"Democracy or dictatorship – what's it going to be?"

A St. Patrick's Day Message to Mr Enda Kenny TD, Taoiseach of Ireland, March 2015

Dear Mr Kenny; I write to you today as the Administrator of the *Integrity Ireland* website in context of the disquieting news that the 'highly secretive' armed SDU (the Garda Síochána 'Special Detective Unit') is conducting an undercover investigation into *Integrity Ireland's* affairs—apparently under instructions 'from the top'—and based on the specious premise that 'we' are supposedly "engaged in seditious activities designed to undermine the institutions of the State". The Garda Detective who made this ominous statement in Ballina District Court this past week (in an apparent attempt to justify the illegal seizure of private property in a histrionic, paramilitary-style armed raid on a sleepy Mayo farmhouse) made vague reference to an alleged 'death threat' reportedly received by the Garda Commissioner (without presenting any specific evidence of this in Court) and implying—without any proofs whatsoever—that he believed that the *Integrity Ireland* association was in some way involved, or was in some way responsible!?

In light of the complete and utter failure of 'the statutory authorities' to deal with hundreds of proven, legitimate complaints about serious crimes, and the subsequent cover-ups by agents of the State-most especially by yourself, the Minister for Justice and Garda management—this cynical and contrived misuse of Garda resources is not only highly suspicious from our point of view, but it is wholly incompatible with any mature understanding of the *proper* statutory role of a national police agency operating explicitly under 'anti-terrorism legislation' and which is, supposedly; "responsible for the investigation of threats to state security and the monitoring of persons who pose a threat". Are we seriously supposed to believe that having the SDU investigate a volunteer organisation that is dedicated to 'justice, transparency and accountability' is any fit and proper use of scarce Garda resources? As we said in our recent video update Mr Kenny, we really don't know whether to be flattered or fearful: flattered because it seems that our legitimate and lawful tactics of confronting erring authority figures with their own rules and regulations is beginning to work – or fearful because of disturbing reports of journalists' private communications being monitored; of the extraordinary number of questionable surveillance warrants being issued to the SDU (over 20,000 per annum); of Irish citizens being followed, framed and falsely accused; and of the SDU's formidable record in jailing alleged 'suspects' for lengthy periods after 'special non-jury hearings' – an impressive but unsettling quota which remains the highest per capita in the European Union. In any event Mr Kenny, it seems appropriate under the circumstances that we should err on the side of caution here.

So, let me be absolutely clear from the outset Mr Kenny, that I personally view this underhanded and calculated move by covert State agencies as a most sinister development indeed, and one that is totally without legitimacy, foundation or proper cause. I say this with confidence because not only are all our aims, objectives and methods of operation on public view for all to see, but even if some individual I-I Member were to commit an offence worthy of supposed 'investigation' (something which has NOT yet been demonstrated) that it is nevertheless a ludicrous and preposterous position that the whole I-I association should be held liable. Furthermore, not only do the I-I Rules & Guidelines clearly outline our position, our objectives and our ethos - especially in regards to the collective obligations and personal responsibilities of individual members – but I am the only person who has placed content directly onto the I-I website since its beginnings, and I am therefore absolutely confident that nothing on that website could be interpreted even by the most imaginative or devious of conspirators—as 'a threat to the institutions of the State' ...unless of course, you, your colleagues and subordinates in those very same institutions are arguing that the Special Detectives Unit and their colleagues in the equally-secretive Emergency Response Unit are in fact being legitimately employed in preventing the exposure of rampant corruption, cronyism, abuses of power and position, collusion, conspiracies and criminal cover-ups in compromised State institutions? On the assumption that you are not going to publically concur with that statement Mr Kenny – let us outline some additional reasons why we, and so many decent people both here and abroad, are so seriously alarmed at the news that the secretive SDU is reportedly 'preparing a case' against *Integrity Ireland*.

Firstly, the *I-I Rules* clearly state that, "no member or group of members may claim to represent the *I-I* association" and that members are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a reasonable, lawful and Constitutional manner. Other disclaimers emphasise that our objective is to tackle individual instances of injustice, and a general culture of corruption, in direct, uncompromising but *lawful* ways. Furthermore (and unlike State institutions) there *are* consequences if I-I Members do not abide by our *Rules & Guidelines*. So it is clear that we are taking all reasonable measures to maintain a professional ethos in a completely volunteer-based organisation, and that any actions or behaviours by individual I-I Members which *could* be interpreted by 'the authorities' as alleged grounds for covert investigations is clearly outside the bounds of membership. Furthermore, we can demonstrate that these very source files have been downloaded by the Ministry of Justice and Garda Headquarters in recent months – yet nevertheless, these crucial facts appear to have been very conveniently 'overlooked' by the country's most highly-trained Garda detective unit!?

We also note the unsettling coincidence that this covert operation by the SDU has commenced at the very same time when the *Integrity Ireland* membership in general, and myself in particular, are pressing 'the authorities' (most notably yourself, Mrs Fitzgerald and Mrs O'Sullivan) to deal with hundreds of very serious criminal complaints about malfeasance, corruption and other offences by agents of the State, including collusion and cover-ups. In the case of Justice Minister Fitzgerald for example, we note the lengthy delays in advancing the so-called 'Review Panel' mechanism, and the now-typical stonewalling, deferrals and obstructions being visited on legitimate complainants, resulting in us launching a public survey to guage the levels of satisfaction amongst the complainants... and I can tell you in advance Taoiseach, that Mrs Fitzgerald is *not* going to be coming head of the class on *this* one. We do sincerely hope that this gathering of information by concerned citizens will not be designated as yet another prospective 'threat to the State' or as an act of criminal sedition? Or, perhaps you can inform us differently Taoiseach if this is the case?

The failure of Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan to respond to our specific, pointed questions on the statutory obligations of An Garda Síochána is also an issue—most notably in dealing with multiple complaints of rampant perjury and fraud in our Courts—as well as the disturbing fact that despite being hand-picked for the job by her discredited predecessor (whom you had also 'maintained confidence' in until he was mysteriously sacked) that her explicit directions to her Garda subordinates to <u>stop</u> illegally quashing penalty points are being completely ignored? We are aware of course that there was in fact, only *one* applicant in the so-called 'robust selection process' (as reported to the Irish public) when Mrs O'Sullivan secured the post of Garda Commissioner. But it rather leaves us wondering why the top job in the Irish police force would be completely snubbed by the international law enforcement community? Do they know something that we don't perhaps? Maybe it is the fact that despite the attractive pay packet, that no genuine law-enforcement professional would take on such a contrived and compromised role? In any event Taoiseach, we're sure you'll agree that despite all the spin, bluff and bluster about 'reform' in the Justice Department and the Garda Síochána that there's not a great deal to inspire confidence here.

Then, there is your own quite remarkable performance in avoiding our questions, particularly on the subject of your *personal* relationship with the criminals and deviants who have been attacking our family for an extended period, and who—we can prove—have been directly facilitated in these activities by certain named Gardaí, senior civil servants, and various other State affiliates and agents – including now by certain elements in the Irish Courts. Indeed, that this whole sorry mess is such an appalling indictment of the routine levels of widespread corruption, cronyism and malfeasance ongoing under your watch Mr Kenny – that you simply cannot allow an organisation such as *Integrity Ireland* to gain traction with the general public, for fear of the great personal and political embarrassment to you – and for fear that the

whole shabby, corrupt infrastructure that supports and protects you and your venal cronies at the expense of decent Irish families, will come crashing down around you. Likewise, that you will do anything in your power to ensure that the High Court actions against the State which are being taken by various I-I Members (including myself) which threaten to expose yourself and other senior authority figures as serial malefactors of the worst order, will never be allowed to progress. And just in case there is any doubt as to the truth of all this Mr Kenny, let me invite you again in public—for the nineteenth time in succession—to simply meet with us to examine the proofs and answer our reasonable questions. Or perhaps better still, that you assign some of your own personal SDU detail to come and interview us with a view to doing some *real* detective work – thereby showing the Irish public that you really *don't* have anything to hide here?

But back to the matter at hand Taoiseach; this SDU operation into our activities has, apparently, been ongoing for some considerable time now, based on the patently-absurd reasoning that the collective Integrity Ireland membership is somehow liable and responsible for the alleged actions of any given individual member, or group of members? We are left asking the obvious question Mr Kenny; should we now expect to see all Fine Gael Party members' bank accounts examined by the Garda Fraud Squad because of alleged bribery and corruption on the part of one FG councillor? Or, should all serving Gardaí be immediately sacked because of the indisputably-high levels of criminal negligence amongst senior Garda management? Or, perhaps more pointedly, in a case where there was clear evidence of criminal activity, should the Special Detectives Unit not have seized all of our Judges' personal computers when one of their esteemed colleagues was caught downloading child pornography? An unsavoury example perhaps, but nevertheless a pertinent one. The obvious point I am making Mr Kenny is that the premise of collective responsibility for individual actions is as farcical as it is unworkable – except of course, when such a premise provides a convenient opportunity to silence dissenting voices. And this—as we all well know Mr Kenny—is the real agenda here: to shut down any dissenting voices who dare to speak truth to power – and to do so, cynically and ironically, using the so-called 'forces of law and order'. The hypocrisy and inconsistency is now complete. Corrupt governors (i.e. you and your colleagues and cronies) first of all deceive and mislead us into voting for you; then you plunder the Irish people under the guise of 'austerity' while posturing for the cameras with pained expressions as you condescend to explain how 'we' (the people) must continue to sacrifice because (of course) you are worth 'every single penny' of your obscene salary. Then, while ordinary families struggle to get by under the oppressive burden of unmanageable mortgages, stealth taxes, water charges and the massive costs of an overblown and largely inept public service with all of its related quangos, semi-state bodies, 'special committees' and State Boards populated by political cronies, you then add insult to injury by taking our hard-earned money and squandering it recklessly on media consultants, special advisors, indiscriminate self-serving political junkets, and the usual 'jobs for the boys'. And if any of us 'ordinary citizens' dare to raise a fuss or object to being so royally disabused, well, it seems we can now expect to come under the ever-watchful, ominous attentions of the politically-appointed SDU.

Now, whilst we do of course realise that in the day-to-day business of 'governing' this sadly overburdened country, that you and your colleagues have spun so many lies; engaged in so much blatant nepotism; have reneged on so many 'sincere' pre-election promises; have so smugly indulged yourselves with lavish wages, pensions and benefits; and have generally abused the trust of ordinary citizens through acts of breathtaking hypocrisy and duplicity; so-much-so, that any concept of genuine 'integrity' is clearly somewhat alien to you. However, it is not alien to us 'ordinary citizens' whom you hold in such obvious contempt Mr Kenny. And we would be obliged if for once, you would accept the fact that *Integrity Ireland* is exactly what it says it is – no more and no less than a collection of concerned citizens who have been serially abused by State agencies—including by yourself and your close political associates—and who are sick to the back teeth of all the corruption, the lies and evasiveness, the arrogance, the denials, the contempt, the abuse, the obstructionism and intimidation by those who are supposedly being paid to serve us.

If you and your colleagues in Government had any genuine regard for the people who elected you, and if you had any *real* respect for the law and the Constitution (which you are supposedly sworn to uphold) then you would not have allowed or facilitated such appalling levels of corruption and malfeasance – so as to necessitate the establishment of a citizens-driven 'oversight body' such as *Integrity Ireland* which is simply trying to secure justice for ordinary citizens. The fact that we are being thwarted and obstructed every step of the way by agencies of the State is a telling indictment of the *real* agenda at work here – which is to protect the powers-that-be at all costs, no matter how many laws are broken; no matter how many lies are being told; and no matter how many peoples' lives are being ruined, or even lost in the process. Frankly, it is a shambolic disgrace Mr Kenny, and you personally bear a great part of the burden of responsibility.

But, it's not all bad news today. Because believe it or not we have a solution that will not only ensure the proper use of Garda resources – but will at the same time demonstrate to the electorate that you are in fact the 'man of principle' which you so often claim to be. You will recall the stirring pre-election speech you gave to Young Fine Gael members, where, after promising 'a new era in Irish politics' you also emphasised "..the importance of serving the public, the importance of being a voice for the people, and the importance of publicly standing up and standing for values and principles." Well Mr Kenny, here is your chance to prove you DO genuinely respect those values, as well as the principles of justice, transparency and accountability by; (i) directing Mrs Fitzgerald to publicise the Review Panel results without further delay; (ii) by directing Mrs O'Sullivan to use Garda resources as they were intended by statute - in the detection and prevention of crime; and (iii) by consulting with us 'in the overall interests of justice' before you set up any more farcical, costly and ineffective review panels, tribunals or 'statutory oversight bodies'. This will save the taxpayers a great deal of money because we *already* have the facts documented and ready to go; we have the evidence to back it up; and we have a growing list of eyewitness, victims and survivors who are ready and willing to tell their story – that is, if the 'statutory authorities' are now ready and willing to do their jobs properly? Alternatively Mr Kenny, perhaps you could reassign a few select members of the Special Detectives Unit who you had assigned to investigate us; to work instead directly with us in rooting out the endemic criminal corruption which (our evidence suggests) infests every single avenue of power in this State? Any such assigned detectives however, would of course need to sign off on the I-I Rules & Guidelines before we could fully engage with them - otherwise, in the unlikely event that they engaged in any 'improper activities' (either on-or-off duty) the whole I-I membership might suffer the blame, and that—as we have already clearly demonstrated—would of course, be totally and utterly unfair.

So, as we approach the centenary of the Easter 1916 rising of the Irish people against a previous, *'cruel, repressive and dictatorial regime'* when, in your own words, so many *"great men"* gave their lives to establish the Constitution and make Ireland a better place to live; the obvious question needs to be asked Mr Kenny – what sort of a country are we now living in where criminals, thieves, charlatans, fraudsters, conspirators and even murderers get the overt protection of the State – whilst ordinary law-abiding citizens get covertly targeted and intimidated for simply asking questions – and for simply telling the truth?

Citizens should have confidence that they will be treated fairly by those in power. The whole point of having a Constitution is to ensure that the Government is answerable to the people – and NOT the other way round. *That* would be called a dictatorship Mr Kenny, and our laws, our police and our justice system are *supposed* to be there to prevent that from happening, are they not?

So, what's it going to be Mr Kenny? A democracy, or a dictatorship for 2016?

Yours, Stephen Manning, Belcarra, Castlebar, Co. Mayo (An Active Member of Integrity Ireland)



www.integrityireland.ie