

To the Public Prosecution Service (Belfast Chambers),

I wish to write with regards to the ongoing case of the activists known as the QUB 3, and to express my concern.

It is clear risks were taken by QUB in organising the high-profile attendance of Hillary Clinton on 14/11/2024. 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 Queen's University. 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 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.

As such, I wish to state that I do not feel that the prosecution of these students is in line with the public interest.

Regards,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_