

The humble petition of the undersigned, showeth:-

1. The signers of this petition have no sympathy with the actions of Roger Casement in Germany, but they hope the Government will deeply consider, not along the legal aspect of the case, and the anger caused by acts hostile to the Empire in time of War, but also the larger and deeper considerations of policy, which may result from the carrying out of the full measure of punishment which the legal tribunal has exacted. The relations of the Irish people to the Empire are of more importance than the personality of the man who has been arraigned for treason.
2. The Capital City of Ireland has suffered severely as the result of the late disturbances; large areas of the City have been laid in ruins, and the material damage has produced wide spread unemployment and distress. This distress has roused public feeling to a state of intense excitement, and a general feeling of unrest has spread to classes not previously affected.
3. In addition to the sufferings caused by the destruction of property in Dublin, a great number of people have been arrested, both in Dublin and the Provinces, and deported to England. Their relatives and friends are uncertain as to their treatment, and in many cases their families have no means of support, so that the affects of the rebellion, which was confined to Dublin and two small districts, have been spread into every corner of Ireland.
4. The actual leaders of the Rebellion in Ireland were executed immediately after its suppression, and a general feeling pervaded this country and abroad, that enough blood had been shed. It is true that the special circumstances of Roger Casement's case make it impossible to differentiate in his favour; but time has elapsed since the acts of rebellion, and this though not considered in law, makes a great human difference. The reaction in public sentiment which was undoubtedly caused by the punishments inflicted, ought to be allowed to settle. Your Petitioners feel that another execution so long after will rouse popular feeling and prevent the quiet acceptance of the new measure for the Government of Ireland. Whatever gratitude this measure might evoke, will be countered by another act of severity, and the new government will have new difficulties to face for which it is in no way responsible.
5. Inexcusable as Roger Casement's actions in this matter may be, it must be remembered that he has performed great services to the Empire and Humanity by his work in the Congo and Putumayo. His life has been spent serving the country in fever stricken regions in West Africa and Brazil, where his health was permanently impaired. Returning to Ireland sick and broken with disease after long years of exile, he found a state of affairs existing two or three years ago which might easily distract his mind, and upset his judgement.

Your Petitioners do not wish to draw any comparisons which might seem invidious, but they venture to express the belief that if clemency were shewn it could be justified by abundant precedent.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the extreme penalty of death may not be inflicted upon Roger Casement.