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12 pages of ideas for her, for him and for the children

Elite gardaí tracking groups suspected of plotting attacks on Muslims, IPAS centres and threatening our national security

OUR DOMESTIC TERROR CELLS

EXCLUSIVE

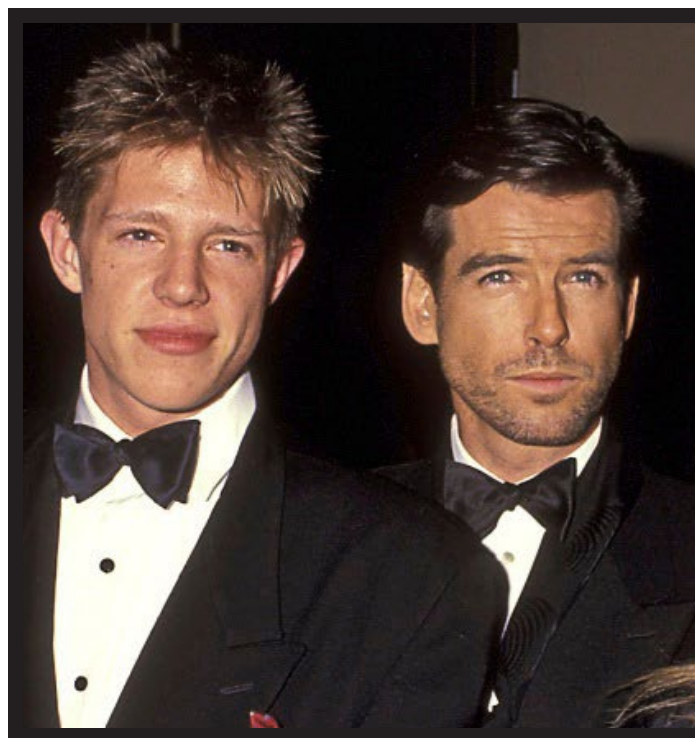
By Garreth MacNamee

ELITE gardaí are investigating several domestic terror cells who are suspected of plotting attacks on Muslims and IPAS centres, and to threaten national security, the Irish Daily Mail can reveal.

Gardaí confirmed yesterday there are up to ten domestic terror groups operating on the island.

However, the Mail has gained specific knowledge of one group, calling itself the Irish Citizen Army Rebirth, which has been making overt threats to people of the Islamic faith as well as the Taoiseach and other senior members of the Government. Micheál Martin said

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Dinner date that
signals **20-year**
rift is over for
Brosnan and
ex-addict son

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'Online platforms exploit fear and deepen divisions'

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yesterday there is a 'considerable degree of concern' around extremism in Ireland, which he described as a 'threat to our society'.

Videos of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA) Rebirth group have been published on social media platforms recently.

In those videos, several men are seen wearing balaclavas and their voices have been disguised.

In a video posted to YouTube recently, these men promise 'action' instead of words, vowing to 'fight for Ireland' and 'take the necessary steps to achieve our goals'.

Gardaí believe that despite the group's membership being small, the ICA Rebirth is planning 'action' against people they describe as 'military-aged male migrants'.

The group is just one of a steadily growing number of extreme far-right organisations that are establishing themselves across the country, sources have told the Mail.

In the video posted just three weeks ago, one balaclava-clad man compares his group to the Irish Citizens' Army which was formed in 1913 to protect striking workers during the Dublin Lockout.

He says: 'We refuse to witness the suffering and killing of innocent Irish citizens. We the ICA will fight for Ireland. We the ICA will take the necessary steps to

From 'predominantly white' countries

achieve our goals.'

Later in the video, another man makes more chilling threats.

He said: 'For a truly legal and a truly independent Ireland, for a nation where justice is paramount and its citizens can walk their streets in safety, action will be required, not merely words, but decisive, principled action.'

'We call upon all citizens, all institutions, all those who believe in the promise of this nation to stand with us. The path ahead will be challenging, but it is a path we must together embark upon to save our country and our citizens.'

Members of the Garda Special Detective Unit, who investigate domestic and foreign threats to national security, are treating groups such as the so-called ICA 'very seriously', security sources told the Mail.

Gardaí believe these groups are becoming more structured. Among those forging their way in extremist far-right fringe groups are relatively recent immigrants to Ireland with some Polish, Lithuanian, Bulgarian and Romanian men and women understood to be involved in these growing groups.

Security sources have told the Mail that there is a marked shift from the initial disorganised and disjointed nature regarding attacks on the Muslim community in Ireland to what is currently developing.

A security source said: 'In the



Statement: the group calling itself the Irish Citizen Army
By Cillian Sherlock

POLITICAL extremists have moved on to 'an organised attempt to undermine the State' and 'inflict violence on people', the Taoiseach has said.

Micheál Martin said there is a 'considerable degree of concern' around extremism in Ireland, which he described as a 'threat to our society'.

He said: 'This now is a very strong basis for indicating that this has moved on from sort of individuals or the general sort of narrative, to an organised attempt to undermine the State and our society and, above all, to inflict violence on people.'

Mr Martin said everyone needed to be respected, regardless of 'ethnic background, colour or creed'.

Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly said he was concerned about 'outside influence' from abroad impacting violent political extremists in Ireland.

He said gardaí had concerns around political extremism 'whatever direction it is'.

Mr Kelly added: 'This is a trend we're seeing all across Europe. There is certainly an increase in what I would call violent political extremism.'

'We're not immune to that here on the island of Ireland.'

last 12 months or so, there has been intelligence gathered that would point to a more organised far-right group which would be a threat to national security.

'It's now incredibly easy for people to discuss extremist ideologies. You've every social media platform out there and those companies have to play ball as well, but so far they've not done much to help gardaí.'

'It's as plain as the nose on your face to see the international elements coming through. You see people named in court in relation to far-right incidents and they're not all O'Reillys and Murphys.'

'There are people who are originally from other predominantly white countries.'

Gardaí use many methods to gather intelligence on potentially

Martin warns extremism has moved on to an 'organised attempt' to inflict violence

Obviously, there's been a number of high-profile events here and we continue to monitor it.'

The Taoiseach and Commissioner were speaking at the largest single attestation of new gardaí since 2019.

A total of 194 officers and 17 reserves will be assigned to divisions across the country.

It will be followed next week by the largest class of Garda recruits to enter the college in a decade.

Mr Kelly said gardaí continued to monitor the risk level

194
new Garda recruits and 17 reserves sworn in

around extremism, which is currently 'moderate'.

Asked about the alleged planned attack on a Galway mosque on behalf of a far-right extremist group, Commissioner Kelly agreed that some of the details may be shocking to the public.

'But for us in An Garda Síochána, it is not something we're shocked by,' he said.

'Obviously, we gather intelli-

gent and we understand from partners abroad what the trends are, what's going on. This is something I've said previously: There are people here and they intend to do harm, particularly to some of our migrant communities.'

Overt threats: Online posts from the Irish Citizen Army

gence and we understand from partners abroad what the trends are, what's going on. This is something I've said previously: There are people here and they intend to do harm, particularly to some of our migrant communities.'

'And that's something that we have to be completely alive to - we're not immune to that. We've seen that in the UK and across Europe.'

Justice Minister Jim O'Callaghan said he had 'great confidence' in the ability of An Garda Síochána to gather information on ongoing threats but said there is a need for the public to provide assistance to gardaí.

The Commissioner said gardaí

are concerned about lies, propaganda and conspiracies being pushed into their online feeds. And 74% of respondents worry about harmful content targeting children, while a similar number, 73%, fear the spread of violent threats.

'Damage systems doing to children'

Campaigners say the findings send a clear message to EU Commissioner Michael McGrath, who is preparing to launch his European Democracy Shield initiative before the end of the year: people want the toxic algorithms that fuel lies, division, and harmful

were aware of fewer than ten groups in the violent political extremism space.

He said gardaí are most concerned about those who were seeking to take violent action, saying this related to a 'small number' of people.

Mr Kelly added: 'We'll be particularly relentless around people who target people in positions of authority, people in IPAS centres, any of that type of activity.'

content turned off by default.

Siobhán O'Donoghue, director of social justice campaigner platform Uplift, said: 'People are speaking loud and clear. They see the damage recommender systems are doing to children, young people and whole communities. Turning them off by default is a common-sense step that would make the online world safer.'

Edel McGinley, director of Hope and Courage Collective, said: 'These systems exploit fear and deepen divisions. People want change, and Commissioner McGrath has an opportunity to put their voices at the heart of Europe's response to keeping us safe online.'

The Department of Justice was contacted for comment.

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