



POLICING & JUSTICE: THE SINN FEIN AGENDA



Words that speak for themselves

As some Unionists prepare to gift Sinn Fein their key strategic demand of ending British control of policing and justice, we set out below various telling utterances by the IRA/Sinn Fein leadership on this vital subject. No Unionist should be facilitating their all-Ireland agenda.

“ We have made policing, and the related issue of criminal justice, a new arena of struggle for republicans and nationalists. In that context, while building towards national independence, our objective in the interim is to depoliticise policing in the north. That means removing policing as a pillar of unionist power and preventing it from ever again being used by any section of society as an oppressive paramilitary force.

In pursuing these objectives we made it clear that the Patten recommendations did not go far enough for us. That is why we have put the issue of the transfer of policing and justice powers from the British government to the Assembly, the Executive and the north-south Ministerial Council at the centre of the political agenda. ”

Gerry Adams address to the 2003 Ard Fheis, 29th March 2003
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/312>

“ Of course the Patten Recommendations were never going to be adequate from an Irish republican perspective. By definition that requires a national police service subject to democratic accountability in a politically independent all-Ireland state. But the developments during the negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement and since have opened up the issue of policing as a new arena of struggle for republicans; and as a potential site of struggle which serves the achievement of national and democratic objectives.

Patten did not go far enough for us. That is one reason why we have put the issue of the transfer of policing and justice at the centre of the political agenda. ”

Gerry Kelly 30th March 2003
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/319>

“ The justice system shaped by unionist domination and Britain's military imperatives in Ireland must be transformed. ”

Gerry Adams 25th January 2003

“ Critical to a new beginning to policing and justice is the issue of transfer of powers to Ireland through the local Assembly, the Executive and hence into an all-Ireland context through the all-Ireland institutions. But transfer of powers is also crucial because it is the only way that control of policing and justice can ultimately be wrested out of the hands of British securocrats in London and the NIO who have run policing as a paramilitary force for generations.

The transfer of powers will require the enactment of a third parliamentary act by the British government, **surrendering power** on policing and justice matters which are currently controlled by the NIO and by London.

Only through the transfer of powers on policing and justice to a democratic local Assembly in the north, can the potential be unlocked to achieve a realignment of policing on an all-Ireland basis...SF is the only party with the leadership and elected representatives, north and south, to advocate, legislate and agitate for that all-Ireland vision...

No-one should be bigger than justice and certainly not the police force. I call on this Ard Fheis and activists to support us **in this very fundamental struggle for an enduring and All-Ireland Justice system.** ”

Gerry Kelly address to Ard Fheis on policing, February 29th 2004
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/1732>

“ Similarly the new beginning to policing and the ongoing bias within the Judiciary demand a new Department of Policing and Justice **so that we can take power out of the hands of the securocrats** and bring about real democratic accountability. ”

Conor Murphy 16th Feb 2004
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/1635>

“ There should be no underestimation of the scale of shift in republican and nationalist thinking for Sinn Féin to be involved in policing...because our country is still partitioned. For this reason the transfer of powers on policing and justice away from London to Belfast within a short timeframe is crucial. This would put policing and justice firmly within the accountability mechanisms of the Good Friday Agreement. ”

Gerry Adams article in Irish Times, 10th August 2004
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/2765>

RC The key outstanding matter is the transfer of powers on policing and justice away from London and out of the hands of British securocrats, into restored local Assembly and all-Ireland institutions...this is not some sham fight or academic debate about the number of clauses in a piece of legislation or the sequence in which they run. This is about giving expression in law to the transfer of powers – **taking powers** – away from London and out of the hands of the British securocrats. **It is about sovereignty**, accountability and political change. ↩

Gerry Kelly, 14th January 2006
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/5801>

RC The onus is on the British government to bring forward its proposals and to enact legislation to give full expression to the transfer of powers away from London and out of the hands of British securocrats.

However **our vision is much wider than that**. At the weekend we held a conference in Belfast as part of the process of setting out an all-Ireland **vision of policing and justice on the island**. ↩

Gerry Kelly, 17th January 2006
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/5815>

RC Sinn Féin have already set out our stall for the maximum powers to be moved out of London and into an all Ireland context...

Like all comrades I am fighting for an all Ireland justice system just as we are continuing the struggle for a United Ireland. Equally, **in the interim**, we need to achieve a new beginning to policing and justice in the North, in the present, which will impact on the everyday lives of people and also impact on the all Ireland policing and justice systems. ↩

Gerry Kelly, 19th February 2006 Ard Fheis
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/6066>

RC Comrades, our approach to policing, like our approach to every other aspect of struggle must be about ending British rule in our country and asserting our republican agenda. **It is central to ending British rule**. In fact, I can't understand how British rule can be ended if we give up and pull away from negotiations on policing and justice. ↩

Martina Anderson, 19th February 2006 Ard Fheis
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/6077>

RC We have to boss policing. We are the bosses. We are the people with the political authority...I'll tell you what I want the PSNI to do. I want the police to watch MI5, to spy on MI5 and to arrest MI5 when they break the law. ↩

Martin McGuinness, January 28 2007 Ard Fheis
<http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/8369>

Sinn Fein's last Westminster Manifesto:

“Our strategy is for a new all-Ireland policing and justice system. That cannot be achieved without the transfer of policing and justice powers away from London, into an Executive and Assembly and the all-Ireland institutions.”



So, when IRA/Sinn Fein boasts that transferring policing and justice is:

“...central to ending British rule”

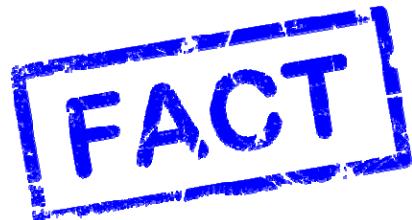
“...about sovereignty”

“...fundamental for an all-Ireland Justice system”

“...a new arena of struggle for republicans”

“...interim to a united Ireland”

every Unionist should see what is afoot and band together to thwart, not deliver, Sinn Fein's age-old agenda.



*traditional
unionist
voice*

*Keep justice
above politics*

Nothing that is morally wrong can be politically right