



Sinn Féin

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

Autumn 2025



KIDNAPPED BY ISRAEL

SINN FÉIN SENATOR CHRIS ANDREWS KIDNAPPED BY ISRAEL ABOARD GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA

The Global Sumud Flotilla has been illegally intercepted and seized by armed Israeli forces in international waters off the coast of Egypt, less than 50 nautical miles from Gaza.

The flotilla, including Sinn Féin Senator Andrews' boat, the Spectre, was violently assaulted by Israeli military forces, with participants kidnapped by armed Israeli agents.

Speaking immediately prior to the Spectre being intercepted, Senator Andrews said:

"Israel's brutal actions tonight are completely illegal, and show their disregard for international law and human rights.

"The Global Sumud Flotilla is a purely humanitarian and non-violent mission carrying food and aid to a starving population.

"This crime is reckless aggression intended to prevent any relief to the suffering they impose on the Palestinian people.

"The European Union has proven itself to value the interests of Israel over the safety and well-being of its own citizens, with Spanish and Italian warships abandoning the flotilla at the critical moment.

"The Irish government and the Department of Foreign Affairs urgently need to act to ensure that my fellow Irish participants and I are not mistreated while in Israeli captivity."

Following the flotilla being illegally intercepted by Israeli forces, First Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA condemned Israeli aggression:

"The illegal detention of the Global Sumud Flotilla activists, and the confiscation of vital aid just miles from a starving population in Gaza, is a crime against humanity.

"Israel is enforcing a complete blockade on Gaza, using starvation as a weapon of war against children, women and men.

"Humanity must not look the other way.

"The courage and human decency of the activists on the flotilla, including my Sinn Féin colleague Senator Chris Andrews is to be commended.

"Their brave actions stand in stark contrast to that of Israeli war criminals.

"I will continue to press the British government to end their complicity in genocide, impose serious sanctions on Israel, and join international calls for the urgent release of flotilla activists."

Catherine Connolly for President of Ireland!

Sinn Féin will be supporting the 2025 Uachtarán na hÉireann election campaign of Catherine Connolly.

Following the announcement that the party would not be standing its own candidate but instead supporting an independent – supported by a coalition of left-wing parties, Mary Lou McDonald TD said:

“Uachtarán na hÉireann is President of all of Ireland.

“We believe that this is an opportunity to elect an Uachtarán who will be a champion for Irish Unity in our time – with a vision for Ireland’s place in the world, including our proud tradition of military neutrality.

“An Uachtarán with a record of standing for fairness, compassion and economic justice.

“This election provides an opportunity to bring together the widest possible coalition of voters to take on this failed, tired government.

“Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have controlled government for over a century, but recent decades have seen Uachtarán na hÉireann elected from outside the political establishment.

“President Michael D. Higgins has served our country with



distinction and integrity.

“He has been committed to promoting the best of Ireland, its people, our creativity and culture, and our democratic values.

“This election gives us a chance to elect a President in that same tradition; and we believe that Catherine Connolly can be that Uachtarán.”

O’Neill raises Irish Unity and constitutional change

In an interview with the Press Association News Agency, Michelle O’Neill MLA has reiterated her call that the British government needs to live up to its commitments under the Good Friday Agreement (GFA), particularly on Irish unity.

The northern Assembly First Minister and Sinn Féin Vice President noted that a series of upcoming elections over the next four years, approaching the 30th anniversary of the GFA, would ‘send a clear message’ that a border poll is required.

The Mid Ulster MLA said:

“When we celebrate 30 years of the GFA isn’t that an excellent time for the British government to actually step up and clarify when the border poll will be called.

“I think there is a cycle of elections that can allow us to make the case even further to the British government

**Michelle
O’Neill MLA**



that they now need to live up to the commitment set out in the GFA.

“I want that agreement fulfilled in its totality, that includes putting that question to the people.

“Let’s reach for something better, because whether it be a Tory or a Labour government or, God forbid, a (Nigel) Farage-led government,

Westminster does not look after our interests.

“We should take control of our own destiny together.”

In response to being questioned on responsibilities of the Irish government, Michelle O’Neill said:

“They have a constitutional imperative to plan for unity.

“They need to create the space in which we can have the conversations around planning for a new future, a better future, where every single citizen who lives here; whether you have an Irish identity or British identity, and those people that have made here their home, how can we envisage a better future for all of us living side-by-side with equal respect, parity of esteem.

“That’s what the Irish government should be focused on – they need to catch up with where the people are.”

Delargy pays tribute to Bloody Sunday families' tenacity!

On Monday 15th September, the Bloody Sunday families were in Belfast as the trial of 'Soldier F' who stands accused of the murders of William McKinney and James Wray on Bloody Sunday began.

Early that morning before the court proceedings began, hundreds of campaign activists joined the Bloody Sunday families in a show of support outside the court, including Foyle MLAs Pádraig Delargy and Ciara Ferguson.

Speaking outside the court, Pádraig Delargy MLA paid tribute to the Bloody Sunday families who have courageously for five decades battled for truth and justice for their loved ones murdered on Bloody Sunday in 1972:

"This morning, we walked with the Bloody Sunday families on a hugely significant day in their long campaign for truth & justice.

"I want to pay tribute to the families for their tenacity in ensuring such a day would come.

"While one British soldier stands in the dock today, shrouded behind a screen, the British Army generals who ordered the murder of civilians on the streets of Derry and the successive British governments who covered it up are also culpable.

"The current British government must immediately reverse its abhorrent Legacy Act and finally listen to the voices of families."



Mairéad Farrell TD

ISRAELI WAR BONDS: Irish Central Bank will no longer facilitate

After months of campaigning, Mairéad Farrell TD at the start of September welcomed news that Israel's war bonds will no longer be facilitated by the Irish Central Bank.

In being made Chairperson of the Oireachtas Finance Committee in April 2025, Mairéad's first act was to place the issue of the Central Bank's facilitation of Israel's war bonds on the committee's work program.

The Galway West TD said:

"I am glad that Ireland's shameful involvement with Israeli war bonds has come to an end.

"The Irish people have been absolutely clear; we do not want our state to be involved or in any way complicit with this genocide.

"While our government has refused to take any concrete action, this development is the result of relentless public and political pressure and hard work by campaigners.

"As the Finance Committee and the witnesses who gave expert testimonies set out, by the Central Bank facilitating bonds used to fund this genocide, we were at risk of being complicit.

"As President Michael D. Higgins recently pointed out, the EU has suffered severe reputational damage from its failure to act.

"The Irish government must be willing to stand up, speak out, and take the necessary measures to hold Israel to account."

BRITISH LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE: MARY LOU ADDRESSES IRISH UNITY EVENT

At the recent British Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, Mary Lou McDonald delivered the keynote address at the 'From Peace to Unity: A New Chapter in British-Irish Relations' event at the British Labour Party Conference in Liverpool.

Ms McDonald called on the British Prime Minister Keir Starmer "to be true to the obligation and commitment to unity referendums in the Good Friday Agreement – the referendums need to be held by the end of this decade."

She stated: "Since 1998, successive British governments have failed to implement in full the Good Friday Agreement.

"British Prime Ministers raising obstacles to Unity Referendums flies in the face of the spirit of progress that made history in 1998.



Mary Lou McDonald TD

"We are just over two years away from the 30th anniversary of the Agreement.

"This is a milestone moment to shape our future.

"To make good the promise of Good Friday."

She welcomed the decision of the British government to recognise the state of Palestine but added: "The genocide in Gaza, and the occupation continue.

"And the world watches on.

"The failure of the British government and of other European governments to take a stand against the actions of the Israeli state, to afford impunity to Netanyahu's regime in the face of genocidal slaughter, continuing to arm this slaughter is abhorrent, is shameful and unacceptable."

Violence against women and girls at crisis levels!

Kathleen Funchion MEP has warned that violence against women and girls is now at crisis levels in Ireland.

The Ireland South MEP was responding to figures released by An Garda Síochána which show that 65,224 domestic abuse calls were made in 2023 – a 45% increase over the past four years.

MEP Funchion said:

"It feels like we cannot go a single day without hearing another story of violence against women – on our TVs, social media and in conversations with friends.

"This is a real crisis in Irish society and government must act with urgency, working in partnership with all relevant agencies and charities – including organisations like Women's Aid and services such as Amber Women's Refuge in

Kilkenny.

"So many women fleeing violence are left without access to safe accommodation, which in turn traps them and their families in unsafe situations.

"Preventing violence means tackling its root causes.

"We must address the culture of misogyny and sexism through education.

"Women deserve to feel safe in every space they enter.

"We need stronger legislation, stricter enforcement, and robust regulations to ensure that offenders are held fully accountable for their actions.

"Only by challenging these attitudes early can we begin to break this culture of misogyny and violence against women."



Kathleen
Funchion MEP

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION POLITICS

AND CENTRALITY OF PALESTINE TO A NEW GLOBAL ALTERNATIVE

Declan Kearney MLA -
Sinn Féin National Chairperson



Declan Kearney MLA

Following the defeat of fascism in 1945, the UN Charter fuelled the emergence of a new international moral order which established the primacy of multilateralism, diplomacy and peaceful coexistence in managing global relations.

The Charter directly challenged the existence of imperialism and colonialism.

In short, it declared the right of oppressed peoples to be free and to self-determination.

Since the beginning of 2025, the words and actions of the new US administration have confirmed its total rejection of the existing rules-based approach to managing geopolitical relations.

Hence, the threats to begin trade wars and the demonisation of international partners; support for unilateral attacks against Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and the unprovoked war against Iran; and most recently, the violation of Qatar's national sovereignty by Israel.

And we can add to this list by including the narrative which denies the existence of a worldwide climate emergency; and continued aggressive implementation of US imperialist objectives in the Caribbean and Latin America – and in particular, against Cuba.

The fundamental rights conferred on every nation by the UN Charter are being routinely ripped up, and repeatedly so on the floor of the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council.

Meanwhile, wars rage in Ukraine, as a result of the imperialist interests of Russian oligarchs; and in Congo and Sudan, due to the legacy of neocolonialism in Africa.

However, Palestine crystallises the fundamental

contradiction between the right to self-determination and colonialism.

It is the most totemic national democratic struggle of our generation.

The largest Western states continue to shore up their economic and military dominance through the G7, NATO, and the 'Five Eyes' surveillance and espionage alliance.

And yet, despite this, significant global shifts and realignments are happening.

The courageous leadership given by South Africa by taking its case against Israel to the International Court of Justice under the Genocide Convention inspires hope.

Its role alongside Colombia and others in developing The Hague Group as a multilateral platform against Zionist colonialism in Palestine is hugely significant.

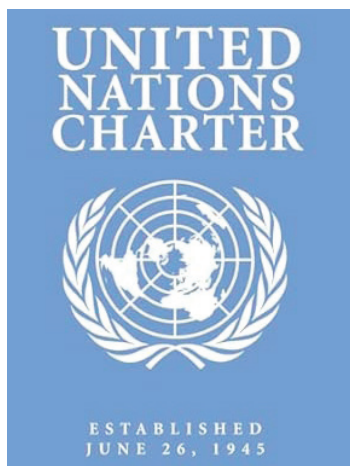
At the same time, the widening of the BRICS partnership is creating a bulwark against the attrition of Western neoliberalism in the Global South and East.

The influence of the African Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States can no longer be ignored.

The mobilisation of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Arab countries, which are committed to the multilateral order, along with other democratic voices, will be essential to bringing about reform of the UN as an institution, and restoring its authority.

And although colonialism continues to cast a long shadow, we cannot lose sight of the fact that our global landscape has been progressively shaped by anti-imperialist struggles.

A new international political programme with self-determination and national democracy at its core is needed.



CEARTA: NATIONAL PROTEST FOR THE IRISH LANGUAGE AND THE GAELTACHT

On Saturday 20th September, thousands of Irish language rights demonstrators marched through Dublin city centre calling on greater funding and equality for the Irish language and the Gaeltacht.

The demonstration was the first in over a decade that came on the back of broken unfulfilled promises by the Irish government to support the Irish language.

Attending the demonstration, Aisling Reilly MLA exclaimed:

“Cearta Teanga, Cearta Daonna!

“Amach inniu ag an Cearta Mórshiúl ar son Oideachas, tithíocht, maoiniú, comhionannas, agus cearta teanga.”



Senator Conor Murphy

SINN FÉIN WILL STAND AGAINST INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL ID CARD IN THE NORTH

Senator Conor Murphy has said that Sinn Féin will strongly oppose the introduction of Digital ID Cards in the north.

Responding to recent statements made by British Secretary Hilary Benn MP regarding the introduction of a mandatory British government issued identification card for citizens in the north of Ireland, remarked:

“The British Secretary of State Hilary Benn MP knows that all five main political parties in the north are against this ludicrous plan.

“He must immediately involve the northern parties in these discussions instead of making condescending remarks which demonstrate his flagrant disregard for Irish citizens in the north.

“The opposition to this scheme is about the attempted denial of the expression of the right of citizens in the north to identify as Irish, a right protected and underscored by the Good Friday Agreement.

“Sinn Féin opposes this plan, and we will stand against its implementation in the north of Ireland.

“I have written to the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline opposition to this scheme and to reiterate the fact that it cannot be introduced on the island of Ireland.”

Terrorism charges against Kneecap band member dropped!

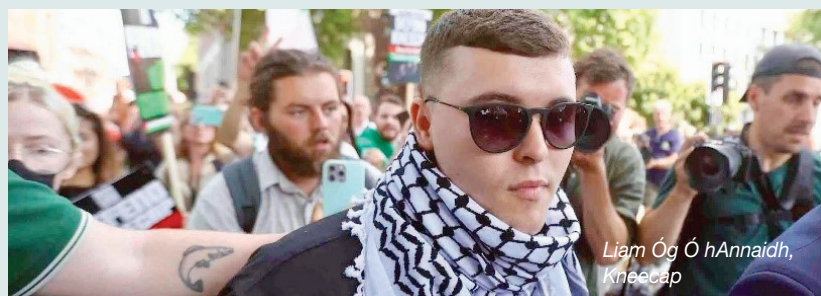
West Belfast MP Paul Maskey has welcomed news that the case against Kneecap band member Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh under terrorism charges was thrown out by a British crown court.

Speaking from outside the crown court in London on Friday 26th September, the West Belfast MP said:

“This decision not to proceed with the prosecution of Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh is the right one.

“Kneecap have bravely and unapologetically used their platform around the world to call out Israel’s genocide and the complicity of western governments.

“It is the Israeli war criminals and those who fund, support and enable genocide and forcibly starve women and children who should be before the courts, not Kneecap’s Mo Chara.



Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh,
Kneecap

Ending UNIFIL mission will have retrograde effect on Middle East

Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD has responded to reports that the United Nation's peacekeeping mission in Lebanon 'UNIFIL' will be ended at the end of 2026, followed by a wind down period.

The Sinn Féin spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Defence reflected:

"UNIFIL is a vitally important mission that has prevented further regional destabilisation and conflict for decades.

"Unfortunately, Israel lobbied the United States to withdraw support for the mission.

"The decision that the peacekeeping mission will be ended in late 2026 will have a destabilising and retrograde impact on the region, increasing the potential for conflict in southern Lebanon.

"The United Nations is imperfect; but this is yet another example of why it needs immediate reforms.

"There are more than 300 Irish Defence Forces personnel currently participating in the UNIFIL peacekeeping operation – Ireland's largest overseas deployment.



Donnchadh
Ó Laoghaire TD

"I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women of the Irish Defence Forces who have served with such distinction in Lebanon over decades."

Global Alliance for Palestine

Sinn Féin representatives address inaugural conference

In late July, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD travelled to London to address the inaugural conference of the 'Global Alliance for Palestine' initiative.

The conference marked the launch of a global network to coordinate Palestinian solidarity movements from across the globe; building a broad-based alliance that unites civil society, unions, student groups, cultural figures, and political actors across continents in defence of Palestinian self-determination.

Former Sinn Féin President, Gerry Adams addressed the conference remotely and now sits on the advisory board of the initiative – alongside Jeremy Corbyn, Mustafa Barghouti, Yanis Varoufakis, Ronnie Kasrils, and other international political leaders.

Speaking after the launch event, the Donegal North East TD reflected:

"The need for a 'Global Alliance for Palestine' has never been more critical.

"To end the suffering and dismantle Israel's systems of apartheid, occupation and genocide, we need an effective coordinated international campaign to deliver peace, justice and freedom for Palestine and its people.

"The development and success of an organised global movement must be the common endeavour of all solidarity movements for Palestine internationally.

"From anti-BDS laws to media smear campaigns, from de-platforming to legal threats, the space for pro-Palestinian advocacy is constantly under threat.

"To dismantle such systems of oppression, we must collectively work together to help develop and strengthen the 'Global Alliance for Palestine' as a broad-based bulwark."



Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD
& Mustafa Barghouti, PNI

Eoin
Ó Broin TD

Minister Troy's divisive housing proposal is a dangerous distraction from government failures

Eoin Ó Broin TD has criticised Irish government housing proposals as “a dangerous distraction from government's own failure to deliver enough social and affordable homes”.

The Sinn Féin spokesperson on Housing responded to Fianna Fáil Minister, Robert Troy's suggestion that people in employment should be given priority for council housing over those out of employment:

“The Minister is desperately trying to deflect the anger of those languishing for years on council waiting lists away from the fact that the government's social housing targets are too low and are being missed year after year.

“In many local authorities people are now waiting a decade or more for a council allocation.

“This is because successive Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments have refused to invest in and deliver a sufficient volume of social and affordable homes to meet the needs of working families and those out of work.

“Minister Troy is trying to set one group of social housing applicants against another suggesting some deserve council housing more than others because of their employment status.

“Instead of trying to create division and conflict between different categories of social housing applicants, the Minister should be making the case for increasing and accelerating the delivery of social and affordable homes to ensure that all those who need council housing can access it in a timely matter – irrespective of their employment status.”

Mary Lou McDonald addresses rally to 'Save the GPO'

The Irish government has shamefully revealed plans to turn the General Post Office (GPO) in Dublin city centre – the headquarters of the 1916 Easter Rising – into a retail and office space.

Following this disturbing development, Mary Lou McDonald TD addressed a 'Save the GPO' national demonstration to condemn the proposed plans by the Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael government.

The Dublin Central TD said:

“The GPO is the most iconic building of our nation's noble struggle for freedom.

“It is where the Irish Republic was born, fought for, and defended during Easter Week, 1916 and where Pádraig Pearse read aloud the Proclamation.

“For generations, the GPO has stood as a living testament to the values and ideals of the Proclamation, to the vision of the Ireland that can be.

“Our message to Fianna Fail and Fine Gael is very clear, scrap this shameful plan.

“The regeneration of Dublin must be driven by the things that really matter to us – our history and our heritage.

“This historic area must be redeveloped as a Cultural and Historical Quarter – in line with the Masterplan for the Moore Street Preservation Trust.

“A plan worthy of the fight for freedom that unfolded in these buildings, streets and laneways.”

Mary Lou McDonald TD –
GPO, Dublin

2025 TRADE UNION CONGRESS



While attending the Trades Union Congress (TUC) annual conference held in Brighton at the start of September, Dáire Hughes MP addressed an Irish unity fringe meeting organised by the Labour Movement for Irish Unity group.

The panel event included RMT General Secretary, Eddie Dempsey and John McDonnell MP.

In his remarks the Newry and Armagh MP highlighted Sinn Féin's Good Jobs Bill, being brought forward in the north by Economy Minister Caoimhe Archibald that proposes to enhance workers' rights, stating:

"Sinn Féin in the Department for the Economy in the north is driving forward real change, putting workers and families at the heart of our delivery.

"Sinn Féin's Good Jobs Bill is the most substantial improvement in workers' rights in the north in a generation.

"These measures will put money into workers' pockets, strengthen their rights, support families, and empower trade unions.

"I look forward to working with the Economy Minister and others in the time ahead as this bill progresses through the Assembly."



Taoiseach must pull back from fully ratifying CETA deal

Lynn Boylan MEP has urged Taoiseach Micheál Martin to pull back from fully ratifying the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) deal that would leave the Irish people exposed to corporate courts.

The Dublin MEP said:

"The CETA deal between the European Union (EU) and Canada is provisionally applied, with all trade elements already happening.

"Allowing corporate courts to operate in Ireland is the only part of the deal that hasn't been ratified as it was rightly blocked by the Irish supreme court.

"Canadian exports to the EU have increased 25% since Trump took office – this further highlights that these corporate courts are totally unnecessary.

"Yet, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have cynically used the excuse of uncertainty created by Donald Trump as a smokescreen to bring in private investor courts.

"These courts are only open to big corporations, and it gives them the power to sue countries for what they call 'loss of profit'.

"This will only make it harder to deliver on housing, climate and workers' rights, even giving vulture funds, who drive the housing crisis, the power to sue Ireland if we tried to improve rental laws here.

"The Taoiseach needs to urgently change course."

NORTH AMERICA: IRISH UNITY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES FOR THE DIASPORA

In early September, John Finucane MP travelled to the US and Canada to participate in the latest Irish Unity People's Assemblies for the Diaspora.

The events in the United Irish Cultural Centre, San Francisco and Anza Club, Vancouver focused on updating the Irish diaspora on the growing momentum towards Irish Unity and what needs to be done to achieve a constitutional referendum.

Following the visit, the North Belfast MP said:

"For supporters of Irish unity, the objective is clear: we need to secure and win unity referendums.

"To ensure that the rights of the people to referendums is exercised.

"We are engaged in a project of nation-building.

"To demonstrate to the world that a peaceful transition is possible.

"It is reassuring to know that the Irish diaspora in the US and Canada is actively engaged and enthusiastic to campaign for Irish unity."





Peace & Justice Project Annual Conference 2025

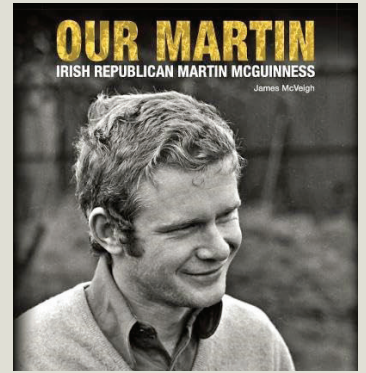
Saturday 20th September - Mairéad Farrell TD addressed the Peace & Justice Conference 2025 in London.

The Galway West TD addressed a panel discussion on 'War & Building Peace', featuring United Nations Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, Ilan Pappé, Shahd Hammouri and chaired by Jeremy Corbyn MP.

'OUR MARTIN'

'Our Martin' by Jim McVeigh, published in July 2025, is a book focused on the idea of a more intimate and personal account of Martin McGuinness' life.

The book was launched during the West Belfast festival Féile an Phobail by Gerry Adams, Mitchel McLaughlin and Martina Anderson, is available to purchase online in the Sinn Féin bookshop. All proceeds will go to the Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation.



FÊTE DE L'HUMANITÉ 2025

Saturday 13th September - West Belfast MLA Pat Sheehan attended and addressed the Fête de l'Humanité in Paris, France.

Taking part in a panel discussion regarding solidarity with the Palestinian people, the West Belfast MLA exclaimed: "Whether on our television screens or social media, each of us have seen the horrifying images of brutalised and mutilated bodies, including children and new-born babies, being shared from Gaza.

"What is going on in Gaza is a stain on humanity.

"It is only through boycott, divestment and sanctions that Israel's crimes will be brought to a halt."



State of Palestine Recognised!

Tuesday 23rd September - John O'Dowd MLA joined the historic raising of the Palestinian flag ceremony at the new Palestinian Embassy in London following the British government recognising the State of Palestine.



'A SOUND WOMAN'

A new book by Gerry Adams and Richard McAuley has been published that tells the story of Sinn Féin leader Siobhán Ó Hanlon. Siobhán was centrally involved in the management of the evolving Irish peace process. The book is available to purchase online at An Fhuiseog.