

Frank was in the past often threatened by the Irish police for his work in exposing their brutality. In a letter to a friend from Brixton Jail he states:

"The Free State police are intent on getting me back into their jurisdiction and it looks as if they are even going to the extent of fabricating evidence to do so. Now I know for a fact that they couldn't possibly convict me for Fallon's death simply because I wasn't there. However they think they have a trump card by accusing me of murder. Any other charge under the present circumstances could be fought off fairly confidently. My solicitor, Mr. Birnberg, says that if I am to have any chance of beating this extradition thing then I must have evidence to the effect that I am and have been active in political circles in Ireland. If you could do anything in this respect I would be grateful because nothing would give me greater pleasure at present than to give Dublin Castle and Company a good kick up the arse."

Send all donations to: Frank Keane Defence Fund,
c/o Joe Quinn,
4 Nightingale Lane,
London, N.8.

< Release Frank Keane

FRANK KEANE, an Irish socialist republican, is in Brixton jail awaiting extradition proceedings. He is charged with killing a policeman named Fallon during a bank robbery, said to be the work of militant republicans, which took place in Dublin six weeks ago.

Keane says it is a frame up, organised by the notorious special political police arm of Dublin Castle, to 'nail' a fighter against Irish capitalism and British imperialism.

Within hours of the robbery the police issued the names and addresses of seven men from whom they wanted 'help' with their inquiries. All seven are militant socialist republicans.

No warrants were issued, thereby showing that the police, to say the least, didn't have any clear evidence. Indeed they could hardly have had time to even begin the investigation.

However, they did have a list of names of people they wanted to 'get'. Amongst those named was Sean Morrissey, who had been an editor of the Irish Trotskyist magazine Workers' Republic. Another was Joe Dillon, whose past experience of the Irish political police sheds a flood of light on the current case and the normal methods of the Irish police.

In 1966 Dillon was framed by the Special Detective Unit (political police) of Dublin Castle for robbery and given a five year sentence. A left wing member of the IRA moving towards marxism, he was a natural target for the special police.

Before his arrest he had been offered bribes by the Special Branch to inform on the IRA. When he refused, he was told that 'the Branch' would "get him". And they did.

He was arrested for an attempted robbery that had taken place six months earlier. In an identification parade none of the witnesses identified Dillon. Nevertheless a year later he was tried and given five years.

An international campaign was organised to demand Dillon's release. Eventually the sentence was reduced to three years.

The same people who framed him then are attempting it again, now for murder - which in Ireland still carries the death penalty for killing a policeman.

In order to extradite Frank Keane, they will have to present a large part of their 'evidence' to the Old Street Magistrates Court.

They are not above fabricating such 'evidence'. It is part of the everyday work of the Irish political police.

With the present political crisis in the 'Republic', the government desperately needs scapegoats - and they need to annihilate groups and individuals who want to combine a militant non-sectarian social policy with aggressive anti-imperialism.

Keane was victimised in the past. When he was 'named' by the police, he wrote a letter to the Irish Times. He denied knowledge of the killing, but refused to help the police.

He explained that he had been harassed and persecuted in the past for his politics. The police had previously attempted to frame him on a robbery charge and for attempting to burn down a Fianna Fail headquarters.

He was jailed and ill-treated on the robbery charge and finally just released.

Socialists in Britain have a duty to aid Frank Keane. Help keep Frank out of the hands of the brutal Irish police. We must let the Dublin government know that it has the labour movement to reckon with, not only in Ireland but here as well.

Trade union, IS, Labour Party, Young Socialist, Communist Party and YCL branches, and all revolutionary socialists and republicans, must send messages and resolutions in support of Keane and the other political prisoners, to the Irish Embassy, Mount Street, London W1. Pickets outside the Irish Embassy will be organised.

Contact: London - 01-426 3692; Manchester - 061-445 8864. Frank Keane Defence Committee.

8
C

FRANK KEANE DEFENCE FUND

NAME: _____

ADDRESS

AM = NT