

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 161

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 1997

By Assemblywoman QUIGLEY, Assemblyman COHEN,
Assemblywoman Gill, Assemblymen Roberts, Greenwald, Romano,
Doria, Coutinho, Assemblywoman Friscia, Assemblyman
Wisniewski, Assemblywoman Pou, Assemblymen Caraballo, Moran,
Garcia, Dalton, Gusciora, Impreveduto, Jones and Barnes

- 1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Congress and the President of the
2 United States to review the status of persons associated with the Irish
3 republican movement who are facing deportation from the United States.
4
- 5 WHEREAS, Numerous men associated with the Irish republican movement
6 were subjected to the military occupation of their neighborhoods and
7 harassment by sectarian police and British soldiers as young men, were
8 subjected to inhumane treatment while in military custody, and were
9 convicted of political offenses without due process of law in Northern
10 Ireland; and
- 11 WHEREAS, These men all served their time as political "special category"
12 prisoners in Northern Ireland and then came to this country intending to
13 make new lives for themselves free from religious and political prejudice;
14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, These men are now facing deportation from the United States
16 despite having resided peacefully and productively here for many years,
17 marrying American women and raising American children in loving homes;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, The deportation of these men would mean subjecting them and
20 their American families either to separation or to face the real danger of
21 political assassination, harassment and discrimination in Northern Ireland;
22 and
- 23 WHEREAS, The deportation of these men would be a setback to the peace
24 process in Ireland and is seen as unproductive and wrong by not only the
25 Irish government but by all nationalist parties in the north of Ireland and
26 Loyalist leaders as well; and
- 27 WHEREAS, An Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs hearing in
28 Washington demonstrated the support that these families have within the
29 Irish American community and from many members of Congress; and
- 30 WHEREAS, Recent positive developments, including a cease-fire and a meeting
31 between President Clinton and officials of Sinn Fein, the political branch of

1 the Irish Republican Army, have raised hopes for a lasting peace in
2 Northern Ireland; and

3 **WHEREAS**, A complete review of the status of the men described above with
4 the goal of granting amnesty or permanent residency, in appropriate cases,
5 is necessary in the interest of justice and may help to facilitate the peace
6 process; now, therefore,

7

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

9

10 1. The Congress and the President of the United States are urged to
11 review the status of persons associated with the Irish republican movement
12 who are facing deportation from the United States with the goal of granting
13 amnesty or permanent residency, in appropriate cases.

14

15 2. Copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General
16 Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the
17 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives and every member of Congress
19 elected thereto from this State.

20

21

22 STATEMENT

23

24 This resolution urges the Congress and President of the United States to
25 review the status of persons associated with the Irish republican movement
26 who are facing deportation from the United States with the goal of granting
27 amnesty or permanent residency in appropriate cases. A review of these
28 cases is necessary in the interest of justice and may help to facilitate the peace
29 process.

30

31

32

33

34 Urges Congress and President to review status of persons associated with the
35 Irish republican movement who are facing deportation from the United States.