



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



9/15/2021

Dear Congressman Malinowski:

As members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and your constituents, we respectfully ask you to sign onto a letter from Congressmen Boyle and Fitzpatrick opposing the United Kingdom proposal to create a special statute of limitations for criminal acts committed during that time, including murder. The proposal, made by British Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, contravenes Britain's pledged commitments under international treaty under the 1998 Good Friday, 2014 Stormont House Agreement and the 2020 "New Decade, New Approach" agreement.

We note that the United Kingdom's Northern Ireland Amnesty proposal has been met with unprecedented solidarity across the breadth of Northern Ireland, being denounced by leaders of both the Unionist and Nationalist Community. These leaders realize that Northern Ireland as a community cannot move forward to a firm and lasting peace while shackled to the corpses of the numerous unresolved killings of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Such unanimity in opposition by the community of Northern Ireland makes clear that despite the claims by Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis that the U.K.'s renunciation of the Stormont House Agreement is intended to bring resolution to Northern Ireland, the only real beneficiary is Whitehall. The true goal of Northern Ireland Secretary Lewis's statute of limitations is not to achieve closure for the people of Northern Ireland, but to close the book on investigations into the actual role of its military and intelligence forces in the conflict. It is no coincidence that this call by Britain to create this special statute of limitations was announced on the same day a British coroner's court found that the killings of 10 innocent civilians in Ballymurphy by British military forces fifty years ago to be unjustifiable, opening the door to criminal proceedings. For the U.K. to now claim, after decades of well-orchestrated bureaucratic stalling and prevarication, that "too much time has now passed" for it to conduct the investigations it committed to begin years ago plumbs new depths of political cynicism and shows a contempt for all people who believe in fair and impartial justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King said: "*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*" We believe that the United Kingdom's attempt to create a special statute of limitations for murder in Northern Ireland contravenes all established civilized norms of justice. If left unchallenged, we believe the U.K.'s Northern Ireland Amnesty proposal could set a dangerous international precedent impacting the prosecution of future crimes committed under the pretext of military action. The belief in justice is a core American value; we believe Congressman Malinowski that if the United States is to have any international credibility regarding justice, then it cannot be silent even when an ally acts unjustly.

We therefore respectfully ask that you contact the offices of Congressman Boyle or Fitzpatrick and ask to add your signature to their letter. The point of contact for Congressman Boyle is Gianluca Nigro (202)

"Ireland unfree shall never be at Peace"

225-6111, email Gianluca.Nigro@mail.house.gov; for Congressman Fitzpatrick it is Evan Schuler (202) 225-4276, email Evan.Schuler@mail.house.gov. Congressmen/women Gottheimer, Pallone, Pascrell and Collman have already signed. We hope to count on your support as well.

Respectfully;

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