

IRA fugitive deported to Britain despite plea

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States deported jailed Irish Republican Army fugitive Joseph Patrick Doherty to Great Britain Feb. 19, a U.S. Justice Department official said.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York had asked President Bush to order a new hearing for Doherty, whose efforts for political asylum in the United States received a setback from the U.S. Supreme Court in January.

Doherty, 37, was found guilty in 1981 by a British court in Belfast, Northern Ireland, of killing a soldier during a 1979 ambush of a British army convoy in Northern Ireland. He had been in U.S. custody since 1983.

Sentenced to life in prison, he escaped from a maximum-security jail in Belfast in 1981 and fled to the United States using false documents the following year.

Doherty was returned Feb. 20 to the same cell from which he had escaped.

In a statement released by his New York lawyers, he said he had come to the United States "seeking the safety and sanctuary of the American dream."

"This dream for me will end in a nightmare when the plane on which I am removed from the United States touches down on a British airfield in occupied Northeast Ireland," Doherty added. "But my decade in the United States, the people I met, was befriended by, loved and struggled with, are etched in my mind forever."

He was arrested by FBI agents in 1983 at Clancy's Bar in New York, where he was working as a bartender.

In a letter dated Jan. 28, Cardinal O'Connor said, "Consigning any indi-

vidual to return, without a hearing, to a country where persecutors may be waiting is antithetical to the principles that we as citizens of the United States revere.

"Denying him the opportunity to a hearing ... will work an injustice that extends far beyond him as a single individual," he added.

Doherty's incarceration put him at the heart of a passionate battle in the United States between those who saw him as a terrorist and a murderer and others who regarded him as a political prisoner.

The nation's highest court sided with the Justice Department, which has been trying to deport Doherty to Britain and had rejected his asylum request.

Doherty said in a telephone interview with Reuters the day after the Supreme Court ruling, "I'm apprehensive of what's ahead. My life is at risk if I'm sent back to British jurisdiction."

The late Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich of Armagh, Northern Ireland, had visited Doherty Feb. 12, 1990, and wrote a letter to *The New York Times* asking that he be released on bail and given a prompt hearing on his claim to political asylum.

Cardinal O'Connor had written and spoken in support of Doherty several times, and took up the case again in his Jan. 30 column in the archdiocesan weekly, *Catholic New York*.

He concluded the column by saying he would be just as concerned about Doherty if his name were "Pulaski or Gonzalez, Hindenburgh or Jones," and if he were "Haitian, Croatian or British."

"He happens to be an Irishman," the cardinal said. "I happen to be an American."



AP/Wide World Photos
WAILING MOURNERS — Black-chadored Shilte Muslim women wail Feb. 17 over the coffin of Hezbollah leader Sheik Abbas Musawi during a funeral procession through Beirut. Musawi was killed, along with his wife and 5-year-old son, when their motorcade was attacked by Israeli helicopter gunships in southern Lebanon Feb. 16.

Pontiff in Africa

Continued from page 5
freedom are held in the highest regard."

Catholics and Muslims can and must work together, he said.

"Let the conscience of every individual be fully respected so that the image of God in each one will shine forth and bear abundant fruits of justice, peace and love," the pope said.

Meeting with diplomats Feb. 21 in Dakar, the pope called for immediate international development aid for Africa and full respect for human rights on the continent.

"When the simple right to life is threatened, when the minimum material needs are lacking, when legitimate aspirations for family life, education and a job remain unsatisfied, a society cannot live in peace," he said.

Countries bordering war-torn na-

tions should accept refugees, control the formation of insurgent groups and block the transportation of arms, he said. "This is one of the first forms of solidarity for building peace."

International disaster relief and development aid does reach Africa, he said, "but not without slowness and difficulty. There is a need to act and act now."

The pope celebrated Mass Feb. 20 in Ziguinchor, capital of the Casamance region, which saw a decade of sporadic violence by separatists.

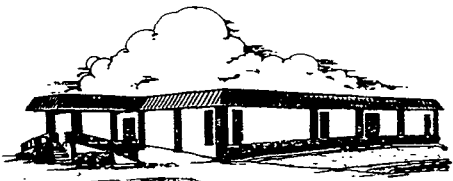
He told the people to build "a dwelling place of peace" in Senegal.

The source of peace is reconciliation in God, he said.

"But this peace is not realized without the commitment of human beings.

"Unite your efforts to obtain the best fruits of the fertile soil. Work so that the poor will no longer be abandoned, so that your children can grow in hope, so that the sick receive necessary care."

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