



THE SUNDAY TIMES

The wild life of Carrie Fisher

by the flatmate who saw it all

Magazine



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Channel
hoppers

MEP helped the Russians contact Omagh bomber

Clare Daly passed details of Liam Campbell to known spy

John Mooney

Clare Daly, the independent Dublin MEP, gave a Russian spy contact details for a paramilitary held liable for the Omagh bombing and facing extradition on terrorism charges. The Sunday Times can reveal.

Daly facilitated communication between Liam Campbell and Algirdas Paleckis, a Russian agent who was prosecuted by the Lithuanian security services for passing information to the Kremlin.

An investigation by The Sunday Times and the Dossier Centre, an investigative project which has been tracking the Paleckis case for several years, has confirmed Daly provided the spy with an email address on which Campbell could be reached in November 2021 after the agent suggested he was open to helping the republican dissident.

Paleckis later corresponded directly with Campbell, offering to put him in touch with friends who could help, should he be imprisoned. Paleckis was at the time under house arrest pending an appeal, while Campbell was fighting extradition to Lithuania, where he was wanted on terrorism charges that were ultimately dropped.

The communications took place when Russia's intelligence services were trying to forge links to republican paramilitary organisations as part of wider efforts to destabilise the European Union.

Daly refused to comment when approached in Dublin city last

FROM ATROCITY TO SPY GAMES

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

week, having failed to respond to emails, texts and calls for months. When approached, she declined to accept a letter setting out questions and repeatedly refused to answer queries put directly to her.

Today's disclosure is likely to put Daly under intense pressure to explain her involvement in facilitating contacts between a mass killer and a Russian agent convicted for espionage. Polls suggest the MEP for Dublin will struggle to retain her seat at the European parliament, despite her toning down her position on Russia and Iran and being more vocal in condemning Israel's war on Gaza.

Kevin Skelton, whose wife, Philomena, was killed in the bombing, described the MEP's involvement with Campbell as an "insult" to the memories of those who died at Omagh, an atrocity aimed at collapsing the peace process.

"Liam Campbell was held responsible for the murder of 29 people and unborn babies. Clare Daly needs to stand up and explain her position, but let's face it, she's answerable to no one," Skelton said. "I cannot believe any politician would facilitate communications between Liam Campbell and

a Russian spy given what Moscow is up to these days."

Victor Barker, who lost his 12-year old son, James, in Omagh, said he could only describe Daly's involvement with Campbell and a Russian agent as "unbelievable".

The Sunday Times has previously revealed Daly's role in the campaign to free Paleckis, who gave Moscow information on Lithuanian officers and judges linked to the January 13 case, when Russian officials were tried for involvement in a Soviet military crackdown in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital, in January 1991.

Daly, her political ally Mick Wallace and Tatjana Zdanoka, a Latvian MEP accused of collaborating with Russia, all helped to highlight the Paleckis case between 2021 and 2022 by organising protests, social media campaigns and issuing public statements.

Daly told the European parliament that Paleckis was prosecuted without a "shred of evidence" in a speech later posted on her official social media channels. She and Wallace travelled twice to Lithuania with Zdanoka, who is alleged to have worked with Russia's FSB since 2005, which she denies.

Until now, Daly's involvement in helping Campbell was not publicly known but the MEP has previously campaigned for dissident republicans who she claimed were victims of injustice. She once offered to stand bail for a dissident accused of plotting a bombing during a visit to Ireland by Prince Charles.

BLUE DAY IN LONDON



Leinster coach Leo Cullen consoles centre Ciarán Frawley while scrum-half Luke McGrath, right, shows his dismay after the province lost to French opposition for the third year in a row in the Champions Cup final, falling 31-22 to Toulouse in London after extra time. Match report, Sport; We go again, page 3

Martin: We do not want to cut ties with Israel

Claire Scott and Hugh O'Connell

Micheál Martin, the tanaiste, has said he has "no issue" with Dana Erlich, the Israeli ambassador, returning to her role in Ireland.

Erlich was summoned back to Jerusalem last week for discussions on how to respond to Ireland's decision to recognise the state of Palestine. In retaliation, Israel summoned the Irish ambassador, Sonya McGuinness, to show her videos of hostages held by Hamas as part of a diplomatic reprimand.

Canvassing in Wexford yesterday, Martin said that the government was "not going to be sucked into any sort of escalation of this", adding: "We do not want to sever in any shape or form diplomatic relations with Israel."

Martin said he had "no issue" with Erlich returning to Dublin as ambassador, noting diplomatic ties had not been cut with Russia or Iran.

Separately, the Fianna Fail leader criticised Twitter/X after it refused to remove a post by the US-based organisation Stop Anti Semitism, which included a picture of Martin with his family and made false claims about his daughter. The social media company said the post did not violate its rules. The tanaiste called it "completely unacceptable", and said: "It is time legislators tackle these issues."

The office of Simon Harris, the taoiseach, also contacted X about a similar post made about his daughter. A government source said they had received no response from X.

Ireland's long road to recognising Palestine, page 10



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