



Sinn Féin

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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SINN FÉIN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS TO MEET BARNIER



Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD leads delegation with Michelle O'Neill MLA and Conor Murphy MLA to meet EU Chief Brexit Negotiator Michel Barnier

No return to hard border on the island of Ireland

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD led a party delegation to Brussels to meet EU Chief Brexit Negotiator Michel Barnier.

Speaking following the meeting with Mr Barnier, Deputy McDonald said;

“The British parliament’s refusal to acknowledge the reality of Brexit and the need for the Withdrawal Agreement and backstop leaves only uncertainty and confusion.

“Their actions increase the possibility of a no-deal crash-out Brexit.

“Throughout the Brexit process Sinn Féin has

met with EU negotiators, officials and leaders.

“The EU has consistently and fully recognised the progress made since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement and the imperative to protect the agreement in the Brexit process.

“We raised with Mr Barnier the need to continue to protect Irish interests, our economy, our agreements and the rights of citizens in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

“The British parliament refuses to endorse the Withdrawal Agreement as negotiated by its government so we must plan for the default

position of a crash-out Brexit.

“In the event of a no-deal Brexit there can be no return to a hard border on the island of Ireland. There can be no undermining of agreements or citizens’ rights.

“The EU recognises that the Good Friday Agreement provides for constitutional change and in the event of a unity vote all of Ireland would retain EU membership.

“The route back to the EU is clear – it means the ending of partition and the avoidance of a hard border in Ireland.”

Europe has central role in transition to Irish unity

Declan Kearney addresses Syriza Conference in Athens

Sinn Féin National Chairperson, Declan Kearney said that Europe has a central role to play in developing the transition to Irish unity.

Declan Kearney was speaking at a European conference entitled 'For a New Left and Progressive Pillar: A Europe for the Many', on Saturday 16 March 2019.

Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras also addressed the conference along with a number of other senior representatives from the European Left.

Declan Kearney said:

"The imposition of Brexit by the British Tory government on the north of Ireland is inherently undemocratic in nature.

"But it is also a direct by product of Ireland's undemocratic and continued partition, enforced by British colonial policy.

"Partition has been an abject failure. It was

never designed to make the northern state a political or economic success.

"Brexit has created a defining moment for these islands.

"International attention has been refocused upon the democratic case for Irish unity.

"Britain's border in Ireland has now become an issue for Europe.

"The level of interest in, and support for constitutional change in Ireland is now at an all-time high across the EU.

"The European Parliament and EU institutions have become strategically important arenas within which to promote the democratic aim of a united Ireland and to encourage international support for a unity referendum.

"Sinn Féin will continue lobbying and influencing to make the objective of Irish reunification a priority for the progressive

left and other strands of democratic opinion represented in the European Parliament.

"Brexit means that change in the political relations between Britain and Ireland is now unavoidable.

"While the partition of our country never had any democratic legitimacy, its continued imposition is no longer sustainable.

"Partition has run out of road.

"Almost 30 years ago the European landscape was changed with German reunification.

"The emerging prospect of Irish unity presents a strategic opportunity to positively transform and realign the politics of Europe.

"Irish unity is integral to the vision of a new Europe.

"Europe has a central role to play in developing the transition to Irish unity."



(From left) Andros Kyprianou, Secretary General AKEL; Gabi Zimmer MEP, President GUE/NGL; Dimitrios Papadimoulis MEP, and Declan Kearney MLA.



Sinn Féin National Chairperson Declan Kearney being interviewed - by Chris Loukas, World News Editor of Kokkino - (left) and participating in Syriza Conference in Athens (right).

‘British Government and DUP biggest impediment to progress’ - O’Neill

The British Government’s reliance on the DUP is the single biggest impediment to the restoration of the power-sharing institutions at Stormont, Sinn Féin Deputy Leader Michelle O’Neill has said.

The Sinn Féin Vice-President was commenting after speaking to British Secretary of State Karen Bradley.

Michelle O’Neill said:

“I spoke to the British Secretary of State by phone and she confirmed that her government will not be making any attempt to restore the power-sharing institutions prior to the local government elections on May 2nd.

“She also confirmed that she intends to extend by five months the legislation she introduced last year as her supposed plan to restore the institutions. Since then, her government has done absolutely nothing to resolve the issues at the heart of the impasse. Can we expect the same for the next five months?

“Once again, the British Government has shown that it is prepared to legislate when it suits the British Government but refuses to act on issues like Marriage Equality, Acht Gaeilge, the legacy bodies and compensation for victims of institutional abuse.

“Karen Bradley’s Government is wholly reliant on the DUP in order to cling to power, and this toxic relationship, alongside Brexit, has become



Leas Uachtarán Shinn Féin - Vice-President of Sinn Féin, Michelle O’Neill MLA

the biggest impediment to restoring the power-sharing institutions on the basis of genuine equality and respect.

“The DUP are at complete odds with the cross-community majority of MLAs and public here who oppose their reckless Brexit agenda and

their ongoing refusal to treat all citizens equally.

“Power-sharing can and should be restored but that will require Karen Bradley’s government finally confronting the DUP’s discriminatory agenda and upholding their own responsibilities to citizens and the equality of treatment.”

Mickey Brady MP supports calls for boycott of Israel’s 2019 Eurovision Song Contest

On 1 December, Mickey Brady MP addressed a rally outside the BBC headquarters in London endorsing calls for a boycott of the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest being held in Israel.

Mr Brady opened his speech, saying, “To boycott is a noble tradition. Indeed, as a word it entered the English language during the Irish “Land War” in the 1880s. I stand here in full support of your efforts. As a party, we have already passed a motion at our last Ard Fheis calling on RTÉ to boycott.”

He continued,

“The Eurovision Song Contest should not be used as a tool for Israel to whitewash its daily human rights abuses. We are very clear, there is a role for the arts, music,

and indeed sport industries to send a very strong message internationally. There is a time to stand on the right side of history here.

“A boycott throughout multiple platforms across the European continent would shine a spotlight on the slaughter of the Palestinian people. I wish your campaign here in Britain similar success. Solidarity.”





O'Neill commends Bloody Sunday Families

The decision to prosecute just one ex soldier does not change the fact that Bloody Sunday was a massacre of innocents, Sinn Féin Deputy Leader Michelle O'Neill has said.

Speaking in Derry, the Sinn Féin Vice President said:

"On behalf of Sinn Féin I want to pay tribute to the Bloody Sunday families whose long, painful campaign for truth and justice has been a source of inspiration for so many.

"Your determination and your dignity over the past 47 years has been remarkable and Sinn Féin has been proud to stand with you throughout that time.

"It is because of your tireless efforts over many decades that the truth of what happened on Bloody Sunday is now known throughout the

world.

"Bloody Sunday was a massacre of innocents. Today's decision does not change that.

"There is of course huge disappointment that only one former soldier has been charged with two counts of murder and four attempted murders.

"We share that disappointment and the sense of incredulity at this decision, given the clearly established facts about the actions of the British Army on Bloody Sunday.

"But even the fact that one former soldier is to face trial is a significant achievement. I also commend the dignity and solidarity shown by the families today in response to the decision. As they said themselves, justice for one family, is justice for them all.

"We are mindful also that the British military and political establishment of the time have never been held accountable for their role in Bloody Sunday and the subsequent Widgery cover-up.

"That is as wrong now as it was then. The British State must be answerable for the crimes it has committed in Ireland. And it is appalling that the British Defence Secretary announced today, in response to this decision, that his Government intends to amend the legacy system to protect former state forces.

"That is typical of a government that continues to cover up its role in the conflict here and still delays the establishment of the Legacy mechanisms agreed in the Stormont House Agreement.

"For now though, this is a day to commend and offer our ongoing solidarity to all the Bloody Sunday families and campaigners.

"Your strength and your remarkable achievements have been a source of hope for so many still fighting for truth and justice. Today is another step forward in your ongoing struggle."

McDonald extends condolences to people of New Zealand

The Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald has extended her deepest sympathies to the people of New Zealand and the families of those lost in the horrific attack in Christchurch.

Ms McDonald said:

"The world woke in horror to the news from Christchurch.

"My first thoughts were with the people of New Zealand and the families as they

mourn their dead and comfort each other.

"There is no place in this world for the hatred that led to this horrific attack.

"Racism and xenophobia are a stain on society and must be tackled head on."

**Sinn Féin President
Mary Lou McDonald TD**





Sinn Féin delegation with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Dr Nabil Shaath



FREE PALESTINE!

Mary Lou McDonald leads Sinn Féin delegation to Palestine

Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD, led a Sinn Féin delegation including Chairperson, Declan Kearney MLA, and Middle East spokesperson, Pat Sheehan MLA, to Palestine, in December 2018. The delegation traveled at the request of the Palestinian Legislation Council.

The visit included meetings with senior Palestinian leaders, activists and refugees in Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nablus.

Speaking from the occupied West Bank, Mary Lou McDonald said;

“The invitation from the Palestinian Legislative Council is a reflection of the close links between Ireland and Palestine. It is an opportunity to see at first hand, and to hear directly, of the living conditions of Palestinians in the West Bank.

“Ireland has borne the cost of conflict throughout our history and the peace that we now enjoy was brought about with the help of the International community and with the support of progressive movements across the globe.

“I believe that Ireland can and must play a meaningful role in resolving the conflict in Palestine and securing a two state solution.

“We will share our experience of the

challenges and opportunities of peace building and conflict resolution in Ireland.”

Later speaking after a wreath laying ceremony at the mausoleum of Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald said:

“It was an honour to lay a wreath at the mausoleum of Yasser Arafat.

“Yasser Arafat demonstrated leadership to secure a peace agreement in Oslo, an agreement that was supposed to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

“He was a champion of Palestinian liberation and he believed that peace between the Israeli government and Palestinians could and should be achieved.

“Since his death the Israeli military have continued to brutalise Palestinians and build illegal settlements. We now see the development and implementation of apartheid laws and policies to separate communities and subjugate Palestinians.

“I have spent the last number of days traveling in the West Bank and witnessed the daily hardships facing the Palestinian people as they go about their lives. No community should be forced to live in these conditions and with

these restrictions.

“The cause of peace and the development of a two-state agreement must continue.

“The actions of the Israeli military must end and violent confrontations must stop.

“This repression by the Israeli state and intensification of the settlement strategy across the West Bank is in direct violation of successive international laws and united nations resolutions.

“In Ireland we know the cost of conflict but also the possibility of peace.

“I would appeal to all Palestinian groups to work together to build national unity.

“The only way forward is through a credible peace process and roadmap towards a viable independent Palestinian state.

“There is an urgent need for a new international initiative to uphold the rights of the Palestinian people to a peaceful and democratic homeland.

“The Dáil have a role to play in supporting the Occupied Territories Bill and the Irish Government must enact the resolution to recognise the State of Palestine with immediate effect.”

Sinn Féin attend trial of Catalan political prisoners in Madrid

Seán Crowe TD and Lynn Boylan MEP travel to Catalan leaders' trials

Sinn Féin's spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, Seán Crowe TD, has attended the trial of the 12 Catalan political and civil leaders in Madrid.

Crowe travelled to Madrid to attend the trial with his party colleague and MEP for Dublin, Lynn Boylan.

Deputy Seán Crowe said:

"We decided to travel here to show our support and solidarity with the former Ministers, the Members of the Catalan Parliament, and the civil society activists that are on trial.

"These 12 political and civil leaders are in the dock in what has all the trappings of a political trial. It is our belief that their prosecution is politically motivated and they are political prisoners. Facilitating people to vote is not a crime, but preventing them by force should be.

"From the beginning of this process I called for the 9 political prisoners to be released from their pre-trial detention and that the charges against them should be dropped. Some of them

have been imprisoned for over a year on pre-trial detention. It is clear that their continued imprisonment and the stress of this ongoing trial are taking its toll.

"Now that they are on trial in the Spanish Supreme Court we wanted to show our support and solidarity to them in person and to observe the trial."

Crowe continued:

"This is a political issue, not a legal one. The Spanish Government needs to enter into meaningful dialogue with the Catalan Government to find a political solution. It needs to stop using the police and the legal system to attack the Catalan independence movement, which is a legitimate political movement.

"This is one of the most pressing political issues in Europe. We cannot ignore this important issue of citizens being prosecuted for pursuing purely peaceful and democratic means in determining their future."



Lynn Boylan MEP and Seán Crowe TD

Seán Crowe TD calls for arms embargo on Saudi Arabia

Sinn Féin's spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, Seán Crowe TD, has called on Ireland to support an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia due to its war crimes in Yemen and targeting of civilians.

Deputy Crowe was speaking after raising the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen with the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Dáil.

Deputy Seán Crowe said:

"Like many others I have been utterly shocked at the images of the humanitarian crisis and suffering in Yemen.

"Tens of thousands of people have died in the conflict and 14 million need food assistance. The UN World Food Programme warned that the country faces a full-blown famine in around six months unless things rapidly change.

"Ail organisations say that the blockade of Hodeidah port by the Saudi-led coalition for the past three years has been the main contributing factor to the famine. This port handles 90% of

Yemen's imports and it is closed by the Saudi military coalition.

"The humanitarian crisis falls completely at the feet of the Saudi regime. We have seen how they have used their military might to bomb civilian infrastructure, homes and even school buses.

"Data collected by Al Jazeera and the Yemen Data Project has found that more than 18,000 air raids have been carried out in Yemen since 2015 by the Saudi and UAE led military coalition, and almost one-third of all bombing missions struck non-military sites.

"Yet Britain and the US alone have sold more than \$12 billion worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia since it entered the war in 2015.

"There are growing calls to enforce an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia, due to the war crimes committed by it forces and its brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi in its consulate in Istanbul.



Seán Crowe TD

"I am calling for the Minister to support these calls and to support placing an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia."

Sinn Féin MPs show solidarity with the people of Cuba on eve of 60th Anniversary of revolution



Elisha McCallion MP with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

On 13th November, Francie Molloy MP and Elisha McCallion MP attended a reception in London with the Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Commenting after the meeting, Elisha McCallion said:

“Sinn Féin has long stood in solidarity with the Cuban Government and the Cuban people. The icons of the Cuban revolution continue to inspire people around the world who struggle for equality and justice.”

She noted, “Myself and Francie used today’s meeting with the President Miguel Díaz-Canel to reiterate our call for the blockade on Cuba to be lifted. The continued unjust blockade by the US administration is of grave concern. It’s important that we continue to improve and deepen Ireland’s economic and cultural

relationship with Cuba through our close links to Cuban Ambassadors in both London and Dublin.”

At the end of the month, Sinn Féin MPs again demonstrated their solidarity with the Cuban people. On 30th November, Francie Molloy MP and Paul Maskey MP met with Dr Mariela Castro, Cuban MP and director of the National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX).

Reflecting on the meeting Francie Molloy said:

“we were delighted to meet with Dr Mariela Castro. Like her father Raúl, uncle Fidel, and mother Vilma Espín before her, Mariela is an inspiration to freedom-loving people across the globe.”

He continued;

“We commended her today for her work on championing the cause of equality, particularly for the LGBTQ community in Cuba. It was welcome to hear about the inclusion of same-sex marriage into the new draft constitution for Cuba, which is undergoing public consultation.”

Turning back to the politics of Ireland, Mr Molloy said,

“We briefed Dr Castro on the current situation in Ireland, and in particular the continued denial of equal rights in the north due to the intransigence of the DUP, supported by the British government.

“Sinn Féin stand committed to achieving marriage equality right across the island. We can all agree that rights must be for everyone.”



Francie Molloy MP and Paul Maskey MP with Dr Mariela Castro (daughter of former President Raúl Castro).

Sinn Féin President writes to Taoiseach following Israeli attacks on Gaza

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald has condemned Israel’s latest escalation of attacks on Gaza.

In late March 2019, Mary Lou McDonald wrote to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar urging him to use all diplomatic channels and actions to call for an immediate end to the attacks.

The Sinn Féin President said:

“At the end of last year I visited Palestine and witnessed at first hand the reality of the Israeli occupation there.

“Gaza remains a densely populated, impoverished and be-

sieged region of the Palestinian State.

“It has in the past faced intensive bombardment from Israeli forces and continues to experience an illegal blockade.

“The attacks by Israel this week represent an escalation of conflict at a time of heightened tensions.

“I have written to the Taoiseach and urged him to use all diplomatic channels and actions to call for an immediate end to the attacks, to lift the blockade of Gaza and to secure the rights of Palestinians to full and sustainable statehood.”

Mary Lou McDonald calls for the release of pro-Kurdish HDP political prisoners

Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD, has welcomed the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) that Turkey has violated the European Convention on Human Rights in its imprisonment of the former co-chair of the pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP), Selahattin Demirtaş.

Deputy McDonald said:

"I welcome this ruling from the ECHR and that they have demanded the immediate release of Selahattin Demirtaş from prison.

"Selahattin was illegally detained in November 2016, along with 12 other elected HDP MPs. They have been imprisoned simply because they stand for peace, human rights and democracy."

"More than 5,000 members and activists of the HDP have been detained, and 58 of their elected mayors and 10 of their MPs remain in jail.

"Sinn Féin sends our solidarity to Selahattin and all the HDP representatives facing persecution by the authoritarian government in Turkey.

"We call for Selahattin's immediate release and the release of all HDP political prisoners."



Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD

'Colombian peace agreements must be implemented' - Maskey

Sinn Féin MP Paul Maskey has said the Colombian government must do more to protect and implement the peace agreement in the region.

The West Belfast MP was speaking after attending an event hosted by Justice for Colombia at Westminster.

Paul Maskey said:

"Sinn Féin and others in Ireland and the wider international community, worked and supported the Colombian peace agreement reached in 2016 between the Colombian Government and the FARC.

"It is important that the international community continues its support for the Colombian peace process.

"Serious issues have begun to emerge with over 400 people, political, community and human rights activists including 80 members of the FARC, killed by right wing paramilitaries.

"It appears those responsible act with impunity with reports stating that no-one has been arrested, charged or convicted. The Colombian government appears to be turning a blind eye to these murderous activities.

"This must end. The Colombian government needs to fully deliver on its commitments by urgently resolving its outstand-

ing obligations.

"In our experience of the Irish Peace process confidence building measures are essential to maintaining momentum to sustain and build the peace. Part of this is the release of political prisoners not the continued detention or arrest of those central to the agreement.

"The Colombian government needs to deal with the critical threat to the peace agreement. They need to adhere to their obligations. Agreements reached need to be implemented and the security of all Colombian citizens, in particular those opposed to the government, needs to be guaranteed."



Paul Maskey MP at a Justice for Colombia event in Westminster in November 2018

Isolation of Öcalan must end - Hazzard



Chris Hazzard MP

Sinn Féin MP Chris Hazzard has called for the immediate release of Kurdish political prisoner leader Abdullah Öcalan on the 20th anniversary of his detention.

Speaking at a Kurdish solidarity event at Westminster, the South Down MP said:

“As we gather in London to mark the 20th anniversary of Abdullah Öcalan’s abduction by Turkish forces in Nairobi in 1999, it’s worth remembering that he has now been held in prison longer than Nelson Mandela spent on Robben Island.

“For some of that time, serving mostly in total isolation on Imrali island he has been denied visits from his family, his legal team and independent observers.

“His continued isolation must end and he should be

released immediately, along with other Kurdish political prisoners in order to advance the peace process.

“International powers have sat back and allowed Erdogan to seize all levers of political control, imprison opponents and rule by decree.

“A state of emergency has been normalised enabling independent voices in politics, the media and academia to be savagely suppressed.

“Kurdish political prisoners have been on hunger strike in Turkish prisons calling for an end to the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan.

“Sinn Féin will continue to stand up for democracy and stand with the Kurdish people in their struggle. The international community must now make its voice heard to demand the release of Abdullah Öcalan.”



Órfflaith Begley MP for West Tyrone speaking at a pro-Kurdish event in London recently



Sinn Féin attend Venezuelan Presidential inauguration



Conor Murphy MLA with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza

Sinn Féin representatives Conor Murphy MLA and Dawn Doyle, General Secretary, travelled to Venezuela to attend the Presidential inauguration of Nicolás Maduro Moros at the invitation of the Venezuelan Government in Caracas on 10 January 2019.

The Sinn Féin representatives were part of an international delegation of progressive political forces expressing their solidarity to the people of Venezuela.

Conor Murphy said:
 “Nicolás Maduro Moros was democratically elected by the Venezuelan people to serve as their President during the term 2019 - 2025. This is a particularly difficult

and challenging period for the citizens of Venezuela.

“We used our presence in Venezuela to express our continuing solidarity to the people supporting their legitimate demands to build a just and equal society free from foreign intervention.

“We also took the opportunity to meet with many of the other international guests and media to provide them with an update on the current situation in Ireland; discussing the negative impact of Brexit for all the Irish people and our on-going campaign for national reunification.”

Sinn Féin welcomes passage of Occupied Territories Bill through Irish Senate

Sinn Féin Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile has welcomed the passage of the 'Occupied Territories Bill' through all stages in the Seanad.

Speaking after the decisive vote in favour of the legislation, Seanad spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Seanadóir Ó Donnghaile said:

"I am delighted at the vote (Yes 29 – No 16). We in Sinn Féin were more than happy to facilitate the Report and Final Stages of this bill in our Private Members time, in order to get the legislation through the Seanad without delay.

"I want to commend Senator Frances Black for her work on the bill which aims to prohibit the import and sale of goods, services and natural resources originating in illegal settlements in occupied territories.

"It is regrettable that the Government and Fine Gael have opposed this progressive and human rights based legislation, and I would strongly encourage them to rethink their position before the bill comes before the Dáil in the next term.

"This Bill has a noble and just aim. It is not extreme. It only seeks to establish a legal framework to ban these imports from settlements which are already illegal under international humanitarian law and, most importantly, domestic law in this state.

"As long as we continue to hand the



Sinn Féin Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile

Israeli Government impunity to impose apartheid, continue its illegal occupation, and violate international law they will never make the necessary compromises to create a just and lasting peace settlement.

"The Irish Government has to give a strong and unambiguous statement that there can be no impunity for Israel's continued illegal occupation of Palestine.

"Nothing is going to change in Gaza or

the West Bank until the international community move on from empty rhetoric and actually put some real pressure on Israel.

"The Government has got to stop sitting on the side-lines wringing its hands. When real, concrete, tangible steps are proposed, the Government is afraid to show leadership.

"Ireland's proud record in standing against apartheid and inspiring others to do likewise must prevail.

Crowe expresses deep concern at change of US stance on Golan Heights

Sinn Féin TD and spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Seán Crowe, has expressed his deep concern at the decision of the US President, Donald Trump, to declare that the occupied territory of the Golan Heights is part of Israel in direct contravention of international law. This follows from the US declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of the Israeli state.

Deputy Seán Crowe said:

"Israel invaded Syria's Golan Heights in 1967 in an act of aggression that displaced 95 percent of the region's population, approximately 130,000 people. Israel has illegally occupied the Golan Heights ever since and numerous United Nations Security Council Resolutions have condemned Israel's illegal occupation of that territory.

"This latest move by the Trump administration is another flagrant disregard for international law and it could have major-

ly disruptive effects on regional stability. I am conscious that there are currently hundreds of Irish troops in the Golan Heights on a UN peacekeeping mission and this declaration threatens their safety.

"The fear now is that the United States could make a similar declaration about the West Bank in Palestine. This would be an attack on Palestinian sovereignty and a two state solution.

"Israeli settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights are illegal under international law. This latest move by the Trump administration puts them at direct odds with the rest of the international community. It is short sighted and potentially disastrous for the region at large, which is still trying to recover from the latest botched attempts at US intervention.

"I am calling on the Tánaiste, Simon Cov-

enev, to distance Ireland from this US declaration and restate that Ireland recognises that Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights is illegal."



Seán Crowe TD

Kearney extends Sinn Féin leadership's solidarity on 60th anniversary of Cuban revolution

BY
DECLAN KEARNEY
Sinn Féin National Chairperson

Cuba an inspiration for freedom loving people all over the world

On 1st January 1959, following the victory of Che Guevara's forces at the Battle of Santa Clara the previous day, the Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista fled Cuba marking the end of his regime in Cuba.

Batista's flight paved the way for the Cuban revolution taking power.

2019 will see events taking place all over the globe in celebration of both the anniversary of the Cuban revolution and its ongoing resilience.

Events will also be held in Ireland and very recently in Belfast, Mayor Deirdre Hargey hosted an event at Belfast City Hall to mark this milestone.

I was also delighted to host the Cuban Ambassadors to both Ireland and Britain, Hugo Ramos and Teresita de Jesús Vicente Sotolongo at the Sinn Féin offices on the Falls Road. This was the very first time both the Cuban Ambassadors to Ireland and Britain have jointly visited the north.

During our meeting, the Ambassadors



Declan Kearney MLA with Hugo Ramos (Cuban Ambassador to Ireland) and Teresita Vicente Sotolongo (Cuban Ambassador to Britain)

provided an update on the current situation in Cuba, the continuing negative impact of the US blockade on Cuba, and the new draft Cuban Constitution which will be put to the Cuban people in a referendum later this year.

I provided the Ambassadors with an update on the political situation in Ireland, north and south, and on the deep, systemic political crisis in the north arising from the ongoing denial of democracy and rights.

We also discussed the future relation-

ship between Sinn Féin and the Cuban Government.

Cuba continues to be an inspiration for freedom loving people all over the world.

The Cuban Government has consistently demonstrated to the world that a nation's people are its greatest asset, and that it is the role of government to serve its people.

In prioritising healthcare and education the Cuban Government has succeeded in virtually eradicating infant mortality and achieving almost one hundred percent literacy with the Cuban population.

Cuba is also an exemplar in terms of its commitment to international solidarity through its practical support to countries throughout Latin America and Africa.

Progressive people who are genuinely committed to the transformation of society have much to learn from the Cuban Revolution since 1959.

For our part, Sinn Féin will continue to stand in solidarity with the Cuban people and against those who oppose them.

On this occasion of the Revolution's 60th anniversary it is appropriate to recall the iconic words:

"Hasta la victoria siempre." Cuba Libre!



Sinn Féin representatives conduct Embassy briefings in Dublin and London December 2018

In Dublin, Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD, Vice-President, Michelle O'Neill MLA, Lynn Boylan MEP and Conor Murphy MLA, briefed 27 Embassies and a representative from the European Commission.

In London Francie Molloy MP, briefed 24 Embassies.

The briefings formed part of the party's international work of outlining the major concerns facing the people of Ireland, North and South, around Brexit, negotiations in the North, and the on-going work of the Uniting Ireland campaign.