

RELEASE IN PART B6

Mr. William J. Clinton

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Dear Mr Clinton,

Throughout your term as President of the United States of America, your encouragement and dedication to bringing peace to the North of Ireland was vital. On 30th November 1995, you became the first serving President to visit the North and three years later on 10th April 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed, 'officially' bringing the 'troubles' to an end. Ten years later, you marked the tenth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in 2008 when you attended the US-Ireland Alliance commemoration at Queen's University in Belfast.

Although the majority of people in Ireland voted in favour of peace, we must not forget that many opposed the Good Friday Agreement from the outset. This includes several politicians who now sit as MLA's within the Stormont Assembly or as MP's at Westminster. They promised to break apart the Peace Agreements. Fourteen years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, they slowly rewrite the terms agreed by the political parties and the two governments. Quietly, the agreements are being broken and dishonoured.

It began openly in 2007, with the arrest of Gerry McGeough as he left the count centre in Omagh having stood as a candidate in the Assembly elections. A clear and provocative political arrest by the British Government at the behest of those DUP politicians who have always openly opposed the Good Friday Agreement. This is a violation of the terms agreed by the Irish and British Governments in paragraph 20 of the Weston Park Accord (2001). Gerry McGeough was sentenced to twenty years for alleged offences dating back to 1981 and has been incarcerated in Maghaberry prison since 18th February 2011. As a heart patient with six stents inserted, his detention in the middle of a dirty protest is a serious health risk.

Marian Price has been interned without trial and in solitary confinement for over a year and there are serious concerns for her health which continues to deteriorate rapidly. Although the charge against Marian has been dismissed, she remains in prison on further alleged charges based on 'secret evidence' to which nobody, including her lawyers have access. The pardon she received upon her release in 1980 has, according to the British Secretary of State been "lost or shredded".

Martin Corey has been interned without trial in Maghaberry prison since 2010. Martin has not been charged with any offence. His only certainty is that he has been imprisoned at the hands of the British Government.

I have only presented the basic facts in this letter surrounding the cases of Gerry, Marian and Martin. There are other prisoners who also suffer as a direct consequence of the British

Government refusing to adhere to the peace agreements. There is an on-going and escalating dirty protest in Maghaberry prison. The issues surrounding the Boston College subpoenas. Former RUC officers coming out of retirement to fill the ranks of the PSNI. They are not joining the PSNI in the interests of peace and justice.

Actions such as these do not encourage peaceful solutions. They create a distrust of politics and political solutions. They cultivate a desire, in particular amongst the younger generation, for a return to armed conflict. Already, the construction of new prison blocks is underway within Maghaberry prison. They expect a massive increase of Republican prisoners over the next year. Yet, no member of the British State Forces is to face prosecution for events prior to 1998.

When you next visit Ireland, you will not see this side of the Good Friday Agreement. When DUP MLA Arlene Foster next visits America to encourage investment or to raise funds, she will not talk about these things. However, back home in Ireland, she, along with others, will do all they can to encourage this situation to continue.

Mr Clinton, how you personally respond to this letter is entirely your decision. I can only ask for your help and urgent intervention. Without it, there may not be a 20th anniversary celebration of the Good Friday Agreement.

Full details of the Gerry McGeough case can be found on the www.freegerry.com website.

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