



Sacred Heart  
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University  
**DigitalCommons@SHU**

---

American Irish Newsletter

The Irish American Community Collections

---

5-1999

## American Irish Newsletter - May 1999

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_ainews](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews)



Part of the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), and the [Political Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - May 1999" (1999). *American Irish Newsletter*. Paper 41.  
[http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_ainews/41](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/41)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the The Irish American Community Collections at DigitalCommons@SHU. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Irish Newsletter by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SHU. For more information, please contact [ferribyp@sacredheart.edu](mailto:ferribyp@sacredheart.edu).



# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 24, Number 5

May 1999

## Why no Outrage Over Nelson Murder?

By Charles P. Mullaney, *Professor, Legal Studies,  
Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, Connecticut*

If Rosemary Nelson's murder counts for anything in the US, then the nationalist community and the human rights bar will have to figure a way to portray her life to a wider public. The nasty truth is that Americans, save for the usual crowd of Irish activists and spectators, regard current events in the North in the post-Mitchell Agreement era with indifference.

The minimal media coverage of Nelson's death comes as no surprise to observers of the peace process. The infocrats who prioritize American news focus only on today's spectacle and celebrity. To them, Nelson, like Bajram Kelmendi, was an obscure lawyer who practiced obscure law.

On March 26, the bodes of Kelmendi and his two sons were found shot dead at a gas station in southwest Kosovo. Kelmendi was a human rights lawyer who had defended many political prisoners in Kosovo over the last decade and had recently defended the Albanian language newspaper, *Kola Ditore*, which the police had just shut down. This story was buried on Page 7 of the March 27 *New York Times*. Not a word about it has appeared since. To a jaded American public, Kelmendi's death is just another atrocity in a faraway land.

If the Kosovo crisis gets this kind of snub from Americans, then it can't be surprising that the press treated the killing of Rosemary Nelson as mere filler. First, there hasn't been an American journalist regularly in Belfast since last May's referendum. The news Americans get of the North originates from London. Moreover, what is newsworthy to Americans about fulminating Ulster politicians, especially after enduring a year of impeachment bluster here? The last sufficiently interesting story out of the North that warranted reporting was Omagh, and before that, the Mitchell Agreement. To the general public here, Rosemary Nelson was not prime time.

(continued on Page 7)

### **Breaking News**

#### **House International Relations Committee Moves Against RUC**

The House International Relations Committee has moved to cut off funding authority for US-sponsored training and exchange programs offered to the US unless the President certifies that the UK has initiated independent investigations into the murders of Northern Ireland civil rights attorneys Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson.

It also conditioned the funds on the President's certifying that the UK is protecting other defense attorneys who have indicated that they have been harassed by the RUC.

Congressman Chris Smith wrote the restricting provision and offered it to the State Department authorization bill with Congressman Peter King.

## Newsbits

One of the most problematic areas in relation to policing in Northern Ireland has been the almost complete lack of accountability on the part of police officers in terms of criminal prosecution and internal disciplinary action. For instance, no police officer has ever been convicted of murder, and despite the massive amounts of compensation paid to detainees in the holding centers for ill-treatment, records since 1985 show that no officer has ever been disciplined. (2/99 *Just News*)

Forensic scientists working for the Saville inquiry into Bloody Sunday have supported claims that at least one of the 14 men killed was shot dead from close range while he lay injured. Jim Wray[']s...family has always maintained that a member of the Parachute regiment shot him twice from close range as he lay face down on the ground, having fallen to an earlier bullet injury. The family's solicitors, McCartney and Casey, recently submitted the coat worn by Jim Wray to the new Saville inquiry into the Bloody Sunday deaths. In a leak to *The Sunday Times*, a source within the

(continued on Page 4)

## ***INSIDE***

Peace Process Update . . .	2
From the North . . . . .	3
Equality Deferred . . . . .	5
Nelson's Murder . . . . .	6
Collusion Claims . . . . .	7
Action Requests . . . . .	8



## OUR VIEW

### Why Isn't Irish Immigration Enough?

*Some PEC members have objected to our position that Americans boycott the Irish Immigration stamp featuring a boat, an empty wharf, and decidedly green water. They point out that the stamp is a joint issue with the Irish government and that the boat featured in the stamp is the Jeanie Johnston, which carried Irish emigrants to the US and Canada during the Great Hunger.*

*The PEC objects to the stamp because it gives not the slightest hint of the American Irish contribution to the development of this nation. Indeed, there is an eerie silence about the stamp that belies the vibrant role Irish immigrants have played in all aspects of American culture. This is a sticking point for an organization that has worked diligently since 1975 to promote awareness of these things.*

*Nonetheless, the PEC recognizes that Irish Immigration is a victory of sorts. We campaigned for a stamp and got a stamp. When it issued the stamp, the USPS addressed the Great Hunger as a cause of immigration and the roles the American Irish have played throughout American history. In his St. Patrick's Day address, President Clinton acknowledged the pivotal role of the Great Hunger in American and Irish history. It is progress, but it is not enough. We're not afraid to say so.*

## PEACE PROCESS UPDATE

### March 10

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern predicts that there will be "a new beginning" for policing in Northern Ireland if peace holds and that the service will be "largely unarmed." On decommissioning, he says: "[W]ith all sides agreed on the necessity to take the gun out of Irish politics, there is every reason to expect that these issues...will be resolved through the intensive contacts and dialogue now under way."

### March 12

Against a background of growing alarm that the Mitchell Agreement is in deep crisis, head of the decommissioning body Canadian General John de Chastelain is expected hold talks with President Bill Clinton.

### March 16

Following the loyalist Red Hand Defenders' murder of prominent civil rights attorney Rosemary Nelson, Northern security sources say they are concerned that loyalists are

**Published by**  
**American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**  
*A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization*  
**founded 1975**

National President.....John J. Finucane  
Vice-President.....Albert Doyle  
Membership/Subscriptions Coordinator.....Loretta Fitzgibbons  
Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan  
Financial Secretary.....Tom Sheridan

Editor . . . . . Sandy Carlson

Newsletter Mailing Address:  
Five Woods Way  
Woodbury, CT 06798

Newsletter E-Mail Address: [sandyandeddie@juno.com](mailto:sandyandeddie@juno.com)

#### National Headquarters

54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980  
(914) 947-2726 Fax (914) 947-2599

PEC Website Address: <http://www.sirlus.com/~weet/pec/>

**STATE DIRECTORS:** Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton St., Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Ave., Ste. 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 7 Balint Dr., Apt 714, Yonkers, NEW YORK 10710-(914) 395-1995; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Ln., Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Bob West, 683 Walnut Rd., Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(847)526-6520; Terry Deem Reilly, 1123 Clarkson, Denver, COLORADO 80218-(303)837-9443; Ned A. Delaney, 1211 El Grande St., Lafayette, INDIANA 47905-(317)474-2546; Larry Doyle, 2036 Calhoun, Bellevue, NEBRASKA 68005-(402)292-5291; Kathy Whitford, 15910 Lucille Dr., Cleveland, OHIO 44111-(216) 251-7551; Paul D. McGuigan, 7608-8th Ave., #201, Seattle, WASHINGTON 98117 - (206) 782-5567; Nancy Love, 14151/2 Grand Ave., Racine, WISCONSIN 53402 - (414) 633-4085; Dr. John T. Giesen, 1107 Ironwood Dr., Coeur D'Alene, IDAHO 83814 - (208) 667-7459; Hal Cousins, 905 Shalimar Dr., Del City, OKLAHOMA 73115 - (405) 677-3623; Elizabeth McElligott, 7747 E. Dale Ln., Scottsdale, ARIZONA 85262 - (602)585-3602; Robert J. Fuhrel, 1901 Rio Canyon Ct. #202, Las Vegas, NEVADA 89128-(702) 255-9619; Mary Holford, 6555 Tam O'Shanter Dr., San Jose, CALIFORNIA, 95120-(408) 268-4548

**GREAT HUNGER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR:** Frank Morris, Jr., 821 Briarwood Ln, Camp Hill, PA 17011-(717) 737-7013

**NATIONAL ORGANIZER:** Pete Foley, 3615 Greystone Ave., Bronx, NY 10463 - (718) 884-2220

**Supported in part by the Emerald Society,  
NYC Fire Department**

stepping up their murder campaign against Catholics in a bid to destroy the peace process.

### March 17

Police fire 17 plastic bullets into nationalist crowds in Portadown as tension mounts following Nelson's murder. RUC officers strike Garvaghy Road councillor Breandan Mac Cionnaith in the head with a baton.

### March 19

Clinton, Ahern, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair issue a statement pleading to Northern Irish political leaders to overcome the current impasse in the peace process. It makes clear that the IRA's refusal to hand over weapons need not block Sinn Fein from the new Executive.

### March 20

Clinton, Ahern, and Blair have a three-phase strategy to meet the April 2 deadline for establishing the Executive. The first phase took place during St. Patrick's Day in Washington, when all the principals met with Clinton. The

(continued on Page 5)

## From the North

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

The first anniversary of the Mitchell Agreement passed on April 10, and still the Assembly's shadow Executive has not been allowed to function.

According to the Mitchell Agreement, under the rubric Transitional Arrangements (Sec.35), this period is stated to be for "...the purpose of organization, without legislative or executive powers, to resolve its standing orders and working practices and make preparations for the effective functioning of the Assembly, the British-Irish Council, and the North-South Ministerial Council and associated implementation bodies."

After nine months of unionist stalling, a list of North-South cross-border bodies was extracted in January. Since then, the stalling has gone on, but, according to the section of the Mitchell Agreement to which reference has been made, "In this transitional period, those members of the Assembly serving as shadow Executive members shall affirm their commitment to nonviolence and exclusively peaceful and democratic means and their opposition to any use or threat of force by others for any political purpose; to work in good faith to bring the new arrangements into being and to observe the spirit of the Pledge of Office applying to appointed ministers."

If this wording means anything, it means that the shadow Executive ought to have been up and running at the commencement of, or soon after the formation of, the shadow Assembly.

The IRA's two cease-fires have lasted almost five years, and Sinn Fein spokespeople have stated repeatedly that the Pledge of Office presents no difficulties to them. Their representatives in the Assembly are working in cooperation with the agency specified

in the Mitchell Agreement for dealing with the decommissioning issue.

In the Agreement, the prescription for nominating the members of the shadow Executive is clearly spelled out. The d'Hondt criteria is to be used whereby parties are entitled to seats in proportion to their electoral mandate.

The present hiatus--unlikely to be resolved when talks recommence on April 13--has been caused by the British government's backing the UUP's attempts at making sense of what is to other people plain English.

We had hoped in Jan. that this British government was going to face down unionism, but we were too optimistic. We had naively taken Northern Secretary Mo Mowlam at her word that she was resolved to "have everything in place by March 10," although that was later modified to be a target date. The Sinn Fein claim that, once again, the British government has caved in to the unionist veto is indisputable.

Since Trimble is merely a subservient locum for the colonialist British government, it could hardly ditch him when he is engaged in fighting for its objective. A growing number of media commentators are coming to accept that Sinn Fein has a case that the British and Irish governments, with the All Fools Day Hillsborough Declaration, have attempted to rewrite the Agreement in the UUP's favor.

Only the UUP and the Paisley and McCartney "No Men" want the IRA to give up its weapons according to Trimble's terms--terms outside the Agreement that has the support of most people, North and South. The other parties want the full Agreement implemented. To Northern nationalists, it is galling that this stalling device is being employed by the British govern-

ment (meekly supported by Dublin) when the wilder elements of Northern unionism--ultra-loyalists--have been on the rampage ever since the signing of the Mitchell Agreement.

The killing of lawyer Rosemary Nelson; the spate of bomb attacks on Catholics, driving many of them from their homes, pogrom style; the loyalist death threats the RUC delivers to people who are targetted as anti-unionist; the renewal of loyalist picketing at Catholic churches; and the looming threat of another summer's besieging of nationalist communities--all of this has made no difference to the fixation of the two governments in getting the IRA to disarm.

The vast majority of people want a normal, civil society in which grievances that give rise to paramilitarism, on both sides, do not exist. Colluding with Trimble, who is a self-confessed captive of his UUP's unreconstructed wing and the unionist "No Men," in denying SF its rightful place in an Executive is the least constructive way to get to that objective.

The Hillsborough Declaration requires a four weeks deadline, chortles Belfast's one evening newspaper (unionist, of course) for arms (read IRA arms) to be handed over. The loyalist UVF and Red Hand Commandos have already said that they will not hand in arms. Come what may, they are holding onto their weapons. Can anyone see any resemblance between this demand and what is inscribed in the Mitchell Agreement?

At the moment, the omens do not look good for a fruitful outcome from the week's talks ahead, and the continuance of this peace process might well be in jeopardy. Perhaps when the terms of the Hillsborough Declaration are made explicit, pessimism might prove to have been unwarranted. Only the British government has the answer. Dublin will row along.



## Newsblits (continued from Page 1)

inquiry claimed forensic tests on the coat proved beyond doubt Jim Wray was shot while lying on the ground. (*Irish News*, 3/28/99)

A County Armagh man who lost his eye after being hit by a plastic bullet fired by the RUC, has been awarded 100,000 pounds....Martin Toner...was shot in the face at close range as he left Mass on July 27, 1996. In the incident, which occurred while nationalists were protesting against an Orange march, upwards of 50 plastic bullets were fired. Mass-goers and protesters were targeted, and as well as Toner another six people were injured. (*RM Dist.* 3/31/99)

The IRA vowed last night to return the bodies of nine people it had killed and secretly buried in unmarked graves....[R]epresentatives of the republican leadership apologized and accepted responsibility for the "injustice" of prolonging the suffering of victims' families by burying the nine bodies secretly. However, it denied it was responsible for any other people who disappeared during the troubles. Special legislation is to be rushed through the Irish and British parliaments prohibiting evidence resulting from the recovery of the remains from being used in the prosecution of those involved in the investigation. The IRA said the bodies were located after an 18-month investigation by a special unit under the command of one of its most senior officers. It is the first time the IRA has publicly accepted responsibility for the deaths. According to senior IRA sources, a 10th investigation into the whereabouts of the body of undercover soldier Captain Robert Nairac was unsuccessful. Seven of the nine victims... were alleged by the IRA to have been informers. (*Irish News* 3/30/99)

## Michael Tuomey Brings Industry to Alabama

By Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

Alabama is famous for its industry and steel-producing capacity. The state is indebted for much of this to Michael Tuomey, a native of County Cork, Ireland. He was an American Irish scholar who helped to transform America into a mighty power.

Following his immigration to the US in the 1830s, Tuomey spent time in Philadelphia, PA, and then became a schoolteacher in rural Virginia. He married Sarah Hardy of Maryland.

After their marriage, he studied at Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute in Troy, NY. He then worked his way south, toward Alabama, by becoming a construction supervisor on a railroad. He established a school at Petersburg, VA, before he went on to teach geology at the University of Alabama.

Tuomey's reputation as an expert in geology soon won him a job as state geologist of Alabama in 1848. There, he found great deposits of coal and iron ore.

Mostly rural Alabama became an industrial center of the southern US as a result of Tuomey's work, which became so well known that geologists throughout the US studied his advanced methods. Tuomey also became one of the most prominent American Irish in the south at a time when severe anti-Irish discrimination was common throughout the nation.

Tuomey died on March 30, 1857. Dignitaries from throughout the south attended his funeral at St. John's Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa. A large Celtic cross, placed at his grave site in Tuscaloosa, is inscribed, "Michael Tuomey of the City of Cork, Ireland."

Source: *Library of Edward Kelley, Dorchester, MA*

## Bloody Sunday Inquiry's Credibility Is In Jeopardy

Fear is growing that the Saville inquiry into Bloody Sunday in 1972, when British soldiers killed 14 men and injured others in Derry, will be neither independent nor even credible.

Greg McCartney, a lawyer representing the family of one of the dead, has said that the English court's interference in the new inquiry raises "the whole question of Lord Saville's credibility and independence."

He spoke after an appeal court in London rejected an appeal by the Bloody Sunday inquiry following a judicial review taken by five soldiers in order to preserve their anonymity at the inquiry.

The inquiry was appealing against an earlier court decision that instructed the inquiry team to re-examine its decision not to grant the soldiers involved in the massacre complete anonymity when giving evidence.

McCartney said, "The full implications of this judgment have yet to emerge but we would be extremely concerned by the way things are moving."

In addition, lawyers are concerned that the three British soldiers involved in Bloody Sunday who are now dead will be blamed for the massacre to clear others who are still alive and possibly still active in the British army.

*A report carried out by a Queen's University researcher and released in Dec., 1998, found that most companies view equality issues as an inconvenient and do not consider it to contribute to good business practice. Although 85 percent of the public sector bodies had a policy on harassment, nearly half of the 150 private firms surveyed admitted that they do not mention the issue in any of their documentation. (1/99 Just News)*

## Equality Deferred (Yet Again)

The Fair Employment and Treatment Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, which consolidates and, in part, amends the Fair Employment acts of 1976 and 1989, indicates that the British government continues to fail to address issues of economic, social, and cultural rights in the North, according to the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ).

The CAJ finds that:

Ten years after the Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights (SACHR) recommended that the British establish a timetable for reducing the differential between Catholic and Protestant unemployment rates, the government is failing to do so. Nonetheless, a government White Paper on which the Order is based states that it hoped for a reduction in the unemployment differential by 2011.

A similar pattern can be detected in relation to affirmative action. Although the 1989 Act included limited affirmative action measures, few have been taken since then. The SACHR proposed recommendations in this area, but the 1998 Order does not implement them. The government did concede to the SACHR's recommendation to allow employers to recruit specifically from the long-term unemployed, but the government presented this as a Welfare to Work program rather than an affirmative action plan.

The government also failed to adopt the SACHR's recommendations concerning contract compliance to ensure that public contracts were awarded only to firms with proper anti-discrimination practices.

The Order contains "the most minimalist stance possible" in relation

to compliance with the European Court of Human Rights' finding that Britain's national security exemption legislation was unlawful. This legislation allows employers to discriminate on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion for the purpose of national security. The special tribunal established to hear the relevant case may sit in secret and exclude the complainant, and the complainant has no right to be represented by his or her lawyer. Instead, the government--the defendant--may appoint a lawyer, and that lawyer's primary concern will be to ensure the secrecy of the proceedings.

The new Assembly will have responsibility for fair employment matters. "Whether it will be possible to gain sufficient consensus there to strengthen the existing provisions remains to be seen," according to the CAJ.

*(continued from Page 2)*

second phase will involve finding the real bottom lines for Adams and Trimble to get past the decommissioning impasse. The third phase will involve Ahern's and Blair's being in Belfast for talks.

### March 24

The RUC and British government reject calls for an independent investigation of Rosemary Nelson's murder.

### March 28

Ahern and Blair meet in Belfast to try to resolve the decommissioning impasse.

### March 31

In its Easter address, the IRA says that "IRA guns are silent" and: "If the

political will exists, the peace process contains the potential to resolve the conflict and deliver a durable peace.

### April 1

The British and Irish governments issue the Hillsborough Declaration, suggesting that decommissioning occur place before the Executive is established.

### April 9

Loyalists refuse to hand over weapons, saying, "You can rest assured that the UVF and the Red Hand will not hand over guns to get Sinn Fein into office."

### April 10

The IRA dismisses the Hillsborough Declaration, and the UUP says it has difficulty with aspects of it. Loyalists

resume their picket at the Catholic church in Harryville, saying that if Orangemen can't parade through Catholic areas of Portadown, then Catholics can't worship in Harryville.

### April 12

UN Special rapporteur Param Cumaraswamy, who investigated claims of RUC-loyalist collusion and harassment of lawyers, demands that the British establish an independent inquiry into the murder of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane in 1989.

### April 13

The British and Irish prime ministers and the Northern political parties meet to try to salvage the peace process.



## NELSON'S MURDER HIGHLIGHTS BRITAIN'S FAILURE IN IRELAND

By Sandy Carlson

The Red Hand Defenders marked the tenth anniversary of Pat Finucane's murder by murdering Rosemary Nelson on March 15. Both were civil rights lawyers who frequently represented nationalists who found themselves at odds with the British state.

She died of the injuries she sustained following a car bomb explosion in her BMW near her office in Lurgan.

Nelson, from Lurgan, and Finucane, from Belfast, left young families and spouses to wrestle with issues of RUC and British collusion with their loyalist murderers. Their murders highlight Britain's unwillingness to satisfy the hunger for truth and justice that people like Nelson and Finucane have expressed in their search for peace. Politicians and human rights campaigners around the world are calling for an inquiry fully independent of the RUC so that truth and justice and, therefore, peace can be established in Ireland.

Following the murder, human rights campaigner Fr. Des Wilson of Belfast said, "Any investigation into the death of Ms. Rosemary Nelson and other atrocities committed by those who oppose the creation of good government will be useless unless the investigators ...break the wall of silence they will...meet in the RUC...and go to the heart of a conspiracy that will not be broken by the arrest and imprisonment of a few scapegoats from the miserable corners where their operators work, but only when it is admitted that some people are involved who have a veneer of respectability and enough money and status to enable them to work effectively, secretly, and destructively."

A key campaigner for a full and independent investigation into claims that the RUC colluded with loyalists to

kill Finucane, Nelson had long claimed the RUC had threatened to kill her.

She had told UN special investigator on the independence of judges and lawyers Dato Param Kumaraswamy in Oct. 1997 of the RUC's "systematic and concerted campaign of intimidation and abuse." Last March, she again made allegations that senior RUC officers had threatened her life. Last summer, the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition raised the issue of Nelson's safety with British Prime Minister Tony Blair's chief of staff. Nevertheless, the British denied her the protection she had requested.

Last July, the RUC was removed from an inquiry into the death threats its officers allegedly made against Nelson and was replaced by investigators from the Metropolitan Police. A report by the Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC) highlighted the reasons the RUC was removed from the investigation: the general hostility, evasiveness, and disinterest of RUC officers involved in the investigation; ill-disguised hostility toward Nelson from some officers whose mind set could be viewed as bordering on the obstructive; the arrival of one RUC officer, who smelled of alcohol, 45 minutes late for an interview; the apparent prompting of some RUC officers to prepare statements in advance of their interviews, undermining hopes for full answers; one officer's telling the ICPC he prepared his statement in advance at the request of a chief inspector, though the chief inspector later denied this; and the RUC chief inspector's report on the RUC investigation, which makes a number of assertions that constitute judgments on the moral character of Mrs. Nelson and others.

### *Copy & Distribute*

Despite these concerns and the wishes of many Northern Ireland solicitors, human rights organizations, and the nationalist community that the RUC be removed from the investigation, the RUC remains in charge.

Yet, on four occasions in the past, similar investigations have failed. Scotland Yard detective Kenneth Drury had failed to establish the truth behind the fatal beating of Derry man Samuel Devenny in 1969. Reports by three English policemen into RUC collusion and shoot-to-kill tactics were never published. The Northern police have not inspired confidence on this occasion, either. In their appeal for information, the RUC supplied an incorrect date and an incorrect phone number for people to call to offer information. Though the RUC said it would bring in a representative each from the Ken Constabulary and the FBI, neither man came to the North when the investigation began.

In the US, a group of lawmakers on March 24 introduced a resolution calling on the British to establish an inquiry independent of the RUC. "The success of the peace process is predicated on the people's ability to believe the injustices such as this will be investigated thoroughly, fairly, and transparently," said Rep. Chris Smith, the prime author of the resolution. "It is absolutely critical that a truly impartial investigation of Rosemary Nelson's murder will be conducted and, in the end, help further the cause of peace.

The original sponsors of the resolution are: **Representatives Ben Gilman, Peter King, Joe Crowley, Donald Payne, and Robert Menendez.**

For more information, contact the  
**American Ireland  
Education Foundation-PEC**  
54 S. Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980  
800-777-6807

## BRITISH REFER COLLUSION CLAIMS TO RUC

There is growing concern that the British government and RUC are unwilling and unable to see that claims of loyalist collusion with the RUC and British armed forces are fully and independently investigated.

Even as convicted loyalist killer Bobby Philpott claimed in a TV documentary in March that collusion was widespread, the British government referred British Irish Rights Watch's report into the 1989 UFF murder of Belfast lawyer Patrick Finucane to the RUC. The group's report claims evidence of collusion.

The RUC then referred the report to Deputy Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police John Stevens. Steven's report of an earlier investigation into collusion was never published.

Martin Finucane, a representative of the Derry-based Pat Finucane Center and brother of the murdered lawyer, criticized the RUC's action. He said, "The British Irish Rights Watch report was presented to the [British and Irish] governments on the same day as the publication of a petition signed by more than 1,200 lawyers worldwide calling for an independent and international

inquiry into the murder. The report contains serious allegations regarding the role of the RUC in the 1989 killing. It is clearly unacceptable that the RUC Chief Constable should have any role in referring the report to Mr. John Stevens. There is an obvious conflict of interest, given the nature of the allegations."

The United Nations has joined the human rights organizations that have been calling for an independent investigation into the murder.

UN investigator Dato Param Cumaraswamy reported to a Geneva meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights April 12 that he believes there is "prima facie evidence" of military and/or RUC collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in Finucane's killing. He then met Northern Secretary of State Mo Mowlam and Chris Patten of the Northern Ireland Commission on Policing in London and asked for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the murder.

The two also discussed the murder of Rosemary Nelson, whom loyalists killed last month. Human rights groups claim that loyalists colluded with the British armed forces in the killing.

Mowlam said a file about the complaints concerning Rosemary Nelson before her murder had been prepared by Commander Mulville of the Metropolitan Police and was currently with the director of public prosecutions.

Mowlam said: "I met Mrs. Finucane in February and the information she gave me has been passed to the RUC, John Stevens and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"I want to wait until the DPP has reached a decision on these cases as I do not want to prejudice any legal proceedings. When those deliberations have finished I intend to examine the information in detail. I have ruled no options out."

However, despite this wait and see approach it is understood that a royal commission into the case, which Cumaraswamy also called for, has been ruled out on the grounds that such top level inquiries are generally reserved for policy matters and are too cumbersome.

Cumaraswamy's office confirmed April 14 that this year it would compile a full report into Nelson's death.

*(continued from Page 1)*

Rosemary Nelson wasn't a celebrity. She practiced human rights law, a discipline whose content baffles most lawyers, let alone the general public. Nelson tenaciously represented her clients and fought mightily for the cause of human and civil rights in the North. That she did so without fanfare is a testament to her integrity.

Last Dec., world dignitaries celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was a toast to the many international human rights agreements and to the putative achievements of its organizations and advocates. There

were remembrances of Nuremberg, South Africa, and Tiananmen Square. Only the converted tuned in.

Nevertheless, the American public remains largely unaware of human rights law. Torture, child labor, and the denial of political rights—to name some common human rights abuses—take place in far-off lands. Besides, we have a constitutional Bill of Rights.

Few Americans know that in the North there is no written constitution, no Bill of Rights, and no way to effectively enforce international human rights law in national courts. Fewer know that police in the North have extraordinary powers of summary

arrest, coercive interrogation, and warrantless search and seizure.

In Northern Ireland, this lack of civil liberties and the regular, documented abuses by the RUC of individuals formed the basis of Nelson's law practice. She made legal inroads in the system of handling complaints against the RUC. She exposed human rights violations. She enlightened our Congress about injustices in the North. She made a decided legal difference in the North. For this, she was blown apart. Her life and death deserved, at least, the network evening news and a few articles in our newspapers. She was trumped by American ennui.



### **Action Request**

*Please write the following letters or make the telephone calls. Please have others do the same. Please mention your membership in the PEC.*

**Write: President Bill Clinton, The White House, Washington, DC 20500, (202) 456-1111, fax (202) 456-2461, email president@whitehouse.gov**

**Message:** Please urge the British and Irish prime ministers to implement the Mitchell Agreement and put an end to the unionists' stalling the beginning of local democracy in the North.

**Write: Your Representative, 2244 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3010**

**Message:** I urge you to support House Resolution 128, introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (D-NJ), calling for an independent investigation into the loyalist murder of civil rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson.

## **BBC LEARNS TO WATCH ITS LANGUAGE**

The BBC has recently shown a new sensitivity toward the way people in the North identify themselves politically and geographically in relation to Britain and Ireland.

Two weeks ago, the BBC issued a memo to its staff in Northern Ireland urging them to beware of the misuse of labels such as Ulster and the mainland.

The corporation has now warned personnel to "always think carefully about how to use the words 'nation' and 'national.'"

With the development of devolution, the BBC warns its staff that the misuse of the titles British and English could be insulting to some listeners and viewers. The style memo says: "We should be careful how we use 'British'. The words 'British' and 'English' are not interchangeable.

The memo also states: "'nation,' 'country,' and 'capital' can be interpreted differently by different audiences.

"When we talk about things affecting 'the whole nation' or happening 'across the country,' these phrases can mean different things to our audiences in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland."

Journalists are warned: "Particular sensitivity is required when talking about people who live in Northern Ireland. While some people regard themselves as 'British,' others regard themselves as 'Irish.'"

## **Paul D. McGuigan is Named Irish Activist of the Year**

PEC Washington State Director Paul D. McGuigan has won the 1999 Peter Gavan Duffy Award for Irish Activist of the Year in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 1, Washington State Irish Northern Aid, and the Washington State PEC participated made the selection. McGuigan is a 1994 graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, with a Master of Laws in Human Rights and Discrimination degree. The award is named for Duffy because of his work over many decades in the US fighting injustice in the North.

### **To Join Or Renew Your Membership AIEF-PEC**

[ ] New Membership \$25 [ ] Membership Renewal \$25  
[ ] Senior Citizen \$20 [ ] Student \$10  
[ ] Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] Donation Only \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Congressman/woman \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to AIEF. Mail to 54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. For information, call (800) 777-6807.

American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC  
54 South Liberty Dr.  
Stony Point, NY 10980

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Leesburg, FL  
Permit No. 1040

**Address Correction Requested**