



English/Gaeilge

Newsroom

Latest News ▶

Archives

Special Features

Audio/Video

Podcast

Campaign
Literature

RSS Feed



Subscribe to our all
new email news
service &
multimedia news
centre.

Sinn Féin

BUILDING AN IRELAND OF EQUALS

Background

Policies

Peace Process

Elections

Join/Donate

Newsroom



Kelly expresses concerns over Justice legislation

Published: 6 February, 2007

Sinn Féin's spokesperson on policing and justice, Gerry Kelly, has expressed concerns at the draft legislation relating to Justice issues, which is currently passing through the British parliament.

Mr Kelly said:

"We are concerned that aspects of the draft Justice legislation which is currently before the British parliament may undermine the effect of the repeal of repressive legislation which is scheduled for July this year. We have raised these concerns consistently in discussions with the British Government.

"The British Government during negotiations committed to the repeal of emergency powers as part of the programme of demilitarisation. This is due in July of this year and includes the abolition of the Diplock courts.

"Provisions currently under consideration at Westminster have the potential to allow the continued use of some emergency powers in particular circumstances. We have a particular concern at the provisions that give the Public Prosecution Service discretion to allow a case before the courts to be a non-jury trial. There must be no re-introduction of Diplock courts through the back door.

"Similarly, the provisions that allow extended powers of arrest to the PSNI and the British Army and those, which seek to limit the application of new powers for the Human Rights Commission, should be withdrawn. New powers for the Human Rights Commission were agreed as part of the recent negotiations as a necessary step in driving forward the Human Rights agenda. It is essential that the Commission has all the necessary powers to be fully effective.

"It is clear that the transfer of powers is critical to realising the fundamental reform of the criminal justice system and the new beginning to policing envisaged in the Good Friday Agreement.

"Sinn Féin want this to happen sooner rather than later. The British Government have signalled that, in the event of a refusal by the DUP to agree the transfer of powers in the timescale set out in St Andrews they will take the necessary steps to ensure this happens. There must be no retreat from

Other stories for 6 February, 2007

- [Mars exposes state lethargy on children's advertising](#)
- [Sinn Féin backs INTO campaign on class sizes](#)
- [Leonard and Brolly to stand for Assembly election](#)
- [Sinn Féin call for children's vote on election day](#)
- [Cowen re-distributing wealth to the wealthy - Ó Caoláin](#)
- [Sinn Féin call for children's vote on election day](#)
- [Unionism failing to face up to truth about collusion](#)
- [DUP failing unionist people](#)
- [Government](#)

Latest News



Daily news from Sinn Féin

An Phoblacht



Ireland's most popular political weekly newspaper online.

Online Store



Books, videos, CDs, shirts and much more available online.

Friends of Sinn Féin



If you live outside of Ireland you can still play your part.

this commitment and any steps considered necessary to give effect to this commitment must be consistent with the Good Friday Agreement." ENDS

[lacks urgency on MRSA threat – Ó Caoláin](#)

- [More stringent measures needed on avian flu threat – Ó Caoláin](#)
- [Sinn Féin's Dailhi Doolan appointed to Docklands Authority](#)
- [Morgan condemns Government for lack of action on emissions](#)

[Return to Top](#)

© Copyright 2007
webmaster@sinnfein.ie [Privacy Policy](#)
