

2. Complainants

Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland, 445 East Main Street, Denville, New Jersey, USA. represented by Mr Edmund E. Lynch on behalf of Mrs Rosemary Nelson, solicitor, 8 William Street, Lurgan.

RUC reference: B147/941/97.

3. Details

3.1. Circumstances (giving rise to the complaint, including times/date/place)

Correspondence was received at the Legal secretariat to the Law Officers Attorney General's Chambers, 9 Buckingham Gate, London, on the 13th March 1997 from Mr E.E. Lynch of the Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland (LAJI). He alleged that death threats had been made to Mrs Nelson and that these had been instigated by an RUC detective. It was alleged that the threats had been communicated to her through several of her clients during prisoner interrogations at Gough Barracks on various dates.

In later correspondence (letters dated 30.6.97) Mr Lynch made mention of similar alleged comments made in relation to the interrogation of Mr Colin Duffy. Those are the subject of a separate complaint previously referred to. References: RUC B147/2799,2194-2197/97). They have been reported on separately in the Nelson/Duffy complaint report.

3.2. Details of Incident

Mr Lynch based his complaint on the written comments of four individuals who had been detained under the Prevention of Terrorism legislation at Gough Police Office on various dates and interviewed by several officers. The four individuals, who are considered in more detail later in this report, were;

Mr Anthony Simmons
Mr Colm Toman
Mr Barry Toman, and

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Mr Barry Toman and Mr Colm Toman were detained between the 11th and 14th February 1997 in connection with a PIRA rocket attack on an RUC patrol in the Kilwilkie estate, Lurgan on the 6th February 1997.

Mr Thomas Anthony Simmons was detained between the 11th and 14th February 1997 in connection with a constructed pipe hide discovered in the garden of his girlfriend's house.