

Dear (Ambassador's name),

I am writing to protest the ongoing prosecution of the student activists in Belfast, known as the QUB 3, and wish to express my concern at their prosecution. These activists are facing charges relating to a protest against the presence of Hillary Clinton at Queen's University Belfast on 14th November 2024.

It is clear risks were taken by organising the high-profile attendance of Hillary Clinton that day. There was a lack of planning, anticipation, and preparation as to which access routes around the campus would be open to protestors. Safety limits were not publicly defined in advance but made up during the afternoon. Security barriers were absent along the footpath outside of Queens. Likewise, the presence of barriers along the internal road immediately outside the entrance to the Great Hall confused protestors by creating the impression that the grass area was accessible. Once safety risks were identified, the police and QUB security staff opted for the most confrontational, unnecessary, and disproportionate response.

Queens University Belfast has a proud and rich history of student protest dating back to the Civil Rights era. The peaceful anti-war activities of the students on 14th November 2024 are no different from those in previous generations. The people of Ireland are recognised globally for their stance in support of peace in Palestine. Arguably, the students being prosecuted represented the views of most people in Ireland – north and south – on 14th November 2024.

On 26th January 2024, the International Court of Justice determined that 'plausible genocide' is occurring in Palestine and Gaza. In November 2024, the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices concluded that "the policies and practices of Israel during the reporting period are consistent with the characteristics of genocide." Those practices include "the targeting of Palestinians as a group" and the use of "starvation as a weapon of war."

I wish to note as well the young ages of those being prosecuted, and that they are in the middle of their studies. As such, I would like to express concern at the possible long-term implications and disruption that prosecution is causing them, and is likely to cause them in the future.

With the above in mind, I respectfully request that in your capacity as ambassador that you are able to apply pressure on your government and your colleagues in the north of Ireland to support the dropping of charges against these students, whose only crime was to stand up to genocide.

Regards,

Signed: _____

Zip/Postcode: _____