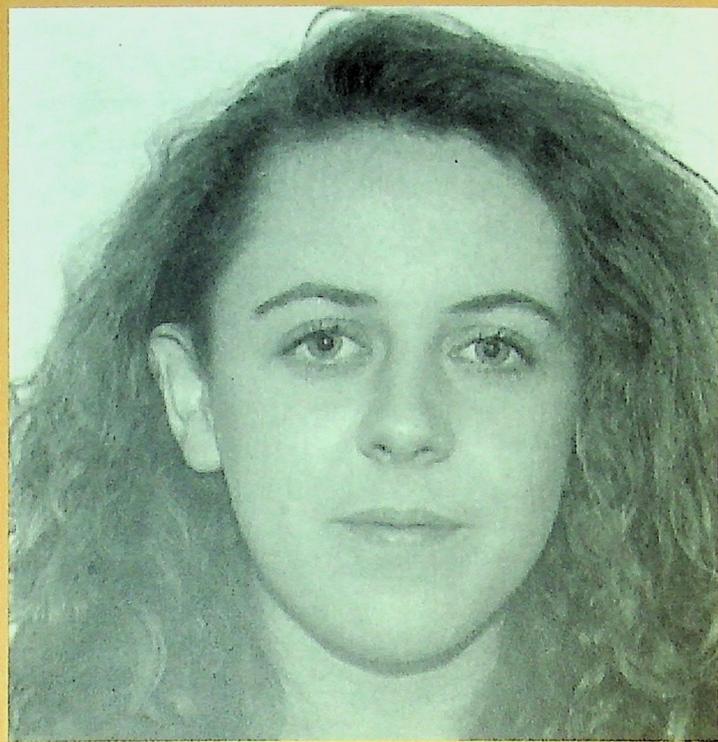


On June 28th 1996 the IRA launched a mortar attack on a British military base at Osnabruck, Germany, causing damage to buildings. No-one was injured. The German Federal Police (BKA) believe that a holiday home in Sandhatten, 60 miles from Osnabruck, rented to five persons from 14th to 28th June, 1996, was linked to the attack.

With the assistance of the owners and local persons, photo-fits of three of the occupants were circulated in the German, British and Irish media soon afterwards. These persons were known as 'Mike', 'Mark' and 'Beth'.

Within days, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) on foot of extradition requests from Germany named two men whom they wished to detain. No identification of the suspect 'Beth' was made.



We ask that

- the German Government investigate the BKA's behaviour in this case, and withdraw the extradition request
- the British Government refuse extradition in view of the lack of evidence
- the Irish Government protect Ms McAliskey's human rights and raise the implications of the injustice with both the British and German Governments.

You can help by writing to

- The British Home Secretary Jack Straw,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 9AT.

or your nearest German Embassy eg.

- London: 23 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PZ.
Tel: 0044 171 824 1300 (1435 Fax)
- Dublin: 31 Trimleston Avenue, Booterstown,
Blackrock, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 2693011 (3946 Fax)
- New York: German Consulate in New York.
Tel: (212) 308 8700.

NO CASE TO ANSWER

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NO CASE TO ANSWER

On November 20th 1996, Roisín McAliskey, daughter of Bernadette McAliskey, internationally recognised human rights activist and outspoken critic of the RUC, was arrested under Emergency Law. Roisín, aged 26 and a sociology graduate was held for interrogation for six days in Castlereagh detention centre. [This detention centre has, for many years, been at the centre of allegations of ill-treatment and poor conditions, and in July 1995, the United Nations Human Rights Committee called for its urgent closure following an admission from the British Government that conditions there were unacceptable]. Despite being pregnant and in ill health, she was interrogated for some eight hours each day. She refused to co-operate with the interrogation or to speak to the police. She was not charged with any offence.

Her arrest was not requested by the German authorities, nor was she arrested on suspicion of involvement in the German attack, nor was she interrogated on this matter. She bears no resemblance to the photo-fit of 'Beth'. Roisín was in Ireland during June 1996 when the 3 persons wanted by the BKA were in Sandhatten. Her employers have stated categorically that she could not have been in Germany at that time and her work records confirm this. Other witnesses also confirm that she was in Ireland at that time.

Despite this, the BKA, having been notified by the RUC that Roisín had been arrested by them, issued a warrant for her arrest and requested her extradition. The warrant states that Roisín has been identified as 'Beth' the 3rd suspect for the Osnabruck bombing and that there is forensic evidence to support the identification.

The alleged identification was based on a statement by the owner of the holiday home at Sandhatten but he has since publicly denied identifying Roisín or anyone else. When he was shown a photo of Roisín by a German TV crew he said she did not resemble the woman suspect known as 'Beth'. Three other key German witnesses have also stated that Roisín is not 'Beth'.

The BKA have no forensic evidence which justifies Roisín's arrest.

The alleged forensic evidence is based solely on the 'identification' of two fingerprints on an isolated fragment of cellophane found in a rubbish bag, in a litter bin, outside the rented house. The RUC sent samples of Roisín's fingerprints to the BKA while she was under interrogation. No identification was made before this. Moreover, the BKA had themselves decided in July not to pursue the arrest of another person in the same investigation, precisely because the only ground for suspicion against the person was a fingerprint on a 'moveable item' (a promotion brochure used to rent the house).

Not included in the warrant and introduced only when the alleged identification was fatally undermined is the assertion that 'Beth' wrote an address and handed it to the family for future correspondence. The BKA allege the handwriting is 'probably' Roisín's. No explanation is forthcoming as to why in the circumstances her fingerprints are not on the alleged note. It would be impossible to identify positively anyone's handwriting from such a sample.

The BKA have no evidence on which to base any reasonable suspicion that Roisín might be 'Beth', and no reason to suspect her of involvement in the Osnabruck bombing.

She has alibi evidence but, to date, neither the BKA nor the RUC have sought to establish these facts, or to investigate the matter. They hide behind the European Extradition Convention on the basis that it does not require them to do so.

Yet, since her arrest she has spent six months in prison in England in such inhumane conditions as warranted an international outcry, and an urgent action appeal by Amnesty International. Three days before the birth of her daughter, in May, a High Court decision permitted her to be taken to a hospital. Had this not happened, neither she, nor her daughter might have survived the birth.

Since then she has, together with Loinnir her daughter, been resident in a psychiatric hospital, being treated for the cumulative effect of the trauma of arrest, interrogation, prison, degradation and cruelty. As well as a physically difficult pregnancy, all of these caused the recurrence of the trauma experienced by her at the age of nine when an assassination attempt was made on her parents in the family home.

To secure bail, permitting the necessary medical care, her parents and friends have had to raise £193,000. Even so, should Roísín's health improve sufficiently to leave the hospital the prosecution, on behalf of the BKA, have demanded her return to Holloway prison.

It is now almost one year since Roísín's nightmare began. It shows no sign of ending. The magistrate dealing with Roísín's case has indicated that he intends to order her extradition but he has said he cannot do so until she is well enough to attend the court. It could be many months before she is well enough but until the magistrate makes his order, Roísín's lawyers cannot take the next step which is to appeal to a higher court or the British Home Secretary against her extradition.

That such injustice and inhumanity should be perpetrated in the name of the Federal Republic of Germany is shameful.

An independent investigation into the facts of the case was conducted by a group of international legal experts led by former US Attorney General, Ramsey Clark and Ms Heidi Bache-wiig, a Norwegian human rights lawyer and expert on extradition. Having perused all documents and interviewed alibi witnesses, they concluded that "there is no factual basis for the arrest, detention or extradition of Roísín McAliskey".

For further information contact:

Bernadette McAliskey, 7 Kane's Rampart, Derrylaughan, Coalisland, N Ireland.

or any of the following:

Dublin: Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (a subsection of the Bishops' Commission for Emigrants) 57 Parnell Square West, Dublin 1. Tel: (01) 8722511. (London office (0044) 171 272 9843).

London: Britain & Ireland Human Rights Centre, BM Box Rapporteur, London WCIN 3XX. Tel: (0044) 181 525 1653 (1654 Fax).

Belfast: Committee on the Administration of Justice, 45-47 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG. Tel: (01232) 232394 Fax: 246706.

New York: Friends of Roísín McAliskey, C/o O'Dwyer & Bernstein, 52 Duane Street, New York, NY 10007. Phone/Fax: 718 436 4770.