




OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
OIFIG AN ARD-RÚNAÍ, AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRTE DE

Mr Fathna Murphy
Commissioner
Garda Síochána
Garda Headquarters
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8

JFMR Note: All redactions in this document were carried out by the Department of Justice

16 November 2009

Dear Commissioner, *Fathna*

On 5 November 2009 I met with a delegation of women who had been in Magdalen and other Laundries run by religious orders. Their spokesperson was 

They were basically looking for an apology and redress from the State for their treatment in the religious institutions. It was pointed out to them that there was no statute of limitations in this jurisdiction for criminal offences and if any one considers that a criminal offence was committed against them, that person is free to make a complaint to the Garda Síochána for investigation. From what was said at the meeting there was no indication that any of them wish to make a formal complaint of criminal behaviour against them.

However they had a strong view that there had not been a proper investigation in respect of the bodies exhumed in 1993 from the site of a former Magdalen laundry at High Park, Drumcondra. None of the women in question had been at this Magdalen Laundry. When questioned they did not make any specific allegation of foul play, had no direct knowledge of events but implied that the circumstances were such that some of deaths could have been the result of negligence or unlawful acts or at a minimum that the deaths were not properly reported.

I am conscious that complaints of this nature were made before but I would ask if you could have the papers reviewed and advise us of the outcome of that review.

Yours sincerely

Seán Aylward
Secretary General