

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2021/52/703
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

C

Department of Foreign Affairs
IVEAGH HOUSE, ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN 2
Tel: 353 -1- 478 0822 Fax 353 -1- 478 5942 / 475 7476 / 478 2708
Internet: http://www.irlgov.ie/iveagh

Press Release

118/10

Róisín McAliskey

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. David Andrews TD
9 March 1998

I warmly welcome the enlightened decision taken today by the British Home Secretary, Jack Straw MP, not to proceed with the extradition of Róisín McAliskey.

I have long been concerned about the compelling humanitarian dimension to this case both for Róisín and her baby Loinnir. I have repeatedly raised it in my contacts with the British Government, most recently at the meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference on 5 March 1998 when I had a full discussion of its implications with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam. The Taoiseach has also raised it directly with the British Prime Minister, including when they met in London on 26 February 1998.

From my own conversations with her, I know that today's decision will come as a huge relief to Róisín McAliskey's mother, Bernadette and to the entire McAliskey family.

It is appropriate to acknowledge also the role played in this case, as in so many others of humanitarian concern, by Gareth Peirce who has worked tirelessly on both its legal and human aspects. From the reports of our Embassy in London, I am also very aware of the tremendous medical and other care given to Róisín and her baby by the medical and nursing staff who have been responsible for them in recent months.

Today's decision not only serves to bring an end to the suffering and uncertainty faced by Róisín McAliskey and her family but is also in the wider interest of peace and reconciliation in these islands. As we face a crucial period in the peace process it should give heart to all those who are working to secure an honourable settlement.

END .....

©DFA/2021/52/703

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH,
GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, DUBLIN 2.
TEL: 01 662 4422 FAX: 01 662 4889

SEIRBHÍSÍ EOLAIS AN RIALTAIS,
RODHN AN TAOISIGH,
TITHE AN RIALTAIS, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2.
TEL: 01 662 4422 FAX: 01 662 4889

118/11

STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH, MR. BERTIE AHERN, T.D., ON THE RELEASE OF ROISIN MC ALISKEY

I would like to warmly welcome the decision of the British Home Secretary, Mr. Jack Straw not to extradite Roisin McAliskey to Germany.

Both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and I, have consistently raised Roisin's case with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Blair and with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Dr. Mo Mowlam.

I know that Roisin has suffered terribly since the time of her arrest. I would hope that she would be allowed to put this experience behind her and carry on with her life for her own and her daughter Loinnir's sake.

9th March, 1998

©DFA/2021/52/703

PSM, PSMS
cc Group 2

118/12

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6pm

9 March 1998 0171 273 4600

ROISIN McALISKEY: HOME SECRETARY REFUSES EXTRADITION

The Home Secretary has decided that he will not order Roisin McAliskey's return to Germany because he considers that the medical evidence in her case would make extradition unjust or oppressive.

Under the Extradition Act 1989, the Home Secretary must refuse extradition if, having regard to all the circumstances, it would be unjust or oppressive. (He has previously taken a similar decision on medical grounds in respect of an extradition request from the United States.)

The German Government had requested Ms McAliskey's return to stand trial for offences relating to the bombing of Osnabruck barracks in June 1996.

The Home Secretary has explained his decision to the German Government. It does not reflect in any way on the fairness of the German legal system or on the quality of the extradition request. The UK enjoys excellent working relationships with Germany in the field of extradition and international cooperation against terrorism.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

1. The Secretary of State's discretion is intended for exceptional situations. The Home Secretary has a general discretion under the Extradition Act 1989 to refuse extradition in any particular case. He must refuse extradition if, having regard to all the circumstances, it would be unjust or oppressive.

2. A warrant for Roisin McAliskey's arrest was issued by the German Federal Court on 24 November 1996 following a terrorist mortar attack on the British Barracks at Osnabruck on 28 June 1996. This was upheld by the Federal Court of Justice on 7 May 1997. An arrest warrant was issued by Bow Street Magistrates Court on 25 November 1996 and Roisin McAliskey was arrested in Belfast on 26 November 1996. She was committed *in absentia* at Bow Street Magistrates Court on 2 January 1998 when she was remanded in custody.

©DFA/2021/52/703