



YOUNG ENGINEER JAILED BEFORE APPEAL IS EVEN HEARD!

You wouldn't believe how hard it is to go to prison," says 27 year old Bay Area woman Christina Reid. She was ordered by the court to report to prison on May 28 after the government succeeded in revoking her bail. But the Federal Women's Facility at Pleasanton, California sent her away. "They said I wasn't in their computer....that I had to have a hyphenated, eight-digit number, that I should go home and wait for my number. This is very hard, not just for me, but also for my mother and my grandmother who came from the Mid-West to be with me through this. I actually tried to talk my way into jail then and there in order to save my family from another painful trip.." Two weeks later Chris received her order. She is now in prison in Pleasanton, California.

The nightmare for Chris began in the summer of 1989 when she was arrested at her first job three months after graduating as an electrical engineer from San Francisco State University. She and other scientists were charged with participation in a conspiracy to aid the Irish Republican Army. "There were stories about me on the front page of local papers for days. I was truly horrified. Each day I thought it would end, but it didn't," said Chris. "I fear that this alone will have a serious affect on my career for years to come and that I may never be hired as an engineer again."

The precedent-setting Boston conspiracy trial saw a little-known anti-espionage law called FISA used against U.S. citizens for the first time. There were many "firsts" in the trial. The FBI found a legal Irish newspaper in Chris' home and used it against her because it had a picture of a British helicopter on the cover. The prosecution spent five weeks presenting an amazing array of 'evidence'--bits of wire, circuits, switches, and simulations. **They actually blew up a government van and video taped the explosion.** The judge over-ruled objections and allowed the tape to be shown to the jury. He also allowed expert witnesses from the police department in Belfast and Dublin to appear. The government truly spared no expense.

The defense, on the other hand, was hampered by limits on both time and money. The judge actually took a defense witness, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey into chambers, previewed her testimony and restricted her to certain topics. The entire defense presentation lasted five days. The jury, exhausted and overwhelmed (and "terrorized") by the mountain of data in 'evidence', deliberated a mere four hours and returned a verdict for all three defendants of guilty on all counts.

Chris Reid received a 3 year and 5 month sentence. As a young engineer, she had no ability to work on sophisticated weapons. However, in sentencing she was classified as having such knowledge. This will make her life in prison more difficult. Regarding Chris Reid's participation, one legal observer remarked, "The evidence definitely indicated that Ms. Reid was acquainted with the other defendants, but proof that she knew the details or agreed with the goals of the 'alleged' conspiracy just wasn't there. Chris Reid is being used as a n example to other young people who dare to stand up for their beliefs. Chris has been fighting for Irish freedom since childhood and is a former member of the Irish scouts, Students for a Free Ireland and Irish Northern Aid. Chris remains optimistic that the truth will prevail and she will win her freedom.

Defend yourself by supporting Chris and the other defendants, none of whom received a fair trial. The case must be kept alive and publicized. Write to the defendants. For more information, Call or write: Constitutional Defense Fund (312) 489-1444 Chicago; 617-479-7993 in Boston or 450 Taraval St., #294, SF, CA, 94116.

Chris Reid 84263-011
FCI Pleasanton
Unit A/B
5701 8th St., Camp Parks
Dublin, CA 94568

Richard Johnson
17422-038FCI
PO Box 903
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Martin Quigley
No. 41064-066
Unit 3J
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Note: A new crime bill being discussed in Congress could make international solidarity with Ireland, as well as other countries, very difficult. In the Boston trial, the government refused to release evidence proving the wiretaps used against the defendants were legally obtained. The new crime bill seeks to make it "legal" for "illegally" obtained evidence to be used. The bill could brand any type of political activity that the government doesn't agree with: here or abroad. "terrorist" and illegal.