



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS



NEW YORK STATE FREEDOM for ALL IRELAND

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CONGRESSIONAL APPEAL FOR LEGACY JUSTICE

Sixteen Members of Congress have joined in a bipartisan letter to British Ambassador Kim Darroch, expressing concerns about hundreds of families still waiting for legacy truth and justice. The bipartisan Congressional initiative, follows a recent visit by Mark Thompson of Relatives For Justice. The tour was organized by New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians, and supported by an array of Irish-American organizations including the Irish American Unity Conference and Brehon Law Society.

The Members of Congress cited issues including the denial of funding for Legacy Inquests and investigations, misuse of national security to block information, and proposals of a statute of limitations amnesty.

(A copy of the letter, mailed on Monday is attached as well as a statement from Mr. Thompson. We have been given permission to release the letters).

New York State AOH Freedom-for -all-Ireland Chair Martin Galvin noted:

" We welcome this Congressional scrutiny and will monitor and provide information in relation to the British government's response.

"It seems that as victims use crown justice mechanisms to get legacy truth ,the British are starving their own courts, inquest judges and Ombudsman investigations of funding while moving towards pardons dressed up as statutes of limitations.

" Since Mr. Thompson's visit, a judge has ruled that former First Minister Arlene Foster had unlawfully blocked funding for legacy inquests by demanding political agreement before discussing funding to fulfill the state's obligations to legacy victims. We believe that American political pressure on the British can help make a difference for legacy victims in their long fight for truth and justice".

Martin Galvin