



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Released prisoners re-offending



According to the anti-intimidation group, Families Against Intimidation and Terror, more than 400 Northern Ireland women have suffered at the hands of republican terrorists in 1998! It is little wonder that an increasing number of people view the Good Friday Agreement as a sham. Even the press, normally exuberant in their praise and support of all things pro-agreement, have been questioning the sense of the bestowal of the whole raft of prizes and awards upon all and sundry who have any connections with the Agreement.

According to FAIT, the women have been the victims of murder, mutilation, physical and psychological torture, beatings and exile. Many of these incidents have taken place since the Good Friday Agreement. The most recent case was of three women being held as hostages for 18 hours in west Belfast and another being forced to watch while her common-law husband was shot in a paramilitary punishment.

FAIT representative, Vincent McKenna has called on the government to act against the political representatives of both loyalist and republican terrorist groups by removing them from the Assembly for breach of the Agreement which they signed. FAIT also alleged that prisoners released under the early release scheme, which was part of the Good Friday Agreement, have been involved in these attacks. Dr. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, has also alleged that early release prisoners have been guilty of breaking the law. He charged the government with covering up the fact that some two dozen early releasees have been detained for resuming illegal activities. He claims that many others have been guilty of extortion and racketeering amounting to tens of thousands of pounds. Dr. Paisley also claimed that the Chief Constable had informed members of his force that they were being targeted by the IRA and must take precautions. He challenged the Chief Constable to reveal the information that he had about the IRA preparing for a resumption of terrorism. Dr. Paisley said that it was not in the interests of the government to reveal that they were continuing to release terrorists on to the street while the IRA was laying plans for a renewal of terror, and they were therefore hushing it up.

The Belfast *Newsletter* of 31/12/98 revealed that two prisoners released on Christmas parole were arrested on their first day out and will appear in Belfast Magistrates Court on January 14th on charges relating to a number of offences.

The indications that Ulster has been the victim of a monstrous confidence trick and the greatest betrayal of democracy in modern times in the form of the Good Friday Agreement are ever growing!