

LAWYERS ALLIANCE for JUSTICE in IRELAND, Inc.

A non-profit association of attorneys and related professionals
working to promote the rule of law in Ireland.

March 13, 1997

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Via Fax

Honorable Louis Blom-Cooper
Independent Commissioner for the Holding Centres
HAMPTON HOUSE
47 - 53 High Street
Belfast BT12QS

RE: Miscellaneous Inquiry

Dear Sir Louie:

During a recent visit to Ireland, I received some very disturbing information upon which your assistance is required.

A very effective solicitor, Ms. Rosemary Nelson, has been subject to death threats emanating from an RUC detective stationed at Gough Interrogation Centre.

These threats have been communicated to Ms. Nelson through several clients during the course of their interrogation.

This information is communicated to you in the strictest confidence.

Initially, Ms. Nelson considered the threats to be attempts at intimidation for her work on behalf of various clients, including Colin Duffy of Lurgan. She did not believe they would be acted upon. However, the threats have become more insistent and ominous of late.

Would you kindly turn this information over to the Attorney General's office for an appropriate criminal investigation. Please do not rely upon the RUC to investigate one of its own members.

Witnesses will come forward and testify under oath provided they have some assurance of protection from reprisal.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to the identity of the individual in the Attorney General's office to whom evidence may be submitted.

Sadly, there seems to be a repeat pattern of the events which led to the killing of solicitor Patrick Finucane in 1989.