



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

These are the future leaders of Ulster if the St Andrews Agreement is endorsed



McGuinness (far right) in IRA uniform at the funeral of fellow IRA man and close friend Colm Keenan in 1972

“The Burning Bush” has only two more issues to go after this current edition, before its witness concludes. It has sought to warn its readers of the wickedness and compromise taking place within “church and state”, since its first edition back in March 1970.

The issues facing Christians were comparatively plain and simple back then, or so it seems now on reflection. Today, however, the confusion that we sought to combat within the ranks of the ecumenical churches and organisations, seems to have spread to the ranks of those who, over the years, have been engaged in opposing the religious and political sell-out.

The reaction to the St Andrews Agreement has shown that to be so. It is an agreement, when stripped of all its legal jargon and political frills, that will place an unrepentant murderer in co-leadership of Northern Ireland. How unthinkable such a notion was back in 1970!

Today we are told, it is both thinkable and exceeding wise!

In an effort to refocus the minds and hearts of Christians we publish some well-established facts about those whom the St Andrews Agreement would have us choose and submit to and make masters of our destiny and that of our children. By the blessing of God, may a consideration of these facts awaken the slumbering soul of Ulster Protestantism.

Martin McGuinness, MP, MLA

Born in Londonderry, 23 May 1950, he is an Irish republican politician and Member of Parliament, and a former Provisional IRA leader.

He is the Sinn Fein MP for Mid Ulster, but, like his party colleagues, he has refused to take his seat in Westminster. He is also a member of the currently-suspended Northern Ireland Assembly, and served as Minister for Education in the Northern Ireland Executive between 1999 and 2002.

He joined the Provisional IRA around 1970 at the age of 20, after the ‘Troubles’ broke out. In November 2003, he confirmed to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that he had been second-in-command of the Provisional IRA in Londonderry in 1972, at the time of Bloody Sunday, at the age of 21, but he refused to divulge any information about other Provisional IRA members. A claim was made at the Saville Inquiry that McGuinness was responsible for supplying detonators for nail bombs on Bloody Sunday. Paddy Ward claimed he was the leader of the Fianna, the youth wing of the IRA in January 1972. He claimed McGuinness, the second-in-command of the IRA in the city at the time, and another anonymous Provo gave him



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bomb parts on the morning of 30 January, the date planned for the civil rights march. He said his organisation intended to attack city-centre premises in Londonderry on the day when civilians were shot dead by British soldiers. In response, McGuinness rejected the claims as “fantasy”. Peter Lilley, a British MP, speaking in a Westminster debate on December 13 2001, recalled that McGuinness while a commandant of the IRA in Londonderry claimed to have “had a dozen Catholic informers killed”.

McGuinness negotiated alongside Gerry Adams with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Willie Whitelaw, in 1972. He was convicted by the Republic of Ireland’s Special Criminal Court in 1973, after being caught with a car with 250 lb (113 kg) of explosives and nearly 5000 rounds of ammunition. He refused to recognize the court, and was sentenced to six months in jail. In the same court, in the same year, he declared his membership of the Irish Republican Army without equivocation: ‘We have fought against the killing of our people. I am a member of Oglagh na eireann and very, very proud of it’.

In August 1993, he was the subject of a two part special by the “Cook Report”, an investigative Central TV documentary series presented by Roger Cook. It accused him of continuing involvement in IRA activity, of attending an interrogation and of encouraging Frank Hegarty, an informer, to return to Londonderry from a safe house in England. Hegarty’s mother Rose appeared on the programme to tell of telephone calls to McGuinness and of Hegarty’s subsequent murder.

consummate liar

McGuinness denied her account and denounced the programme saying, “I have never been in the IRA. I don’t have any sway over the IRA”. In 2005, the Irish government claimed McGuinness, along with Gerry Adams and Martin Ferris, were members of the seven-man IRA Army Council. McGuinness denied the claims, saying he was no longer an IRA member.

Gerry Adams, MP, MLA

Gerry Adams was generally seen as a spokesman for the Irish republican movement which encompassed Sinn Fein and the paramilitary Provisional Irish Republican Army (Provisional IRA), an illegal paramilitary organisation in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

IRA member

Senior political, security and media figures, including the Minister for Justice in the Republic of Ireland, assert that, from the 1970s until mid-2005, Adams was a member of the Provisional IRA’s governing army council. That makes him responsible for some of the most horrific murders carried out by his organisation. He has also been accused of being the IRA commander in Belfast during the 1970s.



Gerry Adams in IRA uniform at the funeral of IRA man Francis Liggett



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Another consummate liar

Adams has denied that he has ever been a member of the IRA, although it is widely believed that he was.

Under Adams, Sinn Fein changed its traditional policy of abstentionism towards Leinster House in 1986 and later took seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly, although the party retains a policy of abstentionism towards Westminster. For three years, it participated in the power-sharing executive committee (cabinet) in Northern Ireland, where it shared powers with the Ulster Unionist Party and the SDLP. (The Democratic Unionist Party appointed two ministers but did not sit in the committee in protest at the presence of "Sinn Fein".)

Gerry Adams was born in West Belfast into a strong activist and nationalist Roman Catholic family, consisting of 10 children who survived infancy, 5 boys, 5 girls and their parents, Gerry Adams Sr. and Annie Hannaway.

Gerry Sr. and Annie came from strong republican backgrounds. Adams' grandfather, also Gerry Adams, had been a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Two of Adams' uncles, Dominic and Patrick Adams, had been interned by the governments in Belfast and Dublin. "West Belfast republicanism was dominated by three families: the Adamases, the Hannaways, and the Burnsers. They were all intermarried, the consequence of the imprisonment of their male members. When figures like Gerry Adams Sr. emerged after having served their jail terms, they found girls of a marriageable age either already spoken for or reluctant to marry into the IRA. Inevitably they drifted into relationships with the sisters of their IRA comrades.... The IRA in places like West Belfast... grew heavily dependent on a small, often interrelated network of extended families... the result was that republican involvement tended to be an inherited rather than acquired activity... [Adams' parents] would pass on to their children their political views as well as a special, exclusive sense of shared suffering".

Adams attended St Finian's Primary School on the Falls Road where he was taught by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. He then attended St Mary's Christian Brothers Grammar School after passing the eleven-plus exam in 1960. He left St. Mary's with six O-levels, and became a bartender, but became increasingly involved in the Irish republican movement, joining Sinn Fein and Fianna Eireann in 1964.

Adams has stated repeatedly that he has never been a member of the Provisional Irish Republican Army. This is a controversial position, given much evidence to the contrary: In January 1973, Adams was photographed at the funeral of IRA man Francis Liggett dressed in the IRA's black beret, marching alongside the coffin with other IRA members. In 2002, Marion Price, convicted for being part of a bomb team that attacked London in March 1973, said in public that Gerry Adams was "my commanding officer" at that time. In early 1977, Adams went to the home of a Belfast journalist who lived near Turf Lodge and worked for the BBC "Spotlight" program. He presented himself as representing the Belfast Brigade of the Provisional IRA.

He was arrested after the La Mon Restaurant Bombing in February 1978 (in which 12 Prot-



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stant civilians were burned to death) and was charged with IRA membership. Adams denied the membership charge, threatened to sue reporters who repeated the charge, and applied for bail. Many senior Republicans at that time were surprised by Adams' denial of membership, for they had usually taken the approach of offering no comment to such a charge.

Sean O'Callaghan, a former IRA member, Garda and MI5 informer from County Kerry, has claimed he spoke to Adams at IRA meetings in the 1980s. He states that Adams was a battalion quarter-master responsible for weapons, and then at the age of 22 Adams became Officer Commanding the Second Battalion, Belfast Brigade IRA. On 20 February 2005, Irish Minister for Justice Michael McDowell publicly named Adams as a member of the seven-man ruling IRA army council during a radio interview. According to the British government, he has been a member for over 20 years, although he has never been convicted of IRA membership and continues to deny it.

Gerry Kelly, MLA

Gerry Kelly is an Irish Sinn Fein politician and convicted IRA bomber.

Gerry (Gerard) Kelly was born in Belfast and educated locally. He joined the IRA in 1972.

In 1973 along with the Price sisters and Hugh Feeney, Kelly was convicted of causing explosions and conspiracy to cause explosions in Britain. He received two life sentences plus twenty years. After a hunger-strike he was transferred to Long Kesh in Northern Ireland in 1975.



Gerry Kelly - he makes no secret of his murderous past

Cold-blooded

In 1983 he shot a prison warder in the head during his escape from the Maze prison.

In 1986 Gerry Kelly was recaptured in Holland along with Brendan McFarlane. Their flat in Amsterdam contained cash in several currencies, maps and fake passports and the keys to a container holding ammunition, rifles and bomb-making material. 14 rifles, 100,000 rounds, and about a ton of nitro-benzine, were also recovered by the authorities. They were extradited and sent back to the Maze prison.

He was released in 1989 as a result of the conditions placed by the Dutch authorities on his extradition. He is a member of the Sinn Fein's Ard Chomhairle (National Executive) and is a Sinn Fein Assembly Member for North Belfast.

These are the men who will be handed prominent positions in the government of Northern Ireland if the St Andrews Agreement is supported by the Protestant people.

The murderous record of these men is written on the broken hearts and shattered



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families and lonely tomb stones, in hundreds of graveyards throughout our land, for all to read.

If these men come to power, then at every Remembrance Service henceforth let loyalists bow their heads, not in remembrance, but in shame, for they will have betrayed all who have died in the war against republican terror in this favoured land.