

SUPPORT:  
Emma and  
Jake DeSouza

# Donations show admiration for DeSouza citizenship campaign

It takes a lot of £20 donations to clear £40,000 of a debt of £45,000.

And in these Covid-straitened times it takes a lot of support and admiration for such donations to come, as they did, from all parts of Ireland including TDs and Seanadóirí in the Oireachtas and the European Parliament.

But then again it is entirely understandable why such a flood of sympathy and donations would be spontaneously generated to help Emma and Jake DeSouza reach their target in the incredibly short period of three weeks.

Emma and Jake captured the imagination of people all over Ireland when they took a stance to protect the Good Friday Agreement (GFA), Emma's right to be accepted as Irish in the land of her birth and the consequential residency right for her husband Jake to live in Ireland with her.

The joy of married life, five years ago, took a sharp, unforeseen and unwanted turn for the newlyweds when Jake was refused a residency visa under EU regulations based on the legitimate claim by Emma that she was Irish and therefore entitled to claim residency for Jake per the citizenship clause of the GFA. It is a unique and special clause which accepts that people of the north can choose to be designated Irish, British or both.

The British Home Office not only rejected the residency application for Jake, they attempted to deny Emma her Irish citizenship and impose British citizenship on her because she was born in an Irish village in south Derry.

Emma and Jake then entered into an unknown, stressful world of campaigning for the right to be recognised as Irish and the right to live in Ireland.

It was a 'David v Goliath' struggle with the all-powerful British Home Office

Jim  
GIBNEY



implacably out to oppose Emma and Jake.

For five years their lives were placed on hold while Emma campaigned relentlessly. Money was scarce and became more so when the couple had to personally fund the campaign, including paying legal fees.

Emma estimated that £30,000 was raised during the five-year campaign. A campaign which notched up a major victory for the couple when the British government accepted that Irish citizens born in the north will be treated as EU citizens, for immigration purposes, an explicit recognition of Emma's Irish citizenship.

And just as the couple were about to leave the upheaval of a campaigning life behind them, with a smile on their faces due to the

landmark breakthrough, and rediscover the joy of married life, they were presented with a legal bill for £45,000.

Now this bill has been dramatically reduced to £5,000 due to people's generosity – a sum, nevertheless, still beyond Emma and Jake's resources.

However, they are hopeful future donations will reduce the bill further.

Emma and Jake are overwhelmed by the popular response and the support in particular from Seanadóir Niall Ó Donnghaile (I work with Niall), Neale Richmond TD and Billy Kelleher MEP. They have urged the Irish government to pay Emma's legal costs.

Emma and Jake's case is a classic example of the need for constant vigilance when dealing with the British government.

We can see this starkly in the decision by the north's Public Prosecution Service (PPS) which decided not to bring charges against British soldiers, except one, for the massacre on Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972.

The claim that 'available evidence is insufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of conviction' is an affront to the dead and their families, and all the more so because it is presented by an agency of the state whose purpose is to protect society from wrongdoing and injustice.

What about the 'available evidence' in abundance of the dead and wounded on the streets of Derry; the voluminous inquiry by Lord Saville which found those shot were innocent; the minute-by-minute television and pictorial accounts of the massacre as it took place?

Why should the PPS decide what is 'insufficient' and not a jury?

Despite the considerable progress made in the north it still remains an unjust society when dealing with matters related to the conflict.

*The British Home Office not only rejected the residency application for Jake, they attempted to deny Emma her Irish citizenship and impose British citizenship on her*

## ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 5 1920

### Banbridge Siege Recalled

AT a general court martial held in Victoria Barracks, Belfast yesterday, Daniel Monaghan, Daniel O'Connell Monaghan and James Patrick Monaghan, all of Banbridge, were charged with offences arising out of the disturbances in that town following the funeral of District-Commissioner Smyth, RIC [shot by the IRA in Cork].

The three were charged with having endangered the life of an officer of his Majesty's forces and three RIC by the discharge of firearms on July 22 last.

James Monaghan said: 'As a citizen of the Irish Republic, I do not recognise the court.' The others pleaded not guilty.

The Prosecutor said the charge arose from the disturbances in Banbridge. That evening a large crowd collected in the street and moved towards Scarva Street in which the accused lived over a shop. Suddenly three flashes came from an upstairs window of the accused's house. Two persons were wounded and one of them died later.

The first witness said he saw three shots fired from Monaghans' house.

To Mr T M Healy, KC (defending) – Witness did not hear the crowd singing 'Dolly's Brae'. He did not see any person with revolvers in the crowd ... He saw none of the other burnings in Banbridge.

A police witness said there was a crowd of about a thousand people present and Henry's public house – opposite Monaghans' – was being wrecked. Those houses were burned were Catholics.

Mr Healy, KC – The sole result of all the burnings, lootings and £40,000 worth of Catholic property being ruined, is that three men whose house had been burned had been in custody for three months.

If your life was in danger, if you saw an opposition mob which had already been guilty of arson and looting coming towards your house, would you, as a Catholic, fire on them? – I don't know.

Addressing the court, Mr Healy said it was a trumped-up charge. It is the primary right of every citizen to defend himself, his wife and family. If there had been a Protestant in charge of the police he (Mr Healy) did not believe any houses would have been burned. He would have done his duty and fired on the mob. But the policeman, who was a Catholic, wanted to show what a terrible person he was against the Sinn Féiners and gain his promotion by revolver cracks.

Later it was announced that for being in possession of arms and ammunition Daniel Monaghan and his son, Daniel were fined and released. James Monaghan will be sentenced later. (This remarkable case saw one of the last appearances of the corrussating Tim Healy, barrister and former Nationalist MP, in Belfast.)

EDITED BY ÉAMON PHOENIX  
e.phoenix@irishnews.com