradition to the North. He is currently awaiting his High Court appeal against that decision.

Angelo was imprisoned in Portlaoise from 1982 until Christmas 1991. He had been convicted in the no-jury Dublin Special Court of escaping from Belfast's Crumlin Road Prison.

For escaping from Crumlin Road (and a later attempt to escape from Portlaoise), Angelo Fusco has spent longer in prison in this state than people convicted here of murder.

He now faces extradition to the North and further years in prison.

He is sought for offences arising from an SAS attack on a house in West Belfast on May 2nd, 1980. During the attack, a Captain Herbert Westmacott was killed. Four republicans in the house—Angelo Fusco, Joe Doherty, Robert Campbell and Paul Magee—were charged with the killing and with possession of weapons, including an M60 machine gun.

US courts have ruled that these charges constitute "the classic political offence" in rejecting British extradition warrants for Joe Doherty. Doherty won every extradition hearing he faced in the US, eventually forcing the authorities there to resort to the misuse of US immigration laws to deport him to Britain.

Angelo Fusco would not have been charged with any offences were it not for the exceptional political situation which exists in the North. His offences are political offences.

Moreover, the SAS has a record of taking no prisoners. When the SAS attacked the house, failure by the republicans inside to put up resistance would most likely have led to the four of them being executed.

It would be difficult to find an offence which fitted into the internationally-agreed concept of a political offence more clearly than that for which Angelo Fusco was convicted. Angelo Fusco should not be extradited. The political offence, as it exists all over the world, should be reinstated into Irish extradition law.

The Irish government, by doing away with the traditional political offence exemption and accepting warrants for Angelo Fusco, is saying that he and his comrades should have allowed themselves to be killed on the spot by the SAS. It is saying that, even though he has already spent ten years in prison, he should now be returned to the North for years more incarceration.

Angelo Fusco is now 35. He is married with three children. If he is extradited, his family, instead of being able to re-establish a normal life, would have to uproot themselves and return to Belfast to be near him.

His family has already had to move several times. In 1972, shortly after

Bloody Sunday, when state repression was very intense, they had to move south. Although most of them returned to Belfast in 1976, his wife Mary and three children, Elaine 16, Joseph 13 and Maria 9, have been settled in Kerry for the past decade.

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED

The campaign to support Angelo Fusco and oppose political extradition urgently needs funds. We have no wealthy backers and operate on a shoe-string budget. We are denied permits to carry out public collections.

Please give what you can to support us, through donations or organising a fundraising event. All monies should be sent to:

The Irish Anti-Extradition Committee, 29 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Write/phone your local TDs about the case;
- Write/phone the Minister for Justice, Pádraig Flynn, Department of Justice, Stephen's Green, Dublin 1, calling on him to halt extradition;
- Invite speakers from the Fusco family and/or the IAEC to address your organisation about the case;
- Pass a motion in support of Angelo Fusco and send it to the Minister for Justice;
- Help raise much-needed funds for the campaign.

JUSTICE AWARENESS

The Justice Awareness Project (JAP) was set up in 1991 by people who had been involved in campaigns around the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, and other frame-ups and extradition cases. Its main activity is to organise weekend trips to the north for people in Dublin interested in human rights issues. The first trip took place in September 1991 and involved meetings with representatives of the Committee for the Administration of Justice (the north's civil liberties council); plastic bullets campaigners; the Casement Accused; Justice For All, a Shankill-based group; and a visit to Springhill. A further trip to Belfast took place in November and to Derry this January. Over the next several months, weekend trips are being organised to Belfast, South Armagh and Derry.

If you want to know more about what is actually happening in the North, this is the ideal way to find out.

For information about future trips, write to:

Justice Awareness Project,
12 Montpelier Gardens, Dublin 7.
Tel: 382699

Another brick out of the wall... Lecture and Video Series

Since shortly after the eruption of 'the troubles' in the north, people in this part of Ireland have been denied the chance to find out what is really going on. Due to official Section 31 censorship, media self-censorship and official disinformation, what people have seen on TV and heard on the radio in relation to the conflict in the North is what the government wants us to see and hear.

This brick wall of censorship and disinformation is designed to keep us ignorant about what is going on in part of our country occupied by thousands of foreign troops and in which armed conflict rages between those forces and a section of the northern population which refuses to accept the partition of Ireland and the occupation.

The conflict in the North is political — it is not a religious war or a criminal conspiracy. People whose extradition is sought by Britain are all facing charges which are political, because they stem from a situation of political conflict — in this case armed political conflict, which is the 'classic form' of political offence enshrined in law in many parts of the world to protect defendants from extradition.

The Dublin Anti-Extradition Committee is determined to dismantle Ireland's version of the Berlin Wall, the wall of censorship and disinformation. Brick by brick.

To this end we are sponsoring 'Another Brick Out of the Wall', a series of video showings and talks on the conflict in the North and why people should not be extradited for offences stemming from that conflict. Come along and see/hear what the government has kept from you.

Tuesday, April 14th, 8pm: Behind the Mask.

Screening of a video in which women and men who participated in armed actions in the 1970s explain their political and personal motivations.

Tuesday, May 12th, 8pm: Criminalising the Oppressed.

Pat McGeown, a former H-Block hunger striker, will lead a discussion on London-Dublin strategy, which portrays the oppressed Northern Nationalists as responsible for the violence and as criminals.

Venue:

Ha'penny Bridge Inn, Southside Ha'penny
Bridge, Wellington Quay,
Dublin 2.

No justice for NORTHERN NATIONALISTS

The Dublin Anti-Extradition Committee in February organised a visit to the city by members of several Belfast justice campaigns. Representatives of The Casement Accused, Voice of the Innocent and The Beechmount Five spoke to meetings in Bray and Dublin, including a very successful meeting with women from KLEAR in Kilbarrack. They also met with representatives of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace.

We hope to organise future trips, as part of our work, to show that British "justice" in the north is as rotten as ever. As well as informing people here about particular cases in the north, which deserve support, such visits help clarify why Irish citizens should not be extradited. Below are summaries of these three cases.

BEECHMOUNT FIVE

The families of five West Belfast teenagers have launched a campaign to protest the innocence of their sons, who are presently remanded in Crumlin Road prison facing murder charges. They arise out of an IRA gun and rocket attack in the Beechmount area on May 1st, 1991, in which an RUC member was killed.

The five youths are, Liam Coogan (18), Mark Prior (19), Jim McCaber (19), Kevin Mulholland (17) and Laurence Hillick, who was only 16 at the time. Liam Coogan and Mark Prior were arrested the day after the IRA attack and taken to the notorious Castlereagh Interrogation Centre where they were held for seven days. Jim McCabe was arrested on May 6th and held there for three days. On May 7th Kevin Mulholland, who is a diabetic, was arrested and spent three days in Castlereagh. On June 5th, Laurence Hillick — just turned 17 — was arrested and spent 4 days there.

All five youths suffered physical beatings, mental torture and threats. They were forced to sign statements saying that they had been look-outs for

the IRA attacks, although all five were either at work or with their families at the time and have witnesses to prove it.

The youths and their families are strenuously contesting the charges and demanding they be dropped and their children be released.

"The Beechmount Five are all innocent and we don't want them to end up like the Birmingham Six or Guildford Four," says their campaign.

For further information, contact Margaret Hillick, 20 St James Drive, Belfast 12 6EJ.

VOICE OF THE INNOCENT

Voice of the Innocent consists of families of teenagers arrested, threatened and beaten while in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. In a concerted campaign of harassment and brutality the RUC arrested over two dozen young people in West Belfast between May and September 1991. Some of these teenagers were held for up to seven days in the notorious centre. One case — that of Damien Austin — was taken up by Amnesty International and became the subject of Amnesty's first-ever Urgent Action Order in relation to the north. Doctors' reports confirmed that 17-year-old Austin had been badly beaten in custody, including having his trousers taken down and a cigarette lighter lit underneath his genitals.

A number of the teenagers, after being released from custody, had to leave Belfast and take refuge in the south to prevent further harassment.

Voice of the Innocent is demanding an end to this brutality.

For further information, contact Voice of the Innocent, c/o Kevin Nolan, 27 Ballymurphy Road, Belfast 12.



Brendan Duffy (far right), father of 15-year-old plastic bullet victim, Seamus Duffy, takes part in a United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets picket outside the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis.

CASEMENT ACCUSED

This case dates back to 1988. In early March of that year, three unarmed IRA members were shot dead by the SAS in what Amnesty International described as "extra-judicial executions". At their funerals in Belfast a loyalist gunman, Michael Stone, launched a gun and grenade attack on mourners, killing three people and injuring over 30.

At the funeral of one of those killed by Stone — Caoimhghín Mac Brádaigh — a speeding car drove into the mourners. The car's occupants produced guns. In a highly charged and tense atmosphere the crowd disarmed them; they were subsequently beaten and handed over to the IRA, which shot them. They were later identified as British undercover soldiers.

Thirty-seven people have been sentenced to life imprisonment for alleged involvement in the deaths of the undercover soldiers. The prosecution admits that none of those sentenced were in possession of firearms or had fired the fatal shots. Three years after the incident people were still being arrested and charged.

For further information, contact Jim Neeson or Jim and Brid Kelly, Casement Accused, 5-7 Conway St, Belfast 12.

CÉILÍ The Teachers' Club, 36 Parnell Sq., Dublin 1.

Saturday 27th March 1992
**Shores of Erin +
Fear an Tí**

Adm: £4 Waged £3 Unwaged



Aidan McAnespie's father reminding delegates to the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis of the reality of life for Northern Nationalists.

Joe Doherty named as Parade Grand Marshal

Republican prisoner Joe Doherty, who, in the early hours of February 19th, was taken from his cell in a Pennsylvania jail and deported to Britain, has been named as Honorary Grand Marshal of the world's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade, New York's.

Doherty may be back in Crumlin Road Jail, from where he escaped in 1981, but the Ancient Order Of Hibernians, which organises the annual Parade, has not forgotten his fight for justice. It has called on those participating in the parade to wear black armbands to show their support for him.

Doherty's deportation followed almost nine years of legal battles in the United States. American courts refused Britain's attempts to have Doherty extradited, recognising that his offences were political. The Reagan and Bush governments did everything possible to interfere in the legal process, to block his right to appeal for political asylum and to find some way of handing him back to Britain.

In the course of his struggle for justice, Joe Doherty won support from every major Irish-American organisation, from the AFL-CIO (US equivalent of ICTU), over 130 members of Congress and Senate, city mayors such as David Dinkins of New York, many city councils, most civil liberties groups and Amnesty International.

In the end the US government cited "foreign policy considerations" as the means to deny him a hearing for political asylum. The US Supreme Court, in a 5-3 split decision, up-



Irish Americans honour Republican Prisoner Joseph Doherty at the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1988.

held the government's action. While last minute measures were still being followed up by Doherty's legal team in a final attempt to prevent his deportation, Joe Doherty was whisked away in the middle of the night of February 19th and returned to Britain.

Joe Doherty spent nearly nine years in prison in the US, without ever being convicted of a crime. As we go to print it is unclear whether this long period of incarceration will be taken off the time he has to serve in the

North.

People should write and/or phone the US embassy over what was done in this case. (US Embassy, Elgin Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 688777) This handover should also make opponents of political extradition more determined than ever to support his co-defendant, Angelo Fusco, who, having spent ten years in Portlaoise, is now facing extradition to the North.

NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSEMBLY

This April, a week-long Human Rights Assembly will be held in London to inquire into human rights abuses by the British authorities in Northern Ireland. Submissions to the assembly have been sought from justice groups and individuals alleging particular abuses. From these submissions, the Assembly will make recommendations, investigate allegations and in some instances, will take cases to the European and United Nations courts to force Britain into upholding its obligations to the various human rights covenants.

As part of this assembly, The Dublin Anti-Extradition Committee will be making 3 submissions on:

- 1) The right to a fair trial;
- 2) Torture and inhuman and degrading treatment;
- 3) The right to self determination.

Under the present extradition treaty the above rights have been omitted from the treaty and as such the treaty has, in itself, become a part of the general denial of human rights in Northern Ireland.

The Dublin Anti-Extradition Committee will hope that from this the assembly can highlight the discrimination currently happening under the Extradition Treaty and challenge the legal validity of the Treaty.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



- Write/phone your local councillors/TDs calling on them to oppose extradition.
- Raise the issue in your community group, trade union, other organisation. Ask them to invite a speaker from the campaign to address them.
- Write to the papers and phone radio shows about the cases of those fighting extradition and the injustices of the British judicial system.
- Leaflet/petition in your area. Get friends involved.
- Come along to the campaign activities in Dublin.

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