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## American Irish Newsletter - June 2001

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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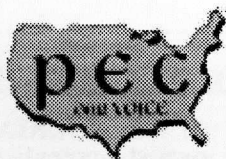
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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

*Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation*

Volume 26, Number 6

June 2001

## McAllisters Seek Asylum

THE MID-NEW JERSEY chapter of the IAUC has begun a campaign to stop the deportation of **Malachy McAllister**.

McAllister and his wife and four children fled Northern Ireland following a loyalist attempt to murder them in their home. The family wishes to stay in the US because they fear their lives would be in danger if they were to return to the North.

Sen. **Bernard F. Kenny, Jr.**, has sponsored SR 42 appealing to Attorney General **John Ashcroft** to take steps to ensure political asylum for the McAllisters.

The McAllisters are seeking asylum under the asylum provisions of US Immigration law 8USC:11580 because they were persecuted in their homeland for their political beliefs and because they have a well-founded fear of renewed persecution should they be forced to return.

Visit <http://www.iauc.org/malachy.htm> on the Web to sign the electronic petition to stop the McAllisters' deportation. To help with the campaign, contact **Eileen Kelly Kean** of the IAUC at P.O. Box 1158, Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742, fax: 732-517-0447, email [grainne@usamailbox.com](mailto:grainne@usamailbox.com).

## Curriculum is a Blighted Version of Great Hunger

By James Mullin, *president of the Irish Famine Curriculum Committee*

IN OCT. 1996, NEW York Gov. **George Pataki** signed a law ordering schools in the state to teach students about Ireland's Great Hunger (1845-1852). Immediately, *The Sunday Times* of London and British Ambassador **John Kerr** attacked him. In the *Times*'s editorial, "An Irish Hell, but not a Holocaust," the paper accused Pataki of spreading "Fenian propaganda."

Two years later, New York awarded the contract to develop a curriculum to **Maureen Murphy** of Hofstra University. The final product, 1,071 pages long, is now ready for distribution. Something is missing, however.

In the teachers' introduction, Murphy states: "The famine that accompanied the failure of the potato crop was rooted in Ireland's troubled history as a colony of Great Britain" This is correct, yet none of the 150 student activities that follow includes readings in Irish history before the 19th century.

Without this history, students cannot comprehend how an industrious people living in a fertile land could have become so impoverished that they were living in one-room mud huts and subsisting on potatoes. They might only conclude that the Irish were poor by nature, which was the racist view of the Irish at the time.

There are no readings on centuries of repressive English trade laws, which effectively destroyed Irish trade. Students will not learn how the native Irish were driven off millions of acres of fertile land following Oliver Cromwell's 17<sup>th</sup>-century conquests of Ireland or how the Irish became tenant farmers on land they had previously owned.

There are no readings on the Penal Laws under which Irish Catholics were forbidden to enter a profession, vote, hold public office, practice their religion, or engage in trade or commerce. One penal law forced Irish landowners to divide their estate among all their children instead of passing it on intact to the eldest son. The Irish would later be blamed for living on progressively smaller and smaller plots of land, as if they, not the British, had invented a form of landholding that would undermine their authority in their own country.

When Pataki signed the Great Hunger education bill, he said: "The concurrent export of food demonstrates that the tragedy could have been avoided if the British had allowed Ireland to retain sufficient grain and livestock to feed its own people."

**Christine Kinealy**, author of *This Great Calamity*, agrees: "There was no shortage of resources to avoid the tragedy of a Famine. Within Ireland itself, there were substantial resources of food, which, had the political will

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## ***Our View: Responsibility is a Matter of Opinion in New York***

*WHAT'S the difference between history and opinion? In New York, where public school students this fall will be treated to Great Hunger curriculum a la Hofstra University revisionist historian Maureen Murphy, it's a matter of whose side you're on.*

*According to Murphy's curriculum, history is a presentation of a past event that frees villains from responsibility. This is a trendy way to look at the world, after all, so why not apply the trend to Ireland's past?*

*The Great Hunger curriculum does not ascribe responsibility for the widespread, large-scale death and suffering to Ireland's political masters, the British. Rather, the curriculum advises teachers to avoid reaching scholar and Great Hunger expert Christine Kinealy's conclusion that the British could have prevented such suffering. This is merely a nationalist opinion, Murphy says.*

*Why is it an opinion? Certainly, it is not an opinion because there is no scholarship to back it up. There is plenty, and all of it reveals that Britain knew of the suffering in Ireland and allowed it to happen, preferring to let the economics of the potato crop failure to work itself out. In the end, British landlords replaced people with cattle, which they found to be more profitable. The British could have averted the Great Hunger. The chief cause of the suffering in 1840s Ireland--and just about everywhere else at any time--was a lack of human sympathy, a lack of responsibility, and a lack of accountability.*

*Kinealy's conclusions are opinions in this case because they are not the established view. They are nationalist [read subversive] because the conclusions happen to be a part of a nationalist argument that the British have no place in Ireland.*

### **American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**

*A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization  
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## **Peace Process Update**

**April 6**

THE PARADES Commission grants the loyalist Apprentice Boys permission to march down the nationalist Ormeau Road on Easter Monday, but the band later cancels the parade.

**April 11**

Feuding loyalists continue their campaign of murder and other acts of violence.

**April 12**

Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** appeals to Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** to help find ways to end the UUP's sanctions against Sinn Fein.

**April 13**

Adams says policing reform remains at the core of any political accommodation in the North and that the party remains concerned about police accountability, operations, and symbols. Adams says his party is concerned that the repressive legislation that has formed the "backbone" of the RUC remains in place.

**April 19**

First Minister and UUP leader **David Trimble** warns that the Mitchell Agreement could collapse by June if there is no "movement" on IRA decommissioning. On the other hand, Ahern says the Agreement could survive Britain's general election but says paramilitary violence, particularly splinter republican groups' actions, must stop.

**May 1**

Adams says Sinn Fein leaders are facing pressure from within party ranks to retaliate over sanctions against its ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive. The party leader hinted after a meeting with Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister **Seamus Mallon** that he has faced calls for his party to withdraw from the Executive in protest at the Ulster Unionist ban on Education Minister **Martin McGuinness** and Health Minister **Bairbre de Brun's** attending cross-border body meetings.

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## From the North: *MI5-MOD Wrangle Threatens Bloody Sunday Inquiry*

By Robert Heatley, *co-founder of the Campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

WITH EVERY day that passes at the Saville Inquiry into the British army's killing of 13 people on Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972, information emerges about the tactics Britain employs to silence people who attempt to hold up the system to democratic standards.

British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** set up this inquiry 28 years after the event because of the widespread belief that Lord Widgery's tribunal had whitewashed the truth to suit the Tory government. Now, we wait to see if this Inquiry will collapse as the British government seeks again to protect itself from public scrutiny.

Throughout the Inquiry, there has been criticism of the attitude of the British Ministry of Defense (MOD) towards it. The MOD has been deploying in-and-out tactics. It is in whenever it thinks that it can make an intervention to assist the soldiers. It is out (not arraigned as part of the Inquiry) when the Inquiry has called for crucial evidence from it. Lawyers on that side of the room are said to be

representing "the soldiers."

An interesting development came to light in May that threatens the future of the Saville Inquiry. The Inquiry is considering gathering intelligence reports on civilian witnesses testifying at the hearings.

The suggestion of collating intelligence summaries on civilians giving statements and live evidence (about 800 persons) is contained in a May 9 letter from **John Tate**, solicitor to the Inquiry, to lawyers representing the bereaved and the injured. This move threatens to crash the whole process.

This development is being explained as a means to "overcome ongoing wrangles over an MI5 and MOD bid to restrict classified material at the hearings. Inquiry chairman **Lord Saville** is considering the Public Interest Immunity Certificates the two agencies have requested.

Friends of the relatives of the victims are reported as being aghast, fearing

that such a move would give the intelligence services a free reign to smear key witnesses who have come forward at the families' urging.

At press time, some lawyers have advised potential witnesses to stay away from the Inquiry and seek independent legal advice on their rights. An infringement of their human rights might be entailed. Fears are spreading that the Inquiry might be brought down, leaving us saddled with the whitewash that was Widgery. The securocrats will have won again—at least temporarily. The bereaved and their supporters won't let the matter rest.

This three-year-old Inquiry has cost the British exchequer more than £36 million; 221 witnesses have presented evidence to it. If the Inquiry crashes, should we regard the cost as the price we had to pay so that the governing powers in their Northern Ireland laboratory could conduct another experiment in misrepresenting civil disobedience in the cause of repressing a civilian population?

### Witnesses: Soldiers Fired Guns

By Robert Heatley

I ATTENDED the Saville Inquiry May 9 to answer questions relating to the submission I had made because I had been a public relations officer of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association at the time of Bloody Sunday and witnessed what had happened that day. What I said and heard supports the case that the British fired the guns that day.

An attorney for some of the soldiers who questioned me presented me with extracts of statements Lord Brockway and his secretary, Joan Hyman, had made to the Widgery Tribunal 29 years ago. (Brockway was to be the main speaker at the NICRA demonstration on Bloody Sunday in Derry.) I had never seen these statements before. The lawyer suggested to me that Hyman's testimony contradicted what I had said to the Saville Inquiry—that the only bullets I had heard fired had been those that made a noise like a swarm of mosquitoes. Apparently, these would have been British army bullets. Hyman had said that, while up on the speakers' platform, she had heard what sounded

like one shot in the distance. I could not account for this difference of perception, and the matter had to be left at that.

I testified the day after journalists **Nigel Wade** (retired, of the *Daily Telegraph*) and **Brian Cashinella**, a former reporter for the (London) *Times*. Wade said that moments before the Paratroopers entered the Bogside in armored cars, he saw what might have been IRA men clearing a field of fire for possible shooting, though he did not see anyone with a gun.

Cashinella said he never heard the army come under attack on Bloody Sunday. He heard only two short bursts of gunfire, which he did not believe were aimed at the army. The only gunfire he heard came from self-loading rifles, a weapon he had used while serving in Malaya with the British army. He recalled that "General Ford and Colonel Wilford gave an impromptu press conference. Wilford said his troops had killed two snipers and was at pains to point out that at least one of his soldiers had been injured by an acid bomb." Cashinella said he thought Wilford was being "economical with what he was telling us."



## Newsbits

THE EUROPEAN Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has found the United Kingdom guilty of violating the human rights of 10 IRA men whom British troops and the RUC shot dead. The ECHR found British troops and the RUC guilty of violating Article 2 of the Human Rights Convention for failing to conduct proper investigations into circumstances surrounding the deaths. A similar finding was brought in the case of nationalist Patrick Shanaghan, whom loyalist paramilitaries killed. The judges considered four separate cases between 1982 and 1992 in which UK forces killed 12 people. They involved the deaths of 10 IRA men, a Sinn Fein member, and another civilian at the hands of the SAS, the RUC, and the loyalist Ulster Defense Association—the latter allegedly colluding with the RUC.... Britain has yet to decide if it will pay the compensation the European Court ordered and might appeal the ruling. (*IAIS* 5/4/01)

Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** has condemned Britain's introduction of a new version of the plastic bullet. Criticizing Secretary of State **John Reid**'s decision to introduce the more deadly plastic bullet, Ahern said: "The [Dublin] government has grave reservations about the proposed introduction of a new form of plastic bullet, which can be even more lethal to certain vulnerable parts of the body like the head. We do not rely on such methods of control here. The clear spirit of the [Mitchell] Agreement and the Patten Report is that [the bullets] should be phased out, not renewed or replaced in a different form." The new projectile will be issued to the RUC and British Army beginning June 1. According to the British Ministry of Defense, the L21A1 round is made of resin and is accurate up to 50 yards, twice the distance of previous versions of this bullet. Britain claims that by

soldiers' using a new optical sight, they make the new plastic bullet consistently more accurate, and this accuracy reduces the probability of its causing life-threatening and serious injury. The British made similar claims when they replaced the rubber bullet with the plastic one in the late 1970s. (*RM Dist.* 4/2/01 and 4/30/01)

Sinn Fein Assembly member **Alex Maskey** has described as a "watershed judgment" the verdict in the case of former republican prisoner **Gerard Magee**, whose convictions the appeal court overturned because Magee was denied a lawyer for the first 48 hours of questioning in Castlereagh. Maskey said the appeal court judgment would have "massive repercussions" for the hundreds of people whose human rights have been abused in this way. (*RM Dist.* 4/5/01)

Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** has been awarded £5000 damages against the RUC arising out of a curfew on the Ormeau Road in Belfast the night before a July 12 Orange Order march in 1996....The judge said Adams was not a passerby but an elected public representative exercising his calling by seeking to monitor a situation of public concern. Belfast County Court ruled that Adams was entitled to damages for public nuisance after a convoy of police officers prevented him from leaving the area. (*IAIS* 4/6/01)

An RUC officer was one of seven people arrested in a major inquiry into the handling of a police probe into the murder of Catholic Robert Hamill, whom a loyalist mob kicked to death in Portadown in 1997. The reservist was detained with four men and two women in the Portadown area of County Armagh on the orders of Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan**. The group of two women and five men, including the reserve constable, were later released

on bail without being charged. This is the first time O'Loan has issued such a directive since being appointed Northern Ireland's first Police Ombudsman last Nov. Even though six men were once accused of Hamill's murder, charges against five of them were dropped after two key witnesses withdrew their evidence. A sixth man was later acquitted of the murder. Witnesses accused RUC officers of failing to intervene in the attack. Sinn Fein said the arrests lent further weight to calls for an independent inquiry into the murder. (*RM Dist.* 4/8/01 and *IAIS* 4/10/01)

Sinn Fein chairperson and Foyle MLA **Mitchel McLaughlin** has given the party's backing to the 2001 Census. "It is important that everyone take part in the 2001 Census because the results will be used to work out funding priorities within the Executive," he said....McLaughlin was critical of some aspects of the census, however. "The use of the term Roman Catholic throughout the booklet is not only a poor descriptive term that can dissuade people from identifying themselves, but also it is overtly sectarian. I am also concerned that the information required on long-term unemployment will not be accurate enough to reveal the true impact of long-term unemployment, which is substantially worse for nationalists than for unionists....While urging people to take part in this census, it is important that we recognize that a 10-year census is inadequate. In the rest of Ireland, a five-yearly program is used as a more reliable and regular statistical update. In the North, a more regular update would not only allow us to monitor our progress in tackling discrimination, disadvantage, and poverty but also give a clear picture of the progress in the implementation of the [Mitchell] Agreement." (*RM Dist.* 4/16/01)

## IRA Recalls Sacrifices, Celebrates Commitment to a United Ireland

THE LEADERSHIP of Oglagh na hEireann extends fraternal greetings to republican activists, supporters, and friends at home and abroad.

We reaffirm our belief that the British government claim to a part of Ireland, its denial of self-determination to the people of the island of Ireland, the partition of our country, and the maintenance of social and economic inequality are the root causes of conflict. We reaffirm our commitment to the national reunification of Ireland.

On this, the 85th anniversary of the Easter Rising, we remember all who have given their lives in the cause of Irish freedom. We salute the courage and fortitude of our volunteers who have died in this phase of our historic struggle.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of [the sacrifice of] our 10 comrades who died on hunger strike in Long Kesh. We remember Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee, and Michael Devine. By their courageous actions and sacrifice, they smashed the British government's attempt to criminalize our struggle for freedom.

We also remember Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg. This generation of republicans hold all of those who died on hunger strike in the same regard as previous generations held the men executed in 1916.

*(continued from Page 1)*

existed, could have been diverted, even as a short-term measure, to supply the starving people." This curriculum identifies this as "the nationalist position"—though Murphy's curriculum advises teachers to avoid drawing such conclusions when they might offend a British interpretation of the Great Hunger.

History is as much about what is omitted as it is about what is included. For example, there are two curriculum readings on the *Jeanie Johnston*, which carried Great Hunger refugees and never lost a passenger, but none on the "coffin ships," which lost tens of thousands of passengers.

In a letter of reply to Kerr, Pataki said the ambassador's description of the Great Hunger as a natural disaster "ignores how the Irish became so utterly dependent on the potato." The idea of the Great Hunger's being a natural disaster skirts the political significance of the event and the role of Britain's let-it-be economic policies of the time. Perhaps the Great Hunger was God's will, according to this thinking, and Britain could capitalize on it. The curriculum has a similar deficiency. Despite student activities on potatoes—"How to Grow Potatoes," "Traditional Songs about the Irish Potato"—there is no explanation of why the Irish came to subsist on nothing but potatoes. Pataki's letter also called Kerr's attention to the "underlying racism" that contributed to the British attitude that the Irish were responsible for their own plight, but it is absent from the curriculum.

In an early reading aimed at teachers, "Addressing Controversial Historical Issues," Murphy says that historians have views and goals just like political activists, but "their professional commitment requires that they hold themselves to a higher standard when they draw conclusions based on evidence." Revisionist historians cannot set aside their own political views any more than political activists can. Their real purpose, and central ideological goal, is to remove all traces of so-called "nationalist mythology" from Irish history. What is left isn't "value-free" history; in fact, it isn't history at all (*See Editorial, Page 2, and Action Requests, Page 8*).

We extend solidarity to their families and to the families of all our fallen comrades.

We also extend our solidarity to our imprisoned comrades at home and abroad and to their families. Many of our comrades have now been released under the terms of the [Mitchell] Agreement; the republican prisoners held in Castlerea should also be released.

Since 1994, the IRA has maintained cessations of military operations.

While not being party to the [Mitchell] Agreement, we have taken a number of unprecedented initiatives that further demonstrate our commitment to and desire for a permanent peace in Ireland.

We commend the resolve and discipline of our volunteers in this period.

The political responsibility for ending the current crisis lies with the British government. There should be no attempt to renegotiate commitments previously made. Those who seek to defeat the IRA and Irish republicanism will not prevail.

Oglagh na hEireann remains committed to the achievement of our republican objectives and the vision of an Irish republic as outlined in the Proclamation of 1916.

Beirigi bua.

P. O'Neill, Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin



## Whistle-blower Points Finger at RUC in Finucane Murder

THE RUC IS AGAIN facing allegations of security force collusion in the case of the 1989 UFF murder of Belfast civil rights attorney Patrick Finucane.

This time, the allegations come from within the RUC ranks. The whistle-blower is retired Detective Sergeant **Johnston Brown**, who told the British documentary TV program *Insight* last month that the RUC Special Branch destroyed a loyalist's taped confession to the murder.

The murder is the subject of an external investigation headed by Metropolitan Police Commissioner **Sir John Stevens** into alleged security force collusion with loyalists.

The RUC Special Branch is believed to have played a major part in the murder by directing Finucane's loyalist killers and then assisting in a 12-year cover-up of the killing.

Brown, a 30-year veteran of the RUC, says that the identity of the man, who had "boasted and gloated of the fact that he had murdered this man" was known since 1991.

Brown says the RUC decided to block the confession within a week of its being recorded. He says, "Someone had made the decision not only not to go forward with the investigation but also to obstruct and to ensure that any like myself coming forward would be ridiculed."

The former detective sergeant says the Special Branch later replaced the tape recording of the loyalist confession in 1991 to the Finucane murder with a second interview in which the loyalist did not admit the killing.

Brown alerted the Stevens team to secretly-taped admissions a UDA gunman made in 1991. Brown was

involved in an operation against UDA leader Johnny Adair when the loyalist made the admission on Oct. 3 that year. The Stevens team received another tape, recorded on Oct. 10 but labelled Oct. 3, which did not mention Finucane.

According to Brown, on Oct. 3 1991, he and another RUC officer were engaging a UDA gunman in conversation that was being taped secretly. The taped conversation followed an earlier meeting with the UDA man, which took place on Oct. 1, in which he initiated contact. During the taped discussion of Oct. 3, the loyalist gunman admitted being one of those involved in the killing of the lawyer. When Brown questioned the claim, the UDA gunman made more admissions.

Brown says the loyalist described how he had stood over Finucane and emptied his weapon into the lawyer's face. Significantly, he described the bullets hitting the stone floor and bouncing back. The killer said he had almost been hit himself. He was gloating and boasting about the killing, according to Brown. Later, Brown gained access to video and photographic evidence, which he believes authenticate the UDA gunman's claims.

On Oct. 10, 1991, Brown secretly recorded a second conversation, this time in the presence of a Special Branch officer. During the meeting, the Special Branch man produced a sheet of paper on which Brown says were written specific questions to be asked. The questions asked by the Special Branch officer were remarkably similar to those Brown asked on Oct. 3. According to Brown, even the loyalist complained that he had answered these questions before.

Brown didn't realize at the time

that the Special Branch, in conducting the second taped interview, was manufacturing a replacement tape for Oct. 3. Brown has suggested that within a week of the first taped interview, RUC Special Branch decided not only to suppress evidence but also to subvert any future investigation into the Finucane killing by replacing the confession tape with a carefully-crafted second taped interview.

Brown adds that the Special Branch threatened him and his 14-year-old son with jail if he raised concerns.

The *Insight* program follows comments that Brown made in papers in Northern Ireland that senior RUC detectives were about to reveal security force collusion in the Finucane murder case. In early May, media leaks revealed that two RUC officers who knew the UDA was about to kill Finucane but did nothing to prevent it were to be charged with "withholding information." The two facing charges are believed to be the Special Branch handlers of **William Stobie**, the UDA quartermaster who supplied and disposed of the weapons used in the assassination.

Stobie is currently awaiting trial. He is charged with aiding and abetting the killing of Finucane.

At press time, the case against Stobie is on the verge of collapse because the chief prosecution witness withdrew his evidence. Former journalist **Neil Mulholland**, who is now employed as an NIO press officer, contacted the Director of Public Prosecutions in late April to formally withdraw three statements implicating Stobie. Earlier in the year, Mulholland signed

*(continued on Page 7)*

## Human Rights Struggles Change Shape, Continue

**KADER Asmal**, the first chairman of the Irish Council of Civil Liberties (ICCL) and now Minister of Education in South Africa, delivered the first annual ICCL lecture in April in Dublin to mark the 25th anniversary of the ICCL. Asmal's speech, "Taking Liberties: Human Rights, People, Power and the Constitution," compared Ireland's and South Africa's continuing struggles for human rights.

"Looking back at Ireland now, 1976 seems like another country and another time. Then, it was a period of draconian security measures, serious allegations of [police] brutality, ...wrongful convictions,...and seven-day [detention] with trial.

"At the same time South Africa, 1976 was the year of the Soweto uprising that was followed by nearly 15 years of intensified authoritarian oppression and persecution. The schoolchildren more than others dared to stand up against a repressive regime, and hundreds died at the hands of police.

"[This year], South Africa completes seven years of democratic governance and relative peace guided by one of the world's most progressive constitutions.

"Whereas the struggle in Ireland has been to amend the constitution to bring it in line with a human rights-, civil-liberties-oriented ethos, the struggle in South Africa was to ensure that a constitution was drafted that reflected the aims of our struggle.

"After 25 years of struggle, Ireland finally agreed to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, to establish a Human Rights Commission with wide-ranging powers and a duty to set up a Joint Committee with the Northern Ireland Commission, and to draw up together a Charter of Rights for the whole island. There is even a committee established to review the Offenses Against the State acts. This has coincided with the establishment of powerful equality institutions empowered to outlaw discrimination on a wide range of grounds.

"We drew on the experience of one of our first campaigns in the ICCL against the state of emergency in drawing up our constitution. At its heart, lies a table of non-derogable rights which cannot be violated by any emergency....It is the bedrock of our struggle for freedom.

"We set up human rights commissions that have enforced compliance with this Bill of Rights through the constitutional court. There have been landmark challenges that confirmed the abolition of capital punishment; the right of women to have abortions; and the outlawing of corporal punishment in schools, where the judgement decided that freedom of religion, like any freedom, is not absolute.

"Enforcement of compliance with the constitution is the  
(continued on Page 8)

himself (continued from Page 6)

into a psychiatric hospital, effectively undermining his credibility as a witness.

During a court hearing in early May, Stobie's legal team attempted to force disclosure of Mulholland's medical records but was stalled when the proceedings were adjourned for another month at the request of the prosecution.

The RUC has issued a statement in response to UTV Insight's report. The statement says all matters raised in the program are part of the Stevens Inquiry, and it would therefore be inappropriate for the RUC to comment on them.

However, suspicion now falls on RUC Chief Constable **Ronnie Flanagan**, who became head of a Special Branch unit responsible for surveillance and intelligence

gathering at the time of the controversial murder of Finucane.

The Finucane family, who continues to demand a public independent inquiry into the murder, released a statement following Mulholland's withdrawing his evidence. The family said: "The purpose of the Stevens police investigation is to thwart a public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane.

"We can expect some further prosecutions. This has all been carefully choreographed to ensure that the police investigation and any prosecutions arising from it will postpone a public judicial inquiry indefinitely. The longer it goes on, the further away the decision to establish the inquiry.

"If new charges are brought against anybody else, perhaps those

charges could be accompanied by an explanation as to why they could not have been brought two years ago.

"Any such prosecutions will be controlled and directed by the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Finucane family will have no input into these prosecutions and will not be able to suggest relevant witnesses; nor will they be allowed to ask any questions. They will not be given relevant documents. They will play no part in any of the public trials. The British government will tell the people that the murder of Pat Finucane has been examined in public. The full circumstances surrounding the murder of Pat Finucane will not be publicly scrutinized.

"The carpet is not big enough to hide this issue, which has now taken an international dimension."



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## **Action Requests**

*Please take the actions recommended below. Mention that you are a PEC member.*

Contact: Gov. George E. Pataki, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; email gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us  
(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR HOME ADDRESS WITH YOUR MESSAGE)

**Message:** New York's public schools' Great Hunger curriculum fails to explore the role of Britain's economic policies at the time of the Great Hunger and Britain's failure to ameliorate the suffering in Ireland. The curriculum also fails to acknowledge the racist nature of British government in Ireland. These omissions result in an interpretation of the Great Hunger as an event that stood outside the dynamics of politics, economics, and social history. I urge you to send the curriculum back to the drawing board so that New York's public school students will receive fair and accurate information about the Great Hunger. I will look forward to your immediate response outlining how you plan to redress this matter.

(continued from Page 7)

very basis upon which the realization of freedom is dependent—not just political rights but the application of socioeconomic rights.”

Asmal talked of the protection of minority rights as being fundamental to democracy. “We see [minority rights abused] in the shameful scourge of racism and the insults, harassment, and worse experienced daily by [people]...who have sought refuge in the countries of northern Europe from persecution in their own lands. Just as distressing as the upsurge of the ‘new’ racism is the survival of the old, as virulent as ever, the racism and ill-treatment of the Travelling community.

“Charters of rights are meaningless without the political and moral will to combat such evils. In Durban later this year, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Chauvinism, and Xenophobia is due to take place under the auspices of the UN and guided by UN Human Rights Commissioner and ICCL cofounder **Mary Robinson**....

“In South Africa,...we have to confront the specter of inequality by ensuring social and economic justice and by working towards peace and security for all. We have to establish a police force and an administration of justice system that is free from all vestiges of apartheid.

“In a word, we need to strengthen the democratic order and the constitutional state by respecting and implementing our constitution, of which we are justly proud. It will not be easy. We recognized that in 1994, as if we were driven by the prophetic words of Bertolt Brecht in his *Songs of the Soldier of the Revolution*:

“ ‘When the difficulty/Of the Mountains is once behind  
‘That’s when you’ll see/The difficulty of the plains will start.’ ”