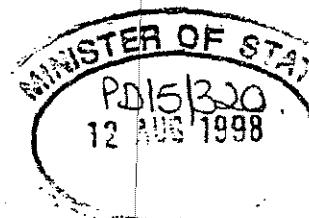




Committee on the Administration of Justice
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Mr Adam Ingram JP MP
 Minister of State
 Northern Ireland Office
 Parliament Buildings
 Belfast
 BT4 3SS

10th August 98

Dear Mr Ingram,

RE: Rosemary Nelson

We refer to the above and thank you for your letter of 7th July 1998 from your private secretary. We appreciate that these matters are being investigated by the police. However, we are somewhat concerned at your statement that you are not aware of evidence of a pattern of intimidation of defence lawyers. We have to express surprise at this comment given that it has been the subject of a number of reports by respected international NGOs. Indeed the major NGO report on this issue which was published by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in 1992 included responses from the NIO and the police. You are of course also aware of the report of the Special Rapporteur which concluded that the RUC had engaged in "intimidation, hindrance, harassment" of defence lawyers. The Special Rapporteur said, that given the reports of the NGOs and others, the RUC should have investigated and put an end to this problem. This has not yet been done.

The Special Rapporteur also recommended that "[W]here there is a threat to the physical integrity of a solicitor or barrister, irrespective from whom the threat emanates, the Government should provide the necessary protection and should vigorously investigate the threats and bring to justice the guilty party."

We enclose two documents for your attention which indicate that there is indeed a threat to the physical integrity of Rosemary Nelson. The first is a note which was posted to Rosemary Nelson which reads "[W]e have you in our 'sights' you republican bastard we will teach you a lesson R.I.P"

The second is a one page pamphlet entitled "The Man Without a Future" which relates to Brendan McKenna. However, it also refers to him having received "advice from Lurgan solicitor and former bomber Rosemary Nelson (8a William St, Lurgan Tel 321885)".

We believe that these documents are very definite threats against the personal safety of Rosemary Nelson. She has received a number of such threats in the past. It is