with the Constitutional right to civilly dead rather than a person mater). And, the law effectively outside world. prisoners in communicating to the publicly. The law targets journalists, prohibits prisoners and those for-

STOP THE ABUSE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS NOW!

A round eighty Irish Republican prisoners still languish in British and Irish jails. Whilst Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail have recently expressed their concern at the dete-

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But the rights to free association and communication are being trampled on by the British.

I have no trouble in remembering the names of the 26 Irishmen and women executed by the British in 1916. But I cannot recall the Irish prisoners who have been sentenced to death in the southern jails.

The prisoners’ opposition to British sectarian rule in the north of Ireland is why they are inside. The IRPSG is dedicated to defending their rights inside the prisons as we are to defending their rights.

\*They have not in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who doesn’t want to be broken - Bobby Sands

\*They have nothing in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishwoman who doesn’t want to be broken - Bobby Sands

The Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group condemns and opposes this treatment as violating human rights. Many human rights groups including Amnesty has complained about strip searching and physical assaults of Republican prisoners. The IRPSG believe that Britain has no right to inflict this violence on Irish prisoners and that they have the right to run its prisons on Irish soil. It has no right to be in Ireland.

Throughout the centuries’ long British presence in Ireland, the role of the courts and prisons has been central to British con-

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The Glenanne Gang: Britain’s hired assassins in Ireland

The Glenanne Gang or Glenanne group was a secret informal alliance of Northern Irish loyalist extremists who carried out shooting and bombing attacks against Catholics/Irish nationalists in the 1970s, during the Troubles. [1]

Most of its attacks took place in the area of County Armagh and Tyrone referred to as the “murder triangle”. [2] It also launched some attacks elsewhere in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. [3] The gang included British soldiers from the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), police officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), and members of the Mid-Ulster Brigade of the illegal Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). [4][5]

Twenty-five British soldiers and police officers were named as having purportedly been part of the gang. [6] Details about the group have come from many sources, including the affidavit of former member and RUC officer John Weir; statements by other former members; police, army and court documents; and ballistics evidence linking the same weapons to various attacks.

Since 2003, the group’s activities have also been investigated by independent inquiries: the 2006 Cassel Report, and three reports commissioned by Irish Supreme Court Justice Henry Barron, known as the Barron Reports. [7] A book focusing on the group’s activities, Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland, was published in 2013. It drew on all the aforementioned sources, as well as Historical Enquiries Team investigations.

Lethal Allies claims that permutations of the group killed about 120 people – almost all of whom were “upwardly mobile” Catholics with no links to Irish republican paramilitaries. [6] The Cassel Report investigated 76 murders attributed to the group and found evidence that British soldiers and RUC officers were involved in 74 of those. [8] RUC officer John Weir claimed his superiors knew he was working with loyalist militants but allowed it to continue. [9]

The Cassel Report also said that some senior officers knew of the crimes but did nothing to prevent, investigate or punish. [8] It has been alleged that some key members were double agents working for British military intelligence and RUC Special Branch. [5][11] Attacks attributed to the group include the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, the Miami Showband killings, and the Reavey and O’Dowd killings. [5]

Many of the victims were killed at their homes or in indiscriminate attacks on Catholic-owned pubs with guns and/or bombs. Some were shot after being stopped at fake British Army checkpoints, and a number of the attacks were co-ordinated. [11] When it wished to “claim” its attacks, the group usually used the name “Protestant Action Force”. The name “Glenanne gang” has been used since 1969 and is derived from the farm at Glenanne (near Markethill, County Armagh) that was used as the gang’s main ‘base of operations’. [12][13] It also made use of a farm near Dungannon. [14]

Notes

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