



Sinn Féin

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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EARLY ELECTION MUST BE CALLED IN ABSENCE OF FUNCTIONING EXECUTIVE

Speaking after the DUP's Paul Givan announced he is to resign as First Minister, Sinn Féin Uachtarán Mary Lou McDonald said:

“The Executive and Assembly have work to do. This is not the time for reckless behaviour from the DUP. We are emerging from the pandemic, and we need to focus on addressing health waiting lists, tackling the rising costs of living and rebuilding the economy. The public want to see us working together to prioritise these issues.

“For more than a year now the DUP have brought the turmoil, chaos and dysfunction playing out in their party to the very heart of government. The British government’s stance has encouraged this.

“The decision for Paul Givan to resign from the Executive is all about their own narrow and self-serving political interests. It is also about the loss of the unionist electoral majority and the reality that they can no longer get everything their own way.

“It is also about Brexit and the protocol. The facts are clear – the protocol is essential. It is here to stay. The British government is in flagrant breach of international law and there is a huge onus on the Irish government to hold London to account and seek international support for this.

“The Executive and Assembly have work to do and Michelle O’Neill has contacted the other party leaders to meet to ensure that any legislation that can be dealt with proceeds as quickly as possible.

“However, we need to be clear the DUP actions have consequences – consequences for people struggling with cost of living, consequences for businesses trying to rebuild after Covid, consequences for health services. It is disgraceful that the budget now won’t be passed and that investment in services such as cancer care and mental health are now in jeopardy.

“We cannot stagger on in the months ahead without a functioning Executive. Sinn Féin will not facilitate this. In the absence of a functioning Executive an early election must be called.

“This is a defining moment. We can do so much better than this. Power sharing can work if parties involved are committed to it. Good government can deliver and that is what all of the other parties want to see happen.

“The behaviour of the DUP shows that it is time for real change, and this includes constitutional change as set out in the Good Friday Agreement.”

'WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED' - Bloody Sunday 50 years on

BLOODY SUNDAY
50th ANNIVERSARY

The historic milestone that was the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday killings in Derry saw a series of commemoration events take place in the city over the last weekend in January.

The main event, on Sunday 30 January and 50 years to the day of the massacre, was the families' Walk of Remembrance that traced to route of the original march from the shops in Creggan to the Bloody Sunday monument on Rossville Street where a commemorative ceremony, attended by the families, church leaders from Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian and Muslim faiths were represented.

For the first time in 50 years the Irish Government was officially represented with An Taoiseach Michéal Martin and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney in attendance.

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald, accompanied by Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, laid a wreath on behalf of Sinn Féin and



the republican people of Ireland.

As people began to gather at Central Drive in Creggan it was clear the historical significance of the day was impacting on the mood which was clearly a sombre one with the relatives of the dead and injured, now into their third and fourth generation, expressing their anger that despite the clear evidence that British paratroopers ran amok, shooting indiscriminately, that none of the killers will ever face a trial.

In their statement, read by Mickey McKinney, the families warned the British government that "they will face them head on" if they introduce their amnesty proposals "we will not go away and we will not be silenced".

"We had three clear demands (when the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign was launched)", stated McKinney, "the repudiation of the Widgery whitewash, a declaration of innocence of all the victims of Bloody Sunday and the prosecution of those responsible".



As the demonstration moved off it was led by child relatives of the dead and injured carrying white roses while behind them other relatives had

photographs of the dead.

That thousands turned out to support the families should not be a surprise as the Bloody Sunday killings were the culmination of British and Unionist governments' military strategy to break the resistance of the nationalist people of the North beginning with Battle of the Bogside and the pogroms of 1969, followed by the Falls Curfew of 1970 and a year later we witnessed the introduction of Internment, Operation Demetrius, and the unleashing of the Parachute regiment on the civilian population of Ballymurphy.

The anger and hurt is still there for thousands of nationalists across the North and the latest British government ruse, through their amnesty proposals, to protect soldiers has provoked a determination among people to see justice done.

Among other high-profile events that were organised over the weekend were the Bloody Sunday Memorial lecture delivered by Jeremy Corbyn as part of the One World One Struggle theme.

Greeted by a packed Guildhall audience Corbyn reminded them that those who came on to the streets of Derry in 1972 were there to oppose internment "think about that - internment without trial. That's the stuff of dictatorship".

The former Labour leader added "Derry is an inspiration. The Campaign for the Bloody Sunday memorial is an inspiration and to me it's an honour to be invited here".

Meanwhile in an event chaired by Fermanagh born actor Adrian Dunbar held in the city's Millennium Forum President Michael D. Higgins addressed the 'Beyond the Silence' event.

The President paid tribute to those who fought down the years to "vindicate the memories of your loved ones" and the campaign to overturn "those forces who sought to avoid the necessary truth of what took place, and evade accountability.

"Forces that stood between you and your efforts to overturn the historic, grievous wrong of the Widgery Tribunal".

In concluding President Higgins described Derry as "a beacon of hope and justice, of battling and succeeding against the odds".



Mary Lou McDonald with relatives of Fian Gerald Donaghey

After the relatives walk from Creggan to the Bloody Sunday memorial, hundreds of republicans gathered at the nearby Derry Brigade 1st Battalion memorial in the Brandywell for a ceremony in honour of young Fianna Éireann volunteer, Gerald Donaghey who was killed on Bloody Sunday.

Sinn Féin's Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill both attended the commemoration.

Speaking at the event was former republican prisoner Donncha Mac Ficheallaigh who attended the Bloody Sunday march with Donaghey. Mac Ficheallaigh described Donaghey's life in the late 1960s and early 1970s as characterised by his experiences of evictions, state oppression and violence.

Prior to the 50th anniversary events in Derry, on Thursday 27th January, members of the Irish community in London gathered in Westminster to remember innocent lives lost on Bloody Sunday.

North Belfast MP John Finucane attended the London event outside of Westminster, where he spoke powerfully about his own families struggle for truth and justice.



New Sinn Féin Representative to Europe

IN SEPTEMBER 2021, SINN FÉIN APPOINTED MARTINA ANDERSON TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED POSITION: SINN FÉIN REPRESENTATIVE TO EUROPE. INTRODUCING THIS NEW ROLE WITHIN SINN FÉIN, MARTINA HAS KINDLY OUTLINED THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS POSITION TO THE SINN FÉIN INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN:



"Last September, I started off as Sinn Féin's Representative to Europe with a blank sheet.

"I have uniting Ireland initiative responsibilities for forty-four countries and I am working to encourage and maximise popular support across continental Europe for a unity referendum as set out in the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

"Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald sees this moment as a time for big thinking and credible action nationally and internationally to secure a unity referendum.

"The project will ensure that awareness about the political situation in Ireland is mainstreamed among key sectors of European political and civic opinion.

"This is a strategic and political project which I take forward with confidence, energy and determination.

"Many across Europe see the GFA as a watershed agreement, a political compromise, conferring an absolute responsibility on both the British and Irish governments to ensure its implementation as a binding international agreement, but are also conscious that Europe has an important role to play.

"It is of critical importance that Europeans understand that our right to self-determination, a vital element of the Good Friday Agreement, means that the British government will legislate for an end to the Union.

"We were the generation that won our right to self-determination - and that is now being discussed across continental Europe and beyond.

"For the first time, the GFA confers a peaceful and democratic way to achieve reunification and SF is accessing relevant political and civic society networks across Europe; including organised labour; business; academia; think tanks and others as appropriate to discuss the supportive role European can play in the planning and preparing for constitutional change in Ireland.

"Brexit has caused an earthquake at the heart of the British establishment and the aftershocks are being felt across continental Europe and beyond as people witness the 'UK' potentially breaking up

from inside out.

"The British conservative party's pursuit of narrow English nationalism is as evident in Europe as it is as toxic and it has poisoned intergovernmental relations not only between Whitehall, Holyrood, and Cardiff, but also between London, Ireland, and the wider continental Europe.

"As Sinn Féin Representative to Europe, I will secure engagements with government ministers, political parties, ambassadors, think tanks, trade unions, employers' groups, civic society organisations, universities and editorial boards across Europe to raise awareness of the real possibility of constitutional change in Ireland and the important role that Europe can play to support and assist the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, which includes the unity provision.

"To date I have held several meetings with parliamentarians and their representatives in France, Spain, Germany, Belgium and Norway to discuss their governments' foreign policy position in relation to the Good Friday Agreement.

"The Partition of Ireland is not only a problem in Ireland or between Ireland and Britain, Brexit has made it a European problem too.

"In December 2021, I was invited to attend a self-determination conference in Brussels that had been organised jointly by the Basque Irtzar Foundation and the Maurits Coppieters Foundation.

"As part of my opening contribution I firmly outlined: The starting point in Ireland is clear, there is no ambiguity in law, policy and practice: the people of Ireland, north and south, have a guaranteed legal right to determine our own constitutional future.

"Whilst attending the conference, I

also organised ranging meetings with such diplomatic representatives as Philippe Lamberts (Greens/EFA), Geert Bourgeois MEP (ECR Group/ former Flemish PM), Manfred Weber MEP (EPP), and Pedro Silva Pereira MEP (European Parliament Vice-President/ S&D). As part of these engagements, I discussed the current political situation in Ireland and Europe's role concerning constitutional change in Ireland.

"It is poignant to note that Europe is watching Ireland with interest, the changing political landscape in Ireland and it is hearing the conversation about potential constitutional change and Irish reunification.

"The real possibility of Sinn Féin securing the positions of Taoiseach and First Minister has captured the attention of European governments and their officials who will see Irish reunification as being a central plank of a Sinn Féin lead government's European

engagements in the not too distant future. "A European Supporters Networks for Irish Unity has been established and Irish Unity champions including the Irish Diaspora across Europe are playing their part.

"In 1990, the European Council made a statement on the potential reunification of Germany which facilitated German reunification.

"In 2017, the European Council made a similar statement on Irish reunification, known as the 'German Clause' which stated if Ireland is united through the Good Friday Agreement unity provision: 'the entire territory of such a united Ireland would thus be part of the EU'.

"Our debate is focused on how these provisions will be operationalised not whether they exist, we want to make sure

that proper planning and preparation is done; we do not want to repeat the Brexit mess in Ireland.

"We believe that the EU - and other international friends of Ireland - have a vital supportive role to play, we urge others to join with us in this ongoing work for change.

"Brexit has had a major impact on these discussions. No one should forget that the North of Ireland was removed from the European Union against its will. Let that sink in.

"The people of Ireland did not want Brexit, it was imposed upon us. There is an Irish Protocol there to limit the damage; but it is merely mitigation, it does not resolve the basic problems.

"Evidence suggests most understand why the Protocol is required, as I made clear from the very beginning: a legally guaranteed special arrangement was always required for Ireland.

"No one should be surprised; we are now in new constitutional and political territory.

"As a result of Brexit, yes; but also, the increasingly reckless actions of this malign British government.

"I believe that in the decade ahead the people of Ireland will exercise their right of self-determination, as set out in the Good Friday Agreement.

"This is our choice and our right. I, along with many others, will work to ensure a reunified Ireland is achieved.

"A referendum on unity must be set out in a thoughtful inclusive process which sets out a programme of sustainable options, including phases of transition underpinned by an effective, peaceful political strategy with the Irish government playing a leadership role.

"Whilst Irish unity is a project bigger than any single party, the best guarantee that people seeking a democratic pathway back into the EU and our right to self-determination to be operationalised is to have a Sinn Féin lead government which is firmly committed to putting Irish Unity at the heart of its programme for government.

"Long Live International Solidarity."



John Brady TD welcomes Amnesty International report on Israel's policy of apartheid against Palestinians

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, John Brady TD, has welcomed the publication of a new Amnesty International report, Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity.

The Wicklow TD said:

"I welcome this new report from Amnesty International, which interrogates the record of the Israeli state in relation to its treatment of the Palestinian people. It is a record of a continuing litany of crimes against humanity.

"What emerges is a damning indictment of an apartheid state, intent on the oppression and complete domination of the Palestinian people.

"As damning as the report is, sadly it comes as no surprise to those of us who watch what is happening on the ground in Palestine. The fragmentation of the Palestinian lands, the disposessions, the suppression of political and civic activity.

"Not since the world recoiled at the horrors of Apartheid South Africa, has such a systematic attempt to control a people been witnessed.

"I want to add my voice to the recommendations of the Amnesty International report.

"Israel needs to immediately end its apartheid policies against the Palestinian people. It needs to end the use of discriminatory legislation which targets Palestinians.

"The Israeli state must immediately end its annexation of Palestinian lands, as a prelude to the ending the building of illegal settlements on seized Palestinian lands.

"We need to see an end to the collective punishment of the people of Gaza, by lifting the blockade and other restrictions on the movement of the population.

"I support the call by Amnesty International for the UN Security Council to impose targeted sanctions against Israeli officials implicated in the crime of apartheid. The UN Special Assembly on Apartheid needs to be re-established.

"The international community also needs to repudiate the designation by Israel of the six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organisations.



John Brady TD in protest in front of Leinster House.

"This is a blatant attempt to suppress human rights organisations who are involved in essential work in highlighting the human rights abuses of the Palestinian people.

"I call on the Irish Government and Minister Coveney to add their support to the conclusions and recommendations contained within this report.

"Ireland's role on the UN security must be made to mean something, the Minister needs to begin to challenge the international inertia that exists in relation to challenging Israel on its human rights record.

"Ireland must also use its influence at the EU to speak out on Israel's record of apartheid. It is simply unacceptable that an international body that lauds the cause of human rights is content to ignore one of the worst instances of crimes against humanity which is taking place in the world today."

MacManus demands Commission releases documents on freezing funds for Palestinian NGOs

Sinn Féin MEP Chris MacManus has demanded the European Commission releases documents linked to the suspension of EU funds to Palestinian NGOs. The funds were suspended because the Israeli Government accuses the organisations of being linked to terrorism.

MacManus commented:

"I have written to the European Commission to demand the release of documents linked to the suspension of the funds. So far, the Commission told me the 'evidence' it has received from the Israeli authorities is classified and it has refused to provide any more information only saying it has not yet decided whether the claims are credible."

"It makes no sense to cut off this badly needed funding before deciding if the information has any truth to it and it goes

totally against the right to be considered innocent unless proven otherwise."

"I would understand a level of caution would be required if the claims were made by a credible human rights agency, but



Chris MacManus MEP

remarkably the Commission has admitted in a letter to me that "past allegations [by the Israeli Authorities] of the misuse of EU funds have not been substantiated."

MacManus described the Commission's behaviour as an affront to democratic transparency at the expense of EU citizens. "MEPs are the representatives of the EU citizens who fund the EU budget and as a result should be entitled to have some oversight in who receives funding and who does not. It is simply not good enough to say the information is classified."

The Midlands Northwest MEP concluded, "I will continue to pursue this issue until the full funding is restored as in my opinion this is a thinly veiled attack on Palestinian civil society and the EU has let themselves be complicit."

Concerns expressed over planned Russian missile exercise off Irish coast

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Defence Sorca Clarke TD expressed concerns in January following reports that Russia was set to test missiles off the coast of Ireland in February.

Following reports that the Government received a warning of a major exercise by the Russian navy and air force in the Atlantic off the South West coast, Teachta Clarke said:

“I am deeply concerned that Russia is to conduct a missile test off the coast of County Cork in the first week of February.

“The lack of primary radar is the reason other state entities have been probing our airspace for years with high-altitude bombers and escorts. These foreign aircraft can see us but we cannot see them.

“While the 2015 White Paper recognises that radar surveillance is a priority, there has been no meaningful action by government since then to deliver on it. Our Naval Service is now understaffed and under-equipped with no capability to see below sea level and normal operation of units is an ongoing issue.

“Our own Defence Forces staffing levels have been impacted by reducing numbers over the last number of years and it is an area of concern repeatedly highlighted by representative bodies.

“Reports of Naval Service ships being anchored or running on skeleton crews due to severe understaffing are hugely worrying.

“International testing exercises, such as these latest reports from Russia, are placing increased pressure on our already over-stretched Defence Forces that successive governments have failed to invest in and support properly.”

On the 26th January, Sinn Féin spokesperson for Foreign Affairs John Brady TD met with the Russian Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Yuri Filatov to address Sinn Féin’s concerns regarding the proposed military exercises.

After meeting with the Russian Ambassador, Teachta Brady later that day addressed the Dáil:

“Ireland has an international responsibility to patrol its waters, both

Sorca
Clarke TD



surface and subsurface, and its skies. As a neutral nation, we must do so with the resources available to us.

“The events of which we speak have clearly illuminated the failure of this Government to equip our Defence Forces to meet the challenges inherent in our national responsibilities.

“We must not allow this Government’s

“WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS GOVERNMENT’S FAILING OF OUR DEFENCE FORCES TO BECOME A TROJAN HORSE TO SHUTTLE OUR COUNTRY DOWN A ROAD THAT WOULD SEE IRELAND FURTHER IMMERSSED IN THE ONGOING PROJECT TO MILITARISE THE EU.”

failing of our Defence Forces to become a Trojan horse to shuttle our country down a road that would see Ireland further immersed in the ongoing project to militarise the EU.

“Ireland possesses a coveted position on the UN Security Council, which was acquired as a result of a record of decades of neutrality and peacekeeping.

Following political and public pressure on the Irish Government and Russian diplomatic representatives, Russia’s planned military exercise was subsequently moved outside of Ireland’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

John Brady TD
with Russian
Ambassador
Yuri Filatov.



Governments must begin work to manage transition to a United Ireland



Declan Kearney MLA

On the 27th January, Sinn Féin's National Chairperson Declan Kearney MLA told the Cambridge Union that the British government should accept the right to Irish self-

determination and begin work to manage the transition to a United Ireland.

Speaking at a debate on a motion 'This House believes NI Ought to Remain Part of the UK' the minister in the northern Executive said:

"I oppose this motion because the continued jurisdiction of the British state in the north of Ireland represents a denial of the universally recognised right to self-determination.

"But your debate itself is very timely.

"Brexit has been a catastrophe not only for the north of Ireland where the majority of citizens voted to remain, but for businesses and workers in England, Scotland and Wales.

"It has created an earthquake at the heart of the British state and in Ireland the momentum for a united Ireland has never been greater."

And the South Antrim MLA said that as attitudes change in the north the Irish government needs to convene a national Citizens' Assembly on constitutional change. He said:

"Attitudes are changing in the north. Fundamental demographic change is happening.

"In April 2017, the EU announced that in

the event of Irish unity the island of Ireland will have an automatic route back to full EU membership.

"A united Ireland would allow for the economy and society on the island to be organised and managed in the interests of Irish citizens.

"But we also need to plan the milestones of an orderly transition to Irish unity.

"That is why the Irish government should immediately convene a national Citizens' Assembly on constitutional change to positively address the key policy areas and mechanisms for change.

"It should begin to plan for Irish unity."

Declan Kearney said that British government policy towards Ireland has run out of road and that the two governments need to work in genuine collaboration. He said:

"These are unprecedented times.

"British government policy towards Ireland has run out of road. It needs to

change.

"The British government should begin to work in genuine collaboration to manage the transition.

"Acceptance of the right to Irish self-determination and full implementation of the GFA should be adopted within British government policy.

"Both governments should set out a timetable of transition which facilitates reasoned, inclusive and respectful discussion.

"They should agree a date for concurrent Irish unity referenda north and south in accordance with the Good Friday Agreement".

Following the closing of the debate, the Cambridge Union voted to oppose the proposed statement: 'This House believes NI Ought to Remain Part of the UK' with 92 voting in favour, 109 abstentions, and 119 voting to oppose the motion.



SINN FÉIN PRESIDENT MARY LOU McDONALD EXTENDS CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF DESMOND TUTU



Desmond Tutu meeting with Dunnes Stores strikers in London, 1984

Speaking on the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu in late December, Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD said:

"I am saddened to learn of the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. His life was marked by a courageous determination to confront and oppose the injustice of apartheid in his beloved South Africa.

"He was a defender of human rights and a fearless and outspoken voice for the marginalised worldwide.

"A friend to Ireland, he strongly supported

the Irish peace process and came to meet political leaders in 1998, and a number of times after the Good Friday Agreement was ratified.

"He will also be remembered for how in 1984 he invited the heroic Dunnes Stores anti-apartheid strikers to meet with him in London on his way to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

"On behalf of Sinn Féin, I wish to pay tribute to Archbishop Tutu who was highly respected in Ireland, and across the world, and whose legacy of fighting injustice and defending human rights will never be lost or forgotten."



President McDonald visits the USA

Uachtarán Shinn Féin, Mary Lou McDonald, in December travelled to the United States of America to meet political, community, and labor leaders to discuss the current challenges to the Irish Peace Agreements and to look to the future.

Whilst in Washington, President McDonald with the majority leader in the Senate Chuck Schumer, chair of the Ways and Means Committee Richard Neal, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Bob Menendez, and the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus.

Speaking to RTÉ News in Washington, President McDonald said:

"I've had very fruitful and very important conversations with senior figures in the Senate, House, and the Administration and the message is loud and clear that internationally people stand by the Good Friday Agreement. Nobody wants to see an amnesty; everybody wants to see all victims of the conflict treated fairly and within the law.

"There is a conversation that is live now in respect of Irish reunification - the holding of referendums but more importantly the need to prepare for change.

"I feel very reassured that we continue to enjoy the support of key figures, influencers, and the administration here in Washington when it comes to protecting the Good Friday Agreement and protecting Irish interests."

During President McDonald's visit to the US, Mary Lou addressed the New York Bar Association's event: Brexit and a Changing Ireland.

As part of her contribution, President McDonald said:

"Tonight after two long years, we renew the bonds of our friendship and our common purpose. Covid has demonstrated how we are all interlinked and interdependent. The world is a smaller place than we imagined. In a time of great uncertainty held together by hope and compassion.

"Change is all around us. It is part of life. It is as natural as night follows day.

"Ireland has changed, is changing. Some of this is driven by a generational shift, some by Brexit, much of it by the growing realization that the old order must give way to new horizons and opportunities.

"Growing numbers of people want a new Ireland and the preparations for constitutional change need to start now.

"We need to prepare for the future, for a new Ireland, for a united Ireland.

"There can be no delay, no stalling, this is work for now.

"That was my message on Capitol Hill yesterday.

"It is very encouraging that the US continues to be so engaged and understands that the Good Friday Agreement was never the final destination in the journey that we are on

"The Good Friday Agreement provides a peaceful and democratic pathway to Irish Unity. The Good

"We Are Living in the End Days of Partition" - Mary Lou McDonald



Mary Lou McDonald in Washington D.C. meeting the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus



Mary Lou Donald speaking at the NYC Bar Association

Friday Agreement was never the endpoint, it was never a final constitutional settlement. It is a framework, a set of rules for managing political differences today and tomorrow.

"It asserts the primacy of politics over conflict. The rights of all over; the interests of the few. That is why Agreements made must be delivered. Anything less undermines the political process.

"That is why the voice of the US is so important. When Washington talks, Westminster listens.

"President Biden made this crystal clear when he issued a formal diplomatic rebuke, to Britain for failing to honor their agreements.

"This is also seen in the ongoing bipartisan support in Congress to end the threat of a hard border being imposed on our island and in the rejection of the British Government's legacy proposals.

"We all stand together against Britain's efforts to unravel the Good Friday Agreement.

"This is the people's agreement, it is also a US foreign policy success.

"It stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through dialogue, not just in Ireland but throughout the world.

"We will defend it to the hilt. With everything. It means too much. Of course, the Good Friday Agreement provides for a referendum on Irish Unity.

"A United Ireland is the ultimate answer to Brexit and the power of Britain to impose its will on the North.

"A century on from the forced and violent

partition of our island, the conversation on unity is alive in every city, town, and village in Ireland.

"There will be referendums and the people will have their say.

"So now is not a time for complacency. It is time for energy and action. It is time to plan and prepare for change.

"The British government must respect the will of the people and honor their commitments.

"The onus is on the Irish government to take the lead in preparations. The government in Dublin, particularly the Taoiseach must move from bystanders to persuaders for Unity.

"Sinn Féin has called for a Citizens' Assembly on unity to be urgently established. This would allow everyone to bring forward their ideas, concerns, and challenges for the future. It would also be the very best forum for intensifying outreach and dialogue with our unionist communities on unity.

"Make no mistake, we are living in the end days of partition in Ireland.

"Irish America has an important role to play to ensure the days comes when all the people of Ireland decide our future together.

"There is much work to be done but we are getting closer every day. The continued support and goodwill of the United States will be critical as we take the final steps to a brighter future.

"Friends we live in challenging and exciting days. We have nothing to fear from the future. It is ours to define. I believe that we will be the generation to build a new and united Ireland".

Communities must be supported to tackle climate emergency

Attending the United Nations COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021, Sinn Féin Leas Uachtarán Michelle O'Neill said communities must be supported to tackle the climate emergency.

Speaking after launching a Sinn Féin document on tackling the climate crisis at the COP26 summit, Leas Uachtarán O'Neill said:

"The COP26 summit is an important opportunity to send a clear message on the actions that will need to be taken by governments to tackle the climate emergency.

"At the COP26 summit, attended by world leaders, Sinn Féin launched a document on green energy and tackling the climate emergency.

"Just like the Covid19 pandemic, climate change doesn't recognise borders and we



Michelle O'Neill MLA pictured with Sinn Féin representatives Darren O'Rourke TD, Declan McAleer MLA, Caoimhe Archibald MLA and Philip McGuigan MLA attending COP26.

need an all-Ireland approach.

"We must secure a fair transition to a low carbon economy and increase support for rural communities and family farms.

"There's an onus on big corporations to decarbonise and work to deliver green

jobs and healthier, first-class public transport for all.

"Sinn Féin will play our part in the fight back against climate change and protecting the environment for future generations."

Sinn Féin MEP Chris MacManus addresses Sortu Congress in Bilbo, Euskal Herria



Chris MacManus MEP

Speaking at Sortu's 2nd National Congress in Bilbo, MEP Chris MacManus reaffirmed Sinn Féin's solidarity with the Basque struggle for independence and national sovereignty and expressed solidarity with Basque political prisoners and their families.

MacManus said:

"As Irish Republicans we stand in complete solidarity with your political prisoners and their loved ones who wait

for them. At this stage of your peace process, it is essential that all political prisoners are and must be released.

MacManus reflected on the growth of Sinn Féin in the last two decades, recalling the electoral success Sinn Féin has enjoyed since electing the Sinn Féin to the Dáil. MacManus also outlined the possibility of a Sinn Féin Taoiseach and First-Minister in the near future.

"Sinn Féin are now the largest political party in the Dublin parliament. Successive opinion polls confirm our continued growth as the largest political movement in Ireland – north and south.

"In the near future, Ireland could have its first left-wing republican and indeed, female head of government, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald. This could be allied with our Vice-President Michelle O'Neill becoming the First Minister of the Belfast Assembly after this May's election in the north of Ireland.

MacManus highlighted the Irish Unity would take centre stage in a Sinn Féin led government.

"When we are in government, the one issue that we will have front and centre is the reunification of our island. One hundred years of partition has denied the Irish people the right to reach



our full potential as a society and economy.

"The last few years have seen Brexit and Covid-19 accelerate the calls for unity. Debates and conversations have become the norm across the island. The conversation is not if, but when.

"The current Dublin government as well the EU, need to be part of those conversations to ensure they are prepared for unity.

"We are committed to ensuring that people have their say by popular vote but we must plan well in advance a vision of an inclusive and progressive Ireland for all.

During the Congress MEP MacManus also engaged with international visitors from Palestine, Catalunya, Western Sahara and Uruguay.

Senator Paul Gavan calls for human rights overhaul of EU Migration Pact

In January 2022, Sinn Féin Senator Paul Gavan called for radical changes to the proposed European Pact on Migration and Asylum to ensure compliance with human rights standards.

Senator Gavan was leading a debate for the United European Left on the proposed EU Migration Pact at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Addressing the Assembly, Senator Gavan said:

“This pact raises significant issues for the human rights protection of migrants and refugees. As it currently stands the proposals will reinforce current failed policies by focussing on externalisation, deterrence, containment and return.

“Far from protecting the right to seek asylum the proposals contained in the pact will reinforce the moves towards a Fortress Europe policy. The new mandatory pre-entry screening will in practice be used to send people back without due regard for their human rights.

“The claim by the Commission that they will end pushbacks with the setting up of a monitoring mechanism during the screening procedure does not stand up to scrutiny.

“What is needed is a truly robust and independent monitoring mechanism, properly funded and based within existing independent national human rights institutions.

“The promise that this pact will ensure no more examples of a Moria camp sce-



“THE RIGHT TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY GUARANTEED ACROSS EU MEMBER STATES.” - SENATOR PAUL GAVAN

nario where a camp on the Greek islands with a capacity of 3000 people ended up hosting 25000 people is patently false. In fact this pact will lead to detention quickly becoming the norm.

“As regards the EU’s relationship with so called third countries, the EU’s silence over rights violations at Sudan, Libya, Egypt, Turkey and Morocco are deafening, and needs to be highlighted.

“To take just one example, The EU and Italy’s cooperation with the Libyan coastguard has meant that member states are complicit in crimes against

humanity. The mission for this coast-guard is clear-intercept all those trying to flee Libya and send them back into detention, where torture is endemic.

“The major beneficiaries of this Pact will not be desperate human beings seeking shelter and safety, but rather the construction companies building fences, the maritime and defence companies that provide ships, aircrafts, helicopters, drones as well as the security companies contracted to develop biometric systems in the EU and third countries.

“The right to international protection should be effectively guaranteed across EU member states. Instead of lowering standards the European Commission must ensure that existing asylum acquis is upheld and should focus on its actual implementation. The right to family reunification should also be guaranteed across the EU.

“The European Commission must open safe and legal channels to the EU, they must stop criminalising humanitarian assistance at sea or land, and establish state run search and rescue operations across the Mediterranean to end the yearly horrors of mass drownings of human beings.

“Finally the European Commission should reverse the outsourcing of EU border management, search and rescue and asylum processing to third countries including the immediate suspension of the agreement with the Libyan coast-guard.”



Pat Sheehan MLA pictured at the 1981 Hunger Strike event in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Remembers the 1981 Hunger Strikers

In October 2021, former 1981 hunger striker Pat Sheehan MLA attended a hunger strike commemoration in Springfield, Massachusetts (USA).

As part of the commemoration event, Chairperson of the Friends of Ireland Caucus Rep. Richard Neal and Springfield, Massachusetts Mayor Domenic. J. Sarno made speeches marking the 40th anniversary.

Pat Sheehan MLA made his own contribution at the event, remembering his lost comrades and sharing his own personal experiences of being on Hunger Strike for 55 days.

The Irish Proclamation was read by Caroline Murray, J.D. and the event ended with music from Deidre Reilly.

Following the ceremony, former Uachtarán Shinn Féin Gerry Adams virtually addressed a lunch hosted by Rep. Neal, remembering the Hunger Strikers and the legacy of their sacrifice.

In a powerful and evocative contribution, Gerry Adams outlined the challenges and opportunities that we now face in creating a new and united Ireland.

MacManus calls for the immediate closing of Guantanamo Bay Prison

In January, Sinn Féin MEP Chris MacManus said that the closing down of the prison in Guantanamo Bay must be completed immediately, after twenty years in existence.

MacManus commented:

"I believe all countries must subscribe to international law in a sincere manner. The existence of prisons like Guantanamo Bay is completely incompatible with that principle. The prison is located on the island of

Cuba, in an area controlled by the American military, to circumvent the reach of international law, where torture could be carried out at will. Such human rights violations committed would be illegal if they took place on American soil. People will remember some of the horrific photos leaked, that exposes how detainees were treated."

The Midlands Northwest MEP said the time for taking responsibility is long overdue:

"Since the Obama administration, it is actually the United States foreign policy to close the facility. However, twenty years from when the first suspects arrived, it still remains in operation. This is partly because Trump

reversed the executive order issued by Obama. Biden has now reinstated the executive order."

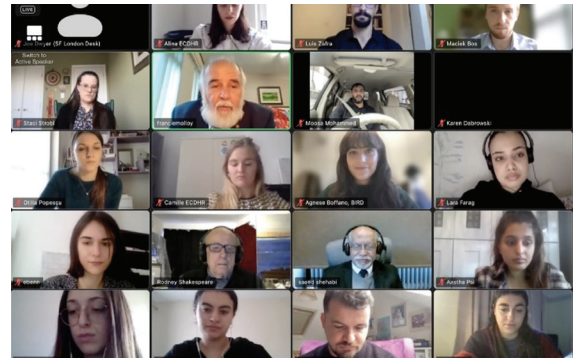
"Currently, there are thirty-nine detainees, which includes eighteen men who have not been charged with any crime. However, nearly eight hundred people have passed through the prison. I can only echo the comments of United Nations experts who stated it

"I WOULD THEREFORE URGE THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF CLOSING GUANTANAMO BAY PRISON." - CHRIS MACMANUS MEP

is "a symbol of a systematic lack of accountability for state-sponsored torture, ill treatment, and impunity granted to those responsible".

MacManus concluded by appealing to the Biden administration to uphold Human Rights. "All people detained deserve the right to due process, protection from torture and full legal representation. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights is intended to be the baseline and once a country decides they are exempt, it puts the system and in turn everyone's protection at risk."

"I would therefore urge the Biden administration to complete the process of closing Guantanamo Bay prison."



Francie Molloy MP addresses online panel discussion to mark Bahrain's Martyrs' Day



Francie Molloy MP

On 16th December 2021, Francie Molloy MP chaired a public meeting organised by European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR) to mark Bahrain's annual Martyr's Day. The meeting had to be held virtually due to the ongoing coronavirus situation.

The topic for discussion was the continued use of extrajudicial killings and executions by the Bahraini authorities.

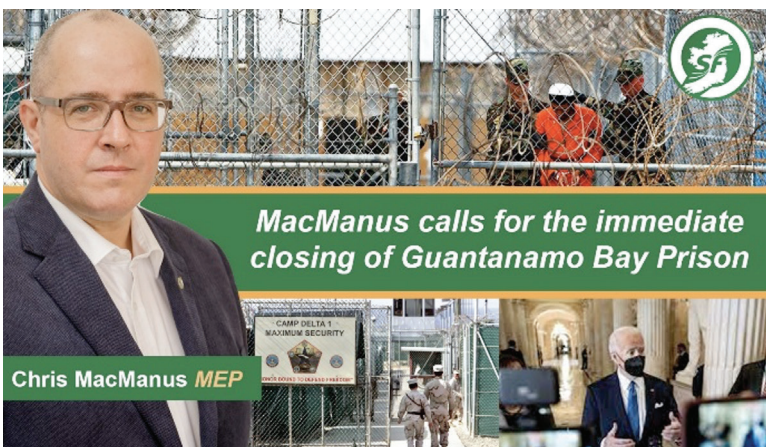
The Mid Ulster MP opened the discussion by saying that the people of Ireland intimately understand the importance of honouring one's martyred patriot dead. He extended Sinn Féin's continued solidarity and support for the introduction of democracy, rule of law, and the people's right to self-rule in Bahrain.

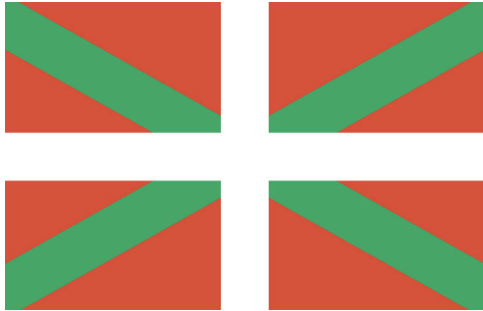
Turning to the current situation in Bahrain, Mr Molloy said, "It is not surprising for us to hear that British Government Officials have consistently ignored reports of the Human Rights abuses in Bahrain. It is an all too familiar story. We ourselves are still struggling to get the British State to face up to its Human Rights abuses in Ireland during our conflict."

Mr Molloy noted the current use of rubber bullets and tear gas by Bahrain's security forces and the parallels with the conflict in the north of Ireland.

The MP for Mid Ulster cited the February 2012 example of, the 17 year old, Mohamed Al Jazeera who was shot directly in the face from less than 15 meters by a teargas canister and then beaten by security forces as he lay bleeding on the floor. Despite the gravity these injuries however, he was denied treatment and instead found himself interrogated by officers in uniform. While Mohamed lost sight in his left eye, with the help of Irish and Bahraini activists, Mohammed was flown to Dublin where he received the necessary treatment to ensure that he did not lose sight in his other eye as well.

Concluding, Mr Molloy said that this was just once example of Bahraini-Irish solidarity and that there needed to be more of it.





Christmas greetings to our Basque comrades who are still in prison!

As part of an annual initiative in December 2021, Sinn Féin sent Christmas cards to all Basque political prisoners still incarcerated.

Speaking after posting the Christmas cards, Pat Sheehan MLA said:

“We are here in solidarity with political prisoners in the Basque Country.

“This is an annual tradition now; we collect Christmas cards for the prisoners who are still incarcerated, and send them as an act of solidarity.

“Despite the fact that the armed conflict in the Basque Country has been over for many years, nearly two hundred prisoners are still held in Spanish jails – many of them hundreds of miles away from their homes.

“We remember what it was like when we were in prison, particularly during the times of the Blanket Protest and the Hunger Strikes forty years ago.

“To receive cards from abroad and to know that there was international solidarity, tonight this is what we are doing for the prisoners in the Basque Country.

“We’ve sent them solidarity from here in Belfast, Ireland and we wish them well for Christmas as well as their families.

“It’s time now for the Spanish Government to enter into serious negotiations, and more these prisoners first of all to prisons that are closer to their home with the aim of releasing them in the near future.

“Jo ta ke, Irabazi arte – keep up the struggle until victory!”



Western Sahara: UJSARIO Conference

In November 2021, Ógra Shinn Féin’s International Officer, Liam Kiernan attended the 2nd International Youth Forum of Solidarity with Western Sahara (IYFSWS) that was hosted by the Polisario Front’s youth wing UJSARIO in Andalusia, Spain. The Forum brought together youth activists from across Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America to discuss the Saharawi people’s quest for national liberation.

Evaluating the forum, Liam Kiernan commented:

“I was immediately struck by the extraordinary determination of the Saharawi people, and their optimism for the future of their country.

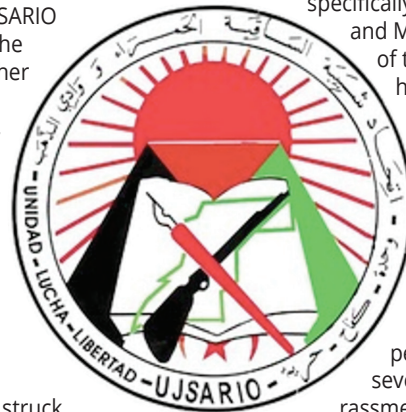
Attending this Forum provided Ógra with a valuable opportunity to learn more at first hand regarding the overall

political and historical context to the situation in Western Sahara.

As a consequence of Western Sahara failing victim to colonial occupation, specifically at the hands of Spain and Morocco, a proportion of the Saharawi people have been forced into exile with thousands still living in Algerian refugee camps.

Under the Moroccan controlled jurisdiction of Western Sahara, still to this day, the Saharawi people living there face severe repression and harassment from the Moroccan state.

As the Ógra Shinn Féin representative, I expressed our solidarity to both the Saharawi people and UJSARIO, as well as sharing the Irish perspective of similarly experiencing colonial oppression”.





NEWRY



LIMERICK CITY



STRABANE

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On the 29th November 2021, Sinn Féin activists across Ireland joined together in solidarity with the Palestinian people. The main theme of the Party solidarity demonstrations was emphasising to the Irish Government that it is 'time to recognise the state of Palestine'.

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