



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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6. IRA Ceasefire Statement of 30 March, 1994

The leadership of Oglagh na hÉireann extends seasonal and fraternal greetings to all its friends, activists and supporters both at home and further afield.

Easter, for republicans, marks a time for reflection and rededication. As we gather in groups large and small, we can call to mind all those who have died in the cause of Irish freedom. We especially call to mind those who have died over the past year. We extend sympathy and solidarity to all their families particularly those of Volunteers Jimmy Kelly and Thomas Begley.

Our struggle is a long, a proud and a resilient one. At this juncture, as we celebrate and commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916, we renew our republican faith and rededicate ourselves to the cause of Irish freedom.

Our objectives, which include the recognition and the exercise of the Irish people's right to national self-determination, are well known. Our commitment and our unity of purpose remain steadfast.

Our commitment to peace is also a matter of public record. This is evidenced in the welcome we gave in October 1993 to the Irish Peace Initiative, its underlying principles and dynamic which emerged publicly from the Hume/Adams talks. It remains our view that this could provide the basis for peace.

Recently we reiterated the abiding and enduring nature of our commitment to the development of a genuine peace process. We stated our view that all involved should leave no stone unturned. We recognise that this commitment is shared by others, but from our perspective, there is little evidence that this includes the British government.

Last year, in an effort to enhance the success of proposed meetings between Sinn Féin and the British government, we agreed to a British government proposal to suspend operations for two weeks. In the event, the British government rejected this and in so doing closed down the potential opportunity for progress which this represented.

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Our statement of March 13th reiterates our continued willingness to be positive and flexible in exploring the potential for moving the situation forward.

As further evidence of that, we will unilaterally suspend offensive military actions for 72 hours from midnight Tuesday, April 5th, until midnight, Friday, April 8th.

There are no conditions attached to this unilateral initiative but we hope that the British government will accept this further opportunity in the spirit in which it is offered and utilise it to the best advantage of the British and Irish people.

Making peace is a difficult business for all involved but the difficulties must be overcome. That is the responsibility of all involved but particularly the British government. We hope that the further opportunity here provided is used to that purpose and effect.

In conclusion, we republicans, as we celebrate and commemorate Easter, will draw strength and inspiration from our fallen dead and will face the tasks, challenges and opportunities of the coming year with commitment and unity of propose.

Beirigi bua.