

Developing a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Readers and members of Just News will know that a Bill of Rights is something for which CAJ has campaigned since the 1980's. Our commitment to this project included drawing up a draft Bill of Rights. We also stressed that provision for a Bill of Rights be made in any peace negotiations, and this was addressed by the inclusion in the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement of such a provision. Since then, there has been a consultation process conducted by the NI Human Rights Commission, a subsequent lull, and more recently the establishment of the Bill of Rights Forum to move the debate ahead.

The debate about a Bill of Rights is clearly linked to a wider debate around a culture of rights. In short, a Bill of Rights will not survive or flourish in an environment that is hostile to human rights. It is crucial that in working to develop a Bill of Rights, time is taken to generate a real, meaningful and participative conversation about what human rights really are, what difference they can make to people's lives, and how the way we all do our business can be transformed to respect human rights.

In discussion of a culture of rights, much is often made of the need for a matching culture of responsibilities. Obviously, any talk about human rights engages one in a growing awareness of one's responsibility to accord the same respect to other's rights as to one's own. However, a clear concern is that the conjunction of "rights and responsibilities" is often loosely interpreted as "if you behave irresponsibly, you lose your rights". There are clear legal, policy and ethical reasons why CAJ has not supported this position.

Much of this edition of Just News is dedicated to the Bill of Rights – it contains information on the latest edition of our Information Pack (and its launch), designed exactly to generate discussion at community level on how a Bill of Rights could be made relevant to local circumstances, so that this can feed into the discussions of the Bill of Rights Forum.

The Forum clearly has a crucial role to play in rejuvenating discussion around a Bill of Rights (see page 7 for an update on its activities). In generating a real, meaningful and participative conversation about what human rights really are and what difference they can make to people's lives, the Forum needs to talk to persons across the jurisdiction.

As such it needs to develop a comprehensive and properly resourced outreach strategy that enables people to contribute to the Forum's deliberations.

In its opening statement to the inaugural Forum meeting, CAJ stressed that the Forum should not allow discussion of a Bill of Rights to happen around a table in Belfast, but rather should bring the debate about rights out and about as widely as possible. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, when talking of the Universal Declaration -

BORgraphic

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

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UN Convention on rights of people with disabilities

On Friday 30 March 2007 a Convention on the rights and dignity of the World's 650 million disabled people was signed at the United Nations in New York and I had the privilege of being there as a member of the Irish delegation.

Louise Arbour, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights was one of a number of speakers who preceded the formal signing. She spoke of the "unwavering" impetus of disabled people in ensuring the creation of this Convention and pledged that things would not remain the same.

As Mexico was the country which first proposed the development of a disability convention, the Mexican ambassador, a disabled person, spoke to propose the establishment of a UN implementation group. The Vice President of Ecuador, a wheelchair user, outlined his belief that the Convention would be used to establish national systems which enable disabled people to lead full spiritual and cultural lives.

As Just News readers may know it takes the signatures of 20 countries to enable this Convention to progress. This ceremony saw the highest number of states ever to sign any convention on its first day, with 81 countries participating in the signing ceremony (there are now 95 signatories, see list opposite). Germany (as President of EU) also signed on behalf of the European Commission. Of the 81 signatories 43 signed the Optional Protocol and one country (Jamaica) announced its ratification of the Convention.

Representatives of civic society and the disability sector included the International Disability Alliance and the International Disability Caucus. They recognised that this was the fastest negotiated Human Rights instrument in history.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern have both assured us that the UK and Ireland fully intend to ratify the Convention but we want to see how quickly this is done.

In the meantime, disabled people are represented on the Northern Ireland Bill of Rights Forum and will work to ensure not only the mainstreaming of disability into the core human rights agenda but a recognition of the particular circumstances faced by disabled people in Northern Ireland.

Monica Wilson, Chief Executive, Disability Action

Andorra	Kenya
Antigua	Korea
Argentina	Liberia
Armenia	Lithuania
Australia	Luxembourg
Austria	Macedonia
Bangladesh	Mali
Belgium	Malta
Brazil	Mexico
Burkina Faso	Moldova
Burundi	Morocco
Canada	Mozambique
Cape Verde	Namibia
Central African Republic	Netherlands
Chile	New Zealand
China	Nicaragua
Columbia	Niger
Congo	Nigeria
Costa Rica	Norway
Croatia	Panama
Cuba	Paraguay
Cyprus	Peru
Czech Republic	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Dominica	Rep. Of Indonesia
Dominican Republic	Republic of Korea
Ecuador	San Marino
Egypt	San Martin
El Salvador	Senegal
Ethiopia	Seychelles
European Community	Sierra Leone
Finland	Slovenia
France	South Africa
Gabon	Spain
Gabon Republic	Sri Lanka
Germany	Sudan
Ghana	Surinam
Greece	Sweden
Guatemala	Syria
Guinea	Tanzania
Guyana	Thailand
Honduras	Tunisia
Hungary	Turkey
Iceland	Uganda
India	UK
Indonesia	United Republic of Tanzania
Ireland	Uruguay
Israel	Vanuatu
Italy	Yemen
Jamaica	
Jordan	

"Article 1: The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."

The Bill of Rights Forum established in December 2006 under the terms of the St Andrew's Agreement has now met twice. The Forum is chaired by Australian human rights lawyer Chris Sidoti, who was appointed by the government in March of this year.

At the second meeting in April (but first with the official Chair), members reiterated their expectations of the Forum as set out in the inaugural meeting. They also began to discuss the terms of reference given to the Forum by the government following the consultation process late last year (see November 06 issue of *Just News*). These terms of reference are based on the language contained in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement:

"To produce agreed recommendations to inform the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's advice to Government on the scope for defining, in Westminster legislation, rights supplementary to those in the European Convention on Human Rights, to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland, drawing as appropriate on international human rights instruments and experience. These additional rights to reflect the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem, and – taken together with the ECHR – to constitute a Bill Rights for Northern Ireland."

Discussion at the Forum has focussed particularly on the reference to the phrase 'both communities' and whether this accurately reflects the diversity of Northern Ireland society as presently constituted. At the second meeting, the Chair had proposed that the Forum agree to leave the Terms of Reference as they were, given their derivation from the Agreement. However, the Forum was also to proceed on the basis that there were other communities whose rights needed to be addressed in the Bill of Rights. On this basis, the Chair was tasked with developing an interpretative paragraph which was then tabled and discussed at the third meeting. After much discussion around the meaning of the word

Up to date with the Bill of Rights Forum

'address', this paragraph was agreed as follows:

"The Forum discussed the terms of reference given it by the Minister for Human Rights, noting that they were taken directly from the Good Friday Agreement. Forum members all recognised that in developing a Bill of Rights they must address the needs and aspirations of all Northern Ireland's people."

The Chair indicated that a human rights advisor post had had to be readvertised, as concerns had been raised over the requirement of security clearance. That requirement had now been removed. Questions were asked as to who had insisted on this requirement in the first place and who was accountable for this decision. It was suggested that the Chair had been poorly advised and put in a difficult position in relation to the post. Questions were also raised over the ownership of the process and the implications for external perceptions of the Forum's independence. Overall a very strong signal was sent from Forum members to the Chair and Secretariat on the ownership and independence of this Forum.

In advance of the last meeting, the Chair had circulated a draft process paper for discussion (available on CAJ's website) and invited comments on this. A number of general and shared concerns arose:

- Clarification was sought on the particular role of the NIHRC both during and subsequent to this process

- The Forum is clearly going to require a longer time commitment and sufficient resources – clarification was sought on what the current budget is and how it is proposed to be spent
- The need to consider previous consultations and not reinvent the wheel was highlighted
- There needs to be more discussion and agreement by Forum members on procedural issues and working methods generally, e.g. what are the rules on decision-making? The role of public engagement etc?

The Chair then proposed what he saw as three options before the Forum:

1. Conclude that the task cannot be done and go home;
2. Proceed by working out desirable timetable and budget; submit these requirements and wait to see whether government agrees;
3. Keep working while pursuing the second option.

Once again, interventions by Forum members focussed on the importance of this process and getting it right. The Chair indicated that he had met with the Secretary of State several days previously, who had indicated that the budget and timeframe given had to be adhered to. However, an overall consensus emerged from Forum members that we had an insufficient timetable and unacceptable budget and should revert to the Secretary of State. In terms of the options presented, it was therefore agreed that the Forum would:

"work out desirable timetable and budget; work out what can be done within existing constraints, and start doing it while trying to get extra money and/or time"

The Forum meets again on 29th June, when its outreach strategy and Working Groups are likely to be discussed and we will keep Just News readers updated.

On 24th April, CAJ brought together groups from the predominantly loyalist Old Warren Estate in Lisburn and the nationalist New Lodge area of north Belfast to draw up their views on what should be in a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

The activities were taken from CAJ's free Bill of Rights Information Pack designed to re-engage communities in the Bill of Rights process and make sure the voices of those communities are heard (see page 7) and the event doubled up as a launch of the pack, these community workers from both areas talk about the experience and what a Bill of Rights means to them.

When CAJ approached the Star Neighbourhood centre to help launch their Bill of Rights Information Pack along with a group from Old Warren Partnership, we jumped at the chance to learn more about what a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland is and how we can be further involved in the process. Of course, when we heard it was going to be filmed and there was possibly going to be media present our initial enthusiasm waned slightly! But we rallied and ended up enjoying the day. (See www.caj.org.uk for a look at the subsequent programme on the event produced by NvTv)

The updated CAJ Bill of Rights Information Pack (the first edition was produced in 2000 to coincide with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's original Bill of Rights Consultation process) was designed especially for community group use to make sure communities voices are heard in the Bill of Rights debate.

The Pack takes you through step by

step what human rights are, what people need to flourish, and what the most important human rights are to you. It discusses what a Bill of Rights actually is and can be, how the Bill of Rights debate has come about in Northern Ireland and who the main players are, including the newly established Bill of Rights Forum. It looks at different Bills of Rights around the world which illustrated how and why Bills of Rights come into existence and helps you see the potential for our own Bill of Rights. It looks at social and economic rights, why Northern Ireland specifically needs a Bill of Rights and what the timeline is for securing a Bill of Rights. Most importantly however, it leaves you with a sense that this is a vitally important part of securing a more equal and peaceful Northern Ireland. If communities are not heard now then an opportunity will have been missed to ensure that we get real change on the bread and butter issues that affect our lives.

After some initial work as a whole group, we were split up into two smaller groups to design our own Bill of Rights. The interesting thing when we got back together was how similar these were – by and large the main focus of the two groups were on social and economic rights. That is, we felt education, health and housing were by far the most important rights, but also

Our Bill of

being able to participate in the decisions that are made on our behalf was overwhelmingly important to the two groups. The other interesting thing, possibly more to external observers than to the participants themselves, was that the groups (who were mixed on the day) were from distinctly loyalist and nationalist areas but the issues that we felt mostly needed addressed 'on both sides' so to speak were the same. Our communities are all facing the same social problems that are not being addressed. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland is an opportunity to begin addressing them!

Trish O'Kane,
Star Neighbourhood Centre, New Lodge.

If you are having an event on a Bill of Rights, we have boards of graffiti art that represent the Star Neighbourhood Centre. They are available for use with the Bill of Rights Information Pack. Similar boards are available on request. Training requests are a multiplying affect of our contribution, to repeat the training within their communities.

of Rights

community response to these and many other issues surrounding an urban estate coming out of the conflict with high expectations that things will change.

In 1999 Old Warren Partnership requested the assistance of Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ) to assist with a community leadership programme aimed at young men in the area. Initially the young men spoke about the abuses by police in the area but this soon turned into a broader range of issues such as education, employment, health, housing, culture and social life. This did not sit easily with many people, as CAJ was perceived as associated with mainly nationalist cases of abuse of rights.

Following this initial contact a relationship built up where by other groups such as women, ex-prisoners and young people could access information on the new idea of rights being accessible to an area like Old Warren and that indeed these rights could be used in everyday situations within community life. This contact led to the development of a programme entitled Human Rights in Action which was a community leadership project based on using human rights to carry out practical actions within the community.

The groups within Old Warren Partnership who became aware of the various pieces of human rights legislation through training were now able to use the knowledge gained to address abuses in practical situations. There were several campaigns carried out using CAJ support which really made a difference within the community. These included campaigns aimed at Northern Ireland Housing Executive, employment agencies and the police. Throughout the majority of campaigns assistance and shared practice has been a factor which Old Warren has sought from nationalist communities with similar issues. There have been many events supported by all communities who

shared a vision of a just society.

These campaigns are an example of how the Bill of Rights can be effective in assisting our community to respond to everyday issues. The Bill of Rights will allow these issues to be dealt with at a local level where everyone in the community can feel part of a system that is working to help them. This system will allow people within our community to challenge decision makers by holding them to account to a set of rules that promote equality of opportunity for all.

The Bill of Rights training pack will give people within Old Warren and similar communities the skills and knowledge to address local rights issues with confidence.

Old Warren, an area addressing the legacy of the conflict, can work closely with other areas, including nationalist communities, to create a society where all can feel confident in its future and have a Bill of Rights which will enshrine fundamental rights for all.

Dennis Paisley

Old Warren Partnership, Lisburn

Old Warren Estate is a Loyalist estate in the affluent City of Lisburn. The area has been affected socially and economically throughout the conflict which has led to it becoming one of the most deprived areas within Northern Ireland. The area itself has low educational attainment, suffers from high unemployment rates, high instances of ill health and generally a lack of investment within the area. The legacy of this neglect is a strong

Rights, CAJ have two 8ft x 8ft display the work of the Old Warren and Star able for display along with copies of the early a CAJ speaker or Trainer may be s will most often be accepted if there is that is, that members of the group intend nunities.



A grant is currently available from CFNI for communities to do project work around a Bill of Rights for NI on www.communityfoundationni.org or contact Nora Greer on 028 90245927

For a copy of the CAJ Bill of Rights Information pack, please contact info@caj.org.uk or 028 90961122.

Law in Times of Crisis: *Emergency Powers in Theory and Practice*

This book by two good friends of CAJ was several years in the making, and it shows. The text is replete with theoretical, historical and political insights that have been developed over a long period of teaching and learning in various parts of the world by two dedicated scholars.

So topical and interesting is the book in this era of 'the war on terrorism' that one would be forgiven for thinking that several such books must already have been written. In fact, in its scope and ambition, this one is unique. Others have published on the international system for protecting rights during emergencies (e.g. Fitzpatrick), or on emergencies in particular countries (Campbell on Ireland; Walker on the UK; Dyzenhaus on South Africa) or on emergencies during wars or peace (Meron; Bonner), but no-one – and no duo – has yet produced such a comprehensive survey in a convincing theoretical and historical framework. Little wonder that the American Society of International Law awarded this book its 2007 Certificate of Merit for a pre-eminent contribution to creative scholarship.

The book is about how democracies respond to crises in which violence is playing a part. It explains that states might 'accommodate' a crisis, otherwise preserving the normal legal rules to as great an extent as possible. Modern examples would be the 'state of siege' doctrine used in Hispanic and Francophone countries, or Britain's martial law approach. It's a pity more is not said about how countries like India and Malaysia have applied this kind of accommodation in practice, but the book does not aim to get down and dirty in that sense. Some nations deal with emergencies not through their constitutions but through *ad hoc* legislation, and Gross and Ní Aoláin, predictably, point to the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1974 in the UK as a particularly unfortunate example of such legislation, one whose legacy we are still experiencing through the anti-terrorism laws currently in force.

The authors are also critical of an approach to emergency laws whereby judges interpret ordinary laws in ways which make allowances for the emergency. Though they do not claim this, it is possible to argue that the European Court of Human Rights takes this line (see its recent decision concerning the Berlin disco bomber in *Chraidi v Germany*, 2005, where the suggestion is made that remands in custody can be longer – five and a half years in that case – if the offence alleged is one of international terrorism).

The 'Business as Usual' approach to emergencies is exemplified by the US Supreme Court's famous decision in *Ex parte Milligan* (1866), but the element of hypocrisy

and subterfuge in that decision is also clear. The 10 or so pages which critique that decision and its aftermath are, in my view, the most interesting in this book.

Chapter 3 explains the Extra-Legal Measures Model, which Gross has previously amply explored in (e.g.) his article on torture warrants and it is followed by a chapter which points up the dangers in assuming that emergency law can be hermetically isolated from ordinary law, especially now that the spreading of terror (and actual mass killing) are such easily resorted to tactics compared with previous times. We may think that 9/11 was a turning point, but it is almost certain that another date will become etched in our brains the day a jumbo jet is flown into a nuclear fuel reactor.

The second half of the book is less original than the first but still makes for stimulating reading, especially as it is informed by the modelling which has already been explained. The hoary chestnut of what should amount to an armed conflict is explored, with the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions given close attention. Helen Duffy has recently examined this field too, in a book which maps in even more detail the overlapping legal regimes alluded to by Gross and Ní Aoláin. The argument is surely incontrovertible that the role of international humanitarian law should be expanded (or a further Additional Protocol negotiated), if only because it can be applied as much to non-state actors as to states.

The book's final chapter is probably the one that most readers in Northern Ireland will find the most accessible, since it refers quite a lot to the local experience of terrorism before going on to consider what the appropriate response to terrorism should be at the international level. The account fails to do justice to the House of Lords' decisions on the Belmarsh detainees in 2004 and 2005 (or indeed to the seminal decision in the Pinochet case in 1999) but it does succeed in conveying the message that it is only through collective international regulation that terrorism (including the state-sponsored variety) can be effectively combated without trampling all over human rights. The USA's exclusionary stance vis-à-vis international law is the greatest stumbling-block to the realisation of that goal.

This is an erudite and valuable book. The authors are to be warmly congratulated on such a fine achievement.

Brice Dickson
Queen's University

Law in Times of Crisis: Emergency Powers in Theory and Practice, by Oren Gross and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006) £27.99

CAJ's Bill of Rights Information Pack

On April 24th CAJ launched its free Bill of Rights Information Pack. The pack, a simple and easy to use training resource for those who wish to learn more about the Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, represents an exciting opportunity for local communities to engage or re-engage with the Bill of Rights debate currently happening.

The launch took place at the Star Neighbourhood Centre in the New Lodge area of Belfast, with members of the nationalist Star Neighbourhood and predominantly loyalist Old Warren Estate in Lisburn, participating in a number of exercises taken from the pack, and culminating in a 16x8 ft graffiti interpretation of what rights the group would like to see included in Northern Ireland's Bill of Rights (see centre pages).

The pack itself is structured into a number of listening and practical group activities. These include: an introduction to human rights and the Northern Ireland Bill of Rights debate;

information on where the idea of a Bill of Rights has come from, including examples of Bills of Rights from other countries; a brief look at social and economic rights, what they are and where they come from; a summary of the reasons why Northern Ireland needs a Bill of Rights; and consideration as to what the "particular circumstances" of Northern Ireland are (as stipulated by the 1998 Agreement).

The pack finishes with an exercise in which the group, using the information they have just received, discuss what rights they would like to see protected

by a Bill of Rights. These rights are then written up on the "Our Bill of Rights" poster included in the pack, which the group can keep and display as a reminder of their vision for Northern Ireland's Bill of Rights and what they are working towards.

No prior knowledge of the Bill of Rights debate is needed to lead or participate in these training sessions. The pack presents all the information you need to know in a simple and straightforward way, enabling anybody to understand or engage with the process and debate. With politicians and civil society in a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland the Bill of Rights Forum, CAJ's Information Pack presents an important opportunity for people across all communities in Northern Ireland to get involved and have their say.

To receive your free copy of the pack please contact the CAJ office on 028 90961122 or at info@caj.org.uk

Update **Billy Wright Inquiry**

The Inquiry into Billy Wright's death commenced on Wednesday, 30th May 2007, at Banbridge Court House, despite the fact that there has not been a decision on the Deeny J "Declaration of Incompatibility" with the Human Rights Act by the Court of Appeal. As such the Inquiry does not anticipate that it will be hearing any evidence relating to the substantive issues until after the summer break in September 2007.

Mr Derek Batchelor QC, leading Counsel for the Inquiry, stated in his opening remarks that, in essence, the Inquiry would aim to provide an overview of the factual, political and historical context and not as yet engage with the substantive issues in relation to the death of Billy Wright.

The Chairperson of the Inquiry the Rt Hon Lord MacLean and the leading Counsel in particular have

complained of the difficulties that faced the Inquiry in obtaining material and evidence from the Police Service for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Further the Security Services were unable to provide material/information that they held at the end of 1997 and beginning of 1998, which relates to the Inquiry. It is accepted that there are evident gaps in the material provided and that this material may not be recoverable. Particular documents which are expected to exist are unavailable. The issue of the unavailability of such material may be explored in evidence and the Inquiry may be called upon to draw inferences as a result.

The Chairperson indicated that so far as the anonymity of witnesses is concerned, the issue is yet to be

settled by the House of Lords **In the Matter of an Application by Officer L [2007] NICA 8**. The House of Lords have now heard the appeal from the Inquiry into Robert Hamill's death, but is yet to provide its decision on the matter. In the meantime the Inquiry of Billy Wright's death would accede to the High Court decision **In the Matter of an Application by Witnesses A, B, C, K and N [2007] NIQB 30**. Witnesses who applied for anonymity and whose evidence is due to be heard before the summer break, would be granted anonymity on a pro tem (short term) basis, pending decision being made.

The Inquiry continues its recovery of material under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005. As a result of the difficulties in the recovery of the material, the parties are yet to be provided with the totality of the evidence.

Civil Liberties Diary

May 1 Annual Community Relations week begins in Antrim's Springfarm with the launch of an initiative to tackle hate crime.

Northern Ireland is more racist than any part of Britain according to a new study compiled by the University of Bristol. They believe the legacy of sectarianism has made it more susceptible to racism.

May 4 The NI Housing Executive is to face legal action over claims that nationalists were excluded from a scheme which offered £28,000 discounts for new homes in loyalist estates in north and west Belfast.

May 11 Serbia assumes the chair of the Council of Europe despite objections from human rights groups, prosecutors and politicians.

British government says use of non-jury Diplock Courts will end in two years time unless MPs decide otherwise.

May 16 Report by Chief Inspector of Prisons Anne Owers condemns the practice of shipping asylum seekers to detention centres in Scotland after being kept in unfit Belfast police cells.

May 22 Roisin McAliskey is granted bail while she faces a second attempt at extraditing her to Germany. An earlier attempt had been vetoed by the then Home Secretary Jack Straw on health grounds.

In an interview with the Irish News Police Oversight Commissioner Al Hutchinson says the PSNI has been willing to change but it could be ten years before the last reforms take place, the most significant of which will be the devolution of policing and justice powers to Stormont.

May 23 Lord Paddy Ashdown meets First Minister Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness as he begins a strategic review of parading.

Sinn Féin motion calling on the NI Executive to bring forward a Single Equality Bill is defeated in the Assembly.

Barnardos Report claims that up to 100,000 children in Northern Ireland are living in poverty.

Police Federation states publicly that it will no longer issue invitations to the Police Ombudsman's Office to attend functions and will refuse to attend committees or conferences organised by it.

May 25 The Human Rights Centre at Queens University Belfast holds a conference on human trafficking. Dr. Tom Obakata claims a lack of police and immigration officials is allowing the trafficking of children into Northern Ireland. It is thought between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders every year – 80% of those being female.

May 30 Figures released by Dept of Education show that more Catholic children than Protestant children are leaving school without a single qualification.

General Sir Mike Jackson, captain of the Parachute Regiment on the day of the shootings, says that innocent people were killed on Bloody Sunday in 1972.

May 31 Oversight Commissioner for Policing Reform Al Hutchinson publishes a positive final report into the changes in policing recommended by the Patten Report.

Public Inquiry into extent of state collusion with paramilitaries in Northern

Ireland is told that secret documents from police, prison and security services have been deliberately destroyed or lost.

NI Commission for Children and Young People launches an online questionnaire to help gauge the state of children's rights in Northern Ireland.

CAJ needs volunteers!

Would you be interested in observing the Bill Of Rights Forum Working Groups?

If so, please contact info@caj.org.uk for further details.

Please note that the next issue of Just News will be a joint July/August edition.

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Bulletin of the Committee on the Administration of Justice
Human Rights in Northern Ireland

Just News welcomes readers' news, views and comments.

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