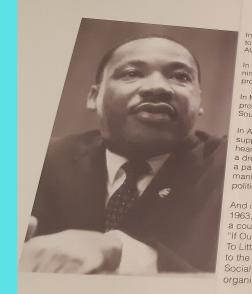


CIVIL RIGHTS

In the 1950s oppressed people around the world began to demand civil rights and change.

Increasingly alert to events in the wider world, Derry noted the US, South-African and other struggles for justice, and by the mid-1960s small groups in Derry and elsewhere were taking to the streets to demand action on housing, jobs and votes.

Some unionist politicians were making promises of change, but opposition from within their own ranks frustrated this and civil rights protests spread. The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) was formed to coordinate actions.



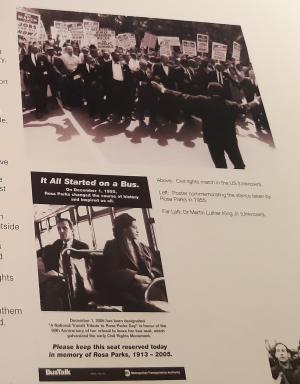
In March 1960, 60 black anti-apartheid protestors were shot dead in Sharpeville, South Africa.

In August 1963, 200,000 civil rights.

In August 1963, 200,000 civil rights supporters gathered in Washington to hear Martin Luther King proclaim "I have a dream," and Bob Dylan unveil "Only a pawn in their game," highlighting the manipulation of the white poor by racist politicians.

And in Dungannon in County Tyrone in 1963, housing protestors gathered outside a council meeting carrying placards: "If Our Religion Is Against Us Ship Us To Little Rock." The demonstration led to the formation of the Campaign for Social Justice, the north's first civil rights organisation.

'We Shall Overcome' became the anthen of the civil rights movement in Ireland.



1st February 1972





Dear Mr and Mrs Wray (James and Sarah),

As I hold no regrets whatsoever for the death of your son James there doesn't be so much talk or fuss when some of the poor solcalled "Irish Rats Association". Yes, the "I.R.A." are the cowards, as your son was not shot by a cowards bullet, and he was not murhis other twelve Rebel friends.

Also remember that our troops are not serving on foreign grounds, Northern Ireland is part of the "United Kingdom", so the army is at try, why don't you then move south or west to the bloody Free State? There we wouldn't have to pay you out our welfare benefits and allowances which you are gladly accepting under "Her Majesty The Queen".

"May sweet Jesus have mercy on his soul", ha! ha! what a laugh, that's what it says at your son's death in the "Irish News", what you should have stated is this "May Hell Roast Him" and the rest of his mates.

Your son was a fucking bastard and a fenian cunt, he was full of hatred so he can say goodbye to glory. Your Rebel bastards are doomed.

"The Wray family", get out of your home or be burned out.
Ulster is British, God Save the Queen. No Surrender.

Your enemies

Head of "UVF"

INTERNMENT

As violence spiralled, the British
Government, pressed by unionist
leaders at Stormont, introduced
internment (imprisonment without
trial) in August 1971. The measure had
been used against republicans in every
decade since the foundation of the
state.

Internment enraged nationalist Derry.
Barricades were again erected and Free
Derry resurrected. Armed IRA patrols
appeared openly. Within hours, six
British soldiers were wounded. Across
the north, 17 people were killed in the
48 hours following internment, including
the first British soldier shot dead in
Derry by the IRA. Around 7,000 people
fled their homes.

Internment united opinion in Free Derry in a way not seen since 1969.
Angry protests became an everyday occurrence. A campaign of civil disobedience was undertaken. More than 130 non-unionist councillors withdrew from district councils. A rent and rates strike was launched.

Your son was a fucking bastard and a fenian cunt, he wa hatred so he can say goodbye to glory. Your Rebel basta doomed.

"The Wray family", get out of your home or be burned ou Ulster is British, God Save the Queen. No Surrender.

Your enemies Loughgall

Head of

TOWARDS WAR

Disagreement on how to relate to a dramatically changed situation had led to the Republican Movement splitting in December 1969 into the 'Officials' (OIRA) and 'Provisionals' (PIRA). Both groups were making ready for an armed campaign.

By April 1970, when republicans commemorated the Easter Rising, clashes between young people and the British Army had become a daily occurrence.

By the end of July 1971, nine people had died in Free Derry, including the first British soldier killed in the city, and the first unarmed civilians shot by the British Army.

Support for republicanism among northern Catholics generally was greater than it had been for decades. Recruits were relatively easily found among the ranks of teenage rioters.

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION PLEDGE

We the undersigned, either residents of Derry or visitors to the city, pledge ourselves to ensure that the victims of Bloody Sunday did not die in vain. We demand that the British Government take immediate action to end We further pledge ourselves to continue our non-violent popular struggle until these objectives are achieved.

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