

an unusual manner. One FBI agent was able to appear again and again on the witness stand. The judge reneged on an agreement to let defense lawyers question individual jury candidates. Jury selection took place in an unprecedented few hours and anyone with an Irish-sounding name was eliminated. On the second day of the trial, he revoked a prior decision to have the jury visit Johnson's parents' home. The defense had wanted jurors to see for themselves that it contained only an ordinary basement workshop and not the sinister "bomb factory" the prosecution claimed. The Allentown *Morning Call* put it mildly when it said, "Mazzone has generally ruled in favor of the prosecution during the trial." Again and again, Mazzone overruled defense objections.

The government played the jury portions of long conversations between some of the defendants. Some were barely audible—so they provided the jury with written "transcripts" of what they CLAIMED the defendants were saying. Although the transcripts were not allowed as evidence, the judge allowed the jury to take them with them into the jury room.

Judge Mazzone allowed terrorism experts to make all kinds of assertions but severely restricted the testimony of defense witness Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, an Irish civil rights leader. He censored her testimony in a 2 1/2 hour private meeting in his chambers and refused to release transcripts to the press. And on the first day of the defense, Mazzone snapped, "you either call the witness or rest your case this afternoon" to Richard Johnson's lawyer who had asked for the court to be recessed 20 minutes early.

The government put tremendous pressure on the defendants to plead guilty. Richard Johnson and Martin Quigley were even threatened with extradition. All three defendants continued to plead their innocence.

*The damage had been done. On June 18, the jury found the three defendants guilty of all charges. The jury deliberated for only 6 1/2 hours--an unusually brief time for such a complex case.*

#### YOU COULD BE NEXT!

One of the charges used in this case, "possessing property in aid of foreign insurgents" had never been used before. Another, "conspiracy to destroy property in a foreign country" was used once in 1917. If these convictions stand, a terrible injustice will have been done—and dangerous legal and political precedents will have been established. No Irish-American or Irish citizen in the U.S. who opposes British rule in Ireland is safe from possible persecution. And any scientist, engineer or even hobbyist could be persecuted. *This case clearly has nothing to do with U.S. law and everything to do with U.S. policies at home and abroad.*

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Contact the Constitutional Defense Fund in San Francisco  
at: 450 Taraval Street #294, San Francisco, CA 94116  
or call: (415) 566-2929

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## BOSTON TRIAL CONVICTS 3 IRISH ACTIVISTS

*Join the Campaign to Overturn the Convictions!*



Richard Johnson, 42



Christina Reid, 26



Martin Quigley, 28

On August 20, 1990, two Americans and an Irish national were given unusually harsh sentences after being convicted of conspiracy in a Boston courtroom. All are activists in the fight for a free and united Ireland. The U.S. government accused them of conspiring to violate export laws and to develop a missile system to shoot down British helicopters in Northern Ireland. **No weapon or missile system was found or presented as evidence in the trial. None of the defendants received their right to a fair trial.** The three are appealing their convictions. This will take a great deal of money—which can only come from concerned people like you. The implications of this case go far beyond this trial. Please read the information below. Share it with others. Send donations for the appeals to the Constitutional Defense Fund, P.O. Box 655, Boston, MA., 02112. Call: (Boston): 617-479-7993 or (Chicago) 312-489-1444. In San Francisco: 450 Taraval Street, #294, San Francisco, CA 94116, (415) 566-2929

## WHO ARE THE DEFENDANTS?

Richard Johnson held the highest possible security clearance at Mitre Corp., a defense firm. Called the "mastermind" behind the "plot," in reality he is a radar engineer who made significant contributions to both the space effort and defense of our country. In his entire career as an engineer, he never divulged a single U.S. secret. Nonetheless the Judge lifted normal federal guidelines and doubled Richard's sentence from five years to ten after calling the case "terrorism, pure and simple," and a "threat to our national security". Richard is highly respected in the Irish-American community where he is known as an educator.

Martin Quigley grew up in Dundalk, along the militarily controlled border dividing Northern Ireland from the rest of the country. Martin had only been in the U.S. a few months at the time of his arrest. But he came to be loved by the many supporters who came to the trial. The judge refused to allow Martin to remain free pending his appeal. Calling him a "danger to the community," he was jailed immediately. The judge doubled his sentence from four years to eight. He is imprisoned in Connecticut.

Christina Reid had only recently graduated from college as an electrical engineer when 10 FBI agents arrested her at her job. The government charged that she was the "courier" who put the conspirators in contact with one another. As a young engineer she had no ability to work on sophisticated weapons. However, in sentencing she was classified as having such knowledge. This allowed the judge to sentence her to a harsh three years and five months. Professors, co-workers, friends and public officials wrote dozens of letters pleading for her freedom. Chris has fought for Irish freedom since childhood as a member of the Irish scouts and of Irish Northern Aid. Her greatest fear is that she may never work again in her field.

A fourth defendant, Gerald Hoy, is a computer scientist from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He also had a long involvement in the Irish-American support movement. Convinced the jury would believe FBI lies, he plea-bargained for a lighter sentence. He told reporters "those guys lied so much...you can't make a missile in your backroom..," after pleading guilty. The judge sentenced him to two years, a longer sentence than he had previously agreed to.

## SURVEILLANCE, ARRESTS, AND COST TO THE U.S. TAXPAYER

Richard Johnson left work early on the morning of July 12, 1989 and surprised FBI agents breaking into his car. Brendan O. Cleary, the FBI agent in charge of the case told the jury, "It was like a nightmare." To cover this bungling, the government decided to quickly arrest all of the defendants.

The U.S. and British governments placed extraordinary importance on this case. Sensational allegations about the defendants were publicized in newspapers across the U.S. (and world) after a press conference called by the head of the FBI. The prosecutor made several trips to London to work out new levels of "cooperation" which resulted in British colonels and Irish secret police officers coming to Boston to testify against the defendants.

The FBI opened the defendants' mail, bugged their homes and cars and questioned acquaintances for up to seven years. One hundred FBI agents worked on the case at various times. They bugged 900 phonebooths in the Boston area just to intercept one call. Thirty agents in Eastern Pennsylvania watched one man—Martin Quigley—16 hours a day for 10 weeks. They photographed him and his girlfriend sunbathing on a beach. They even trailed him by airplane while he traveled by car to visit friends.

The government refused to disclose the warrants for the wiretaps used to prosecute the case. They were issued under FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. FISA is supposed to protect the U.S. against foreign threats and has never been used in prosecuting a case. The numerous defense objections to the use of FISA in this case were overruled by the judge. (The FISA court in Washington sits secretly and continuously; seven U.S. district judges are secretly appointed to it for seven years. Only government lawyers with specific approval from the Attorney General may appear before it.)

The seven-week trial is estimated to have cost \$4000 a day in court costs alone. But salaries for government agents, travel for witnesses from around the world, sub-contractors, equipment, etc.—and prison costs for incarcerating four individuals—total millions.

## THE DEFENDANTS DID NOT GET A FAIR TRIAL

After numerous searches of some of the defendants homes, not one weapon or missile system was found. They did seize "dangerous" wires, nuts and bolts, resistors, capacitors, coffee cans and tools. They seized many of Christina Reid's books on Irish history and culture, her Irish Northern Aid membership card and a copy of *An Phoblacht*, a legal Irish newspaper. (This was used as evidence against her because it had a photo of a British helicopter on the cover.)

The trial was a Hollywood style prosecution complete with stage props for the parade of FBI agents that were called to testify. Because there were no weapons, the government manufactured a case out of hand-drawn diagrams and bits of electronic equipment taken from the defendants' homes. They claimed this perfectly legal equipment COULD be modified to make parts for IRA missiles and bombs. But as William King, a professor of electrical engineering testified, "anything can be modified to do anything." They hired sub-contractors to manufacture models. They purchased radio transmitters; put together a bomb detonator system with a watch that was converted into a timing device—all built in FBI laboratories. *They built a bomb, blew up a government van, and showed the videotaped explosion to the jury to prejudice them.*

An FBI electronics expert testified that electronic equipment taken from Johnson's parents' home was similar to electronic components of an IRA bomb which failed to detonate in Ireland five years ago. Under cross-examination, he admitted that the two sets of equipment were not the same at all.

Federal Judge A. David Mazzone played an important role in guaranteeing convictions. He allowed the FBI a free reign to run the trial in