

16 April 2004

RE: The case of Eoin Rice and the right to peacefully protest and freedom of assembly

Thank you for your letter from March 2004 concerning the case of Eoin Rice and the possible breach of his rights

The ICCL is extremely concerned about what seems to be a disproportionate response to a number of individuals who have been involved in protesting and peaceful assembly against the war in Iraq and the use of Shannon in the war effort.

The ICCL is also aware of Mr. Rice's case and the extensive legal challenge he has mounted. We believe that this is the most appropriate and effective way of redress in relation to this case, particularly since it involves a possible breach of Mr. Rice's constitutional and other rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights(ECHR).

In terms of how the ICCL could respond to Mr. Rice's case, we generally do not comment openly on cases, particularly if they are progressing through the courts. However, given our expertise on the ECHR, we would be willing to supply an interpretation or an analysis in writing if so required by Mr. Rice's counsel.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your sincerely,

Tanya Ward,
Senior Research and Policy Officer