

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Subject: GRA Media Release

PRESS RELEASE

The Garda Representative Association wishes to state that the members that we represent are dismayed at the reported movements of IRA prisoners from the high security prison in Portlaoise to a low security prison in Castlerea.

It is understood by the GRA that included in this group of prisoners are the prisoners that were convicted of the killing of our colleague Detective Garda Jerry McCabe in Adare in June 1996. While it is accepted that the Department of Justice would be entitled to move prisoners from one prison to another it is difficult to understand, taking into account the diabolical crime committed in Adare, how the prisoners involved can be moved to a low security prison. Outside of that, the GRA have had many phone calls from our members that this move may be a first step to the early release of the people convicted of this dastardly crime. If it is the case that the Department are considering this course of action, then the GRA wish to state that we will vigorously oppose such action in every manner open to us. We would also wish to state that Ann McCabe, the widow of the late Detective Garda Jerry McCabe, has been in contact with the Central Executive Committee member for Limerick, Paul Browne, and she is extremely upset and annoyed by this latest development, most especially by the fact that once again there has been no consultation with her as regards this decision. This is not the first occasion that this has happened to Ann McCabe, and to say the least of it, the Garda Representative Association are extremely concerned at the apparent lack of sensitivity to the McCabe family.

We would also wish to state that the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice gave absolute assurances to the McCabe family and to the public at large that the persons convicted of this crime in Adare would, under no circumstances, benefit under the early prisoner release scheme as contained in the Good Friday agreement.

As stated, if this is a first step towards that, then the Garda Representative Association will take the strongest steps against such a decision.

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END.
2nd December 1999

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