

# FRAMED BY A SUPERGRASS

DON'T  
LET  
FIANNA  
FAIL



PAUL KANE <sup>367</sup>

## EXTRADITE HIM

**WHEN THE FIANNA FAIL** government refused to execute the British warrants for the extradition of Fr Paddy Ryan the Tipperary priest reminded the Irish people in his statement that the fight against extradition was not over and that four prisoners in Portlaoise Prison still faced the prospect of being handed over to the British by the Haughey government.

The first of those due to be handed over if his extradition is not stopped will be Paul Kane. Kane is wanted by the RUC for escaping from the H-Blocks of Long Kesh — where he should never have been in the first place. Kane was a victim of one of the North's most notorious supergrasses and on more than one occasion received beatings at the hands of his British jailers.

He was arrested in 1981 and, two years later, after one of the longest trials in legal history, was finally convicted along with 37 others on the word of one man — Christopher Black. Paul took part in the mass escape from Long Kesh in September 1983 but was captured the next day and returned to the prison where he received a severe beating from warders.

After four years of legal arguments the 38 convictions on the word of

Christopher Black were overturned. Paul Kane and his co-accused had spent six years in prison on the false word of a man paid by the British government to commit perjury.

Kane still faced charges in connection with the escape, but in 1986 came south. He was arrested by gardai in November 1987 in controversial circumstances, being detained overnight on a minor holding charge while extradition warrants from the RUC were awaited. He has been held in Portlaoise on those warrants ever since.

As a political prisoner who has been through the corrupt judicial system in the Six Counties Paul Kane typifies the people who are victims of Fianna Fail's political extradition policy. How can they justify handing him over to a regime which has meted out such treatment to him and so many others?

*"An appalling network of supergrasses, paid informers, mass trials, discredited court procedures, imprisonment without trial, police techniques which are more appropriate to totalitarian regimes than to a parliamentary democracy..."*

— Charles Haughey in November 1985 speaking in Leinster House against the Extradition Act that he is now implementing and describing the judicial system in the Six Counties to which he is now preparing to extradite Paul Kane.

*"It is well known that no country has been stronger in asserting this idea of non-extradition of politically-motivated offenders than the British themselves, yet it now appears they are trying to foist a different rule of law on us."*

— Gerry Collins, now Fianna Fail Justice Minister, speaking in 1976.

Gerry Collins has the power to release Paul Kane and any other prisoner held for extradition. Decisions in these cases are political ones — as the Fr Ryan case showed most clearly. Justice demands that Paul Kane is not extradited and that he and his fellow prisoners facing extradition — Dermot Finucane, Jim Clarke and Owen Carron — be released. Demand justice. Support the campaign against extradition.

Write to your local Fianna Fail elected representative and call for the release of Paul Kane and an end to political extradition. Write to the Minister for Justice, 72 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

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