**AMERICAN BREXIT COMMITTEE**

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*John M. Corcoran Esq, Chairman*

*Michael J. Cummings, Secretary*

February 21, 2022

Honorable Antony Blinken

U. S. Secretary of State

U. S. Department of State

2201 C St. NW

Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We wish to again express our concerns for Irish peace process and for the abject failure of the UK to fulfill its human rights and legacy obligations. Senior British Cabinet members Michael Gove and Jacob Reese-Mogg publicly proclaim “…the GFA has outlived its usefulness.” Prime Minister Johnson threatens and quarrels over a Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) he signed and which was designed to protect Ireland and the peace process. It is time the Department of State speak with all candor regarding the truth of Britain’s tactics of obstruction.

In the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, there is a Declaration of Support which lists the core principles to be embraced by Britain and Ireland as they work for peace. They include reconciliation, mutual trust, protection of human rights to be accomplished through partnership and mutual respect. In July, 2021 Britain issued Command Paper #498 which contained proposals anathema to those principles, the concepts of truth and justice and dismissive of the rule of law. The paper noted the difficulty of investigating and prosecuting “vexatious” killings without mentioning many of those crimes have been linked to a murderous collaboration between British security forces and loyalist vigilantes. The response to #398 was to unite the Irish people like few can remember.

The opportunities to hold Britain accountable for serious human rights abuses in N. I. are numerous. Consider the uninvestigated British Army killings of dozens of Irish citizens; the obstruction of Coroners Inquiries into nearly 1000 killings targeted by religion or politics including those of the Dublin Monaghan bombings; the flawed inquiries into the assassinations of attorneys Patrick Finucane and Rosemary Nelson; the arrest and detention of journalists; and the recent Parliament pardons for murders by Covert Human Intelligence Services (CHIS) double agents. The State Department has taken little notice of these British actions while publicly citing and sanctioning the same crimes and corruption of other nations and individuals. In the past 20 years, the British government has promoted political instability in N. I. and paid lip service to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and transparency, those

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cherished values of UK-US Atlantic Charter inked last year. Patrick Corrigan of **Amnesty International** described this systemic breach of trust as follows: “*The State identified the targets for the killers, provided intelligence on those targets and then provided the weapons. This is not a security policy but a murder policy.*” An Annex to the DeSilva Report concerning Britain’s assassination of attorney Patrick Finucane depicts a nation corrupting every instrument and resource it can to kill a man without arrest or charge for doing his job. Was it for this Americans die defending democracy and the rule of law?

Mr. Secretary, if the term “a “State sponsor of terrorism” is not applicable to Britain’s actions in the North it is hard to imagine what could be so labeled! Is it not time to use the tools at the disposal of Treasury and State to impose sanctions and travel penalties on individuals as well as on the nation? And certainly, delay any action on a US-UK trade deal. At the same time, we believe a joint EU-US statement should acknowledge the efforts of the EU Council of Ministers for their attempts to enforce Britain’s compliance with Article II of the EU Convention which forbids the intentional killing of a person without trial. Both initiatives might expand and accelerate Britain’s efforts to investigate nearly 1000 killings so that victims’ families are not deprived of truth, justice and accountability. These actions would give to the Irish peace process what the British have not: partnership, reconciliation, mutual trust and respect for human rights.

Finally, Mr. Secretary the body of evidence of security services killings and British corruption of law and justice in N. I. has grown considerably since 1998 but rarely is it referenced or documented in the State Departments Annual Human Rights Reports. For example, the 2019 and 2020 UK sections make no references to collusion killings. The following phrases actually appear in both: a. “***There were no reports of significant human rights abuses***.” b. ***Impunity was not a problem in the security forces***.” and c. “***The government has mechanisms in place to identify and punish officials who may commit human rights abuses”.*** The news of Command Paper # 498 must not yet have reached Foggy Bottom.

Thank you for considering these issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

John M. Corcoran, Esq., Chairman Michael J. Cummings, Secretary

Attachment: **Annex: De Silva’s principal findings**