A Dark Week

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

I believe that you can only know the real value of peace and justice if you have been touched by conflict and injustice. This has been a very dark week.

Last Saturday we woke to the news that Hamas had launched rockets into Israel and breached the cordon around Gaza. Within hours the reports were on social media of hostage-taking, mass killings at a music festival, and in Israeli communities. All completely wrong and unconscionable. Their actions are beyond condemnation.

These Hamas fighters knew they would also likely be killed. Devoid of hope with no reason to live; their value found in a cause to die for. They made their choice and many innocent Israelis paid the price.

Immediately, the focus turned to the Israeli government's response. Their right to self-defense, peace, and security is undeniable. Rights that are shared with all nations including the Palestinians.

The bombardment started. Plans for a siege of Gaza were prepared; food, water, and fuel were to be denied. The bombs do not discriminate between Hamas members and civilians. They destroy all. We watched as the death toll in Israel and Gaza mounted. Like a depraved balance sheet, perhaps once the accounts balanced the fighting would end. Revenge and retribution are not a strategy for peace.
In the darkest of days, we can always light a candle.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America
Sinn Féin president Mary Lou McDonald says United Ireland planning should be at heart of government

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has said he believes we are now on ‘the path to unification’.

Speaking this month he said, “I believe that there will be a united Ireland in my lifetime, and in that united Ireland there is going to be a minority, roughly a million people who are British. And you judge the success and the quality of a country by the way it treats its minorities and that’s something we’re going to have to think about.”

Uachtáran Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald says planning for Irish unification should be “at the heart of government”.

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(Click the image below.)
Gerry Adams expresses deep sadness at the news of the death of Chuck Feeney

Former Uachtarán Shinn Féin Gerry Adams has expressed his deep sadness and sense of personal loss at the news of the death of Chuck Feeney.

Mr. Adams said, “I am deeply saddened at the news of the death of my good friend Chuck Feeney. I want to extend my sincerest condolences and solidarity to Helga his wife and the Feeney family.”
Michelle O’Neill: Ready to lead today

"Chuck's efforts, his generosity and solidarity over many years, touched many millions and will continue to do so into the future."
O’Neill said that she is ready to lead today. She said, “Sinn Féin is ready to work within a new Assembly to support workers, families and communities.

“It was good to chat with our team today on the challenges facing ordinary people, the actions needed to support them, and the enormous opportunities ahead to attract investment and better people’s lives.

“People have been more than reasonable and given enough space to the DUP. Their blocking of an Assembly cannot go on a month longer.

“I stand ready today to lead an Executive of real and positive change, and work tirelessly with others in the best interests of every worker, family and community.”

Sinn Féin will continue to stand with families in their campaigns for truth and justice – Kelly

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly said the party will continue to stand with families in their campaigns for truth and justice and called on the Irish government to take an interstate case against the British government on their flawed Legacy Act.

Speaking after families who lost loved ones during the conflict protested today, the North Belfast MLA said, ‘The British government pushed through their Legacy Act despite having no support from victims’ families and survivors, the Irish government, human rights experts both domestically and internationally, leading international lawyers from across Europe, Senators and Congress members in the US, as well as the EU Human Rights’ Commissioner, the UN Rapporteurs, and all of the political parties on this island.
“The Irish government need to confront this denial of human rights and breach of international human rights law through an interstate case and international action against the British government.

“Sinn Féin will continue to stand with families in their campaigns for truth and justice, many of whom have been campaigning with dignity and determination for five decades.”
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