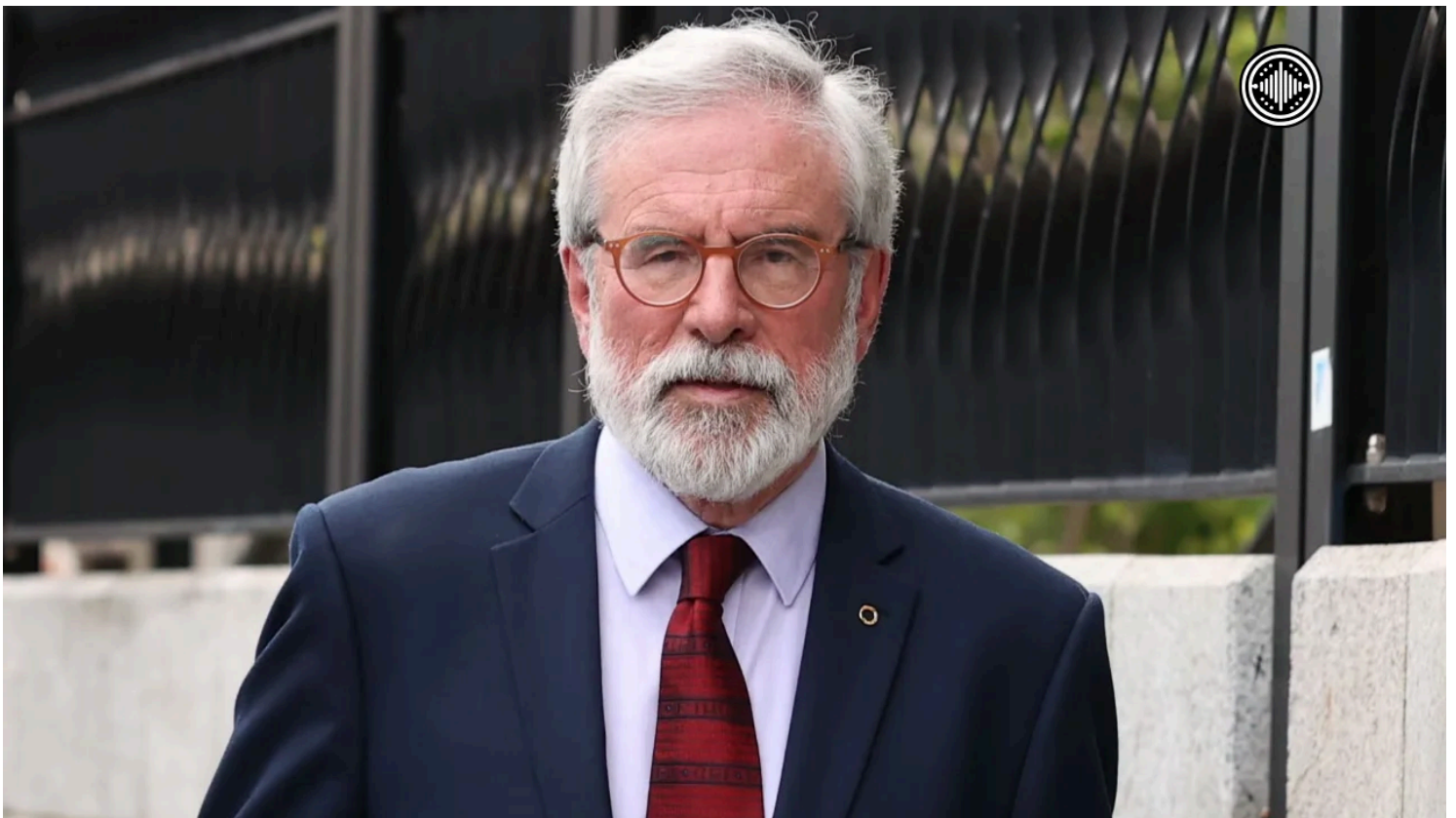


## UK Government Moves to Block Gerry Adams' Internment Compensation Following Court Ruling

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The UK government is preparing to introduce new legislation that would prevent former Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams from receiving compensation related to his internment without trial during the 1970s.

This move comes in response to a 2020 Supreme Court ruling, which found that Adams's detention was unlawful because the interim custody order used to authorize his imprisonment had not been personally signed by the Secretary of State, as required by law. The ruling raised the possibility of compensation for Adams and hundreds of other former internees, prompting concern within government circles and renewed scrutiny over how the state manages the legacy of the Northern Ireland conflict.

At the time of Adams' internment, the British government operated a system of detention without trial as part of its efforts to suppress paramilitary activity during the Troubles. The Supreme Court decision was seen by many as a technical victory that could open the door to wider legal challenges and financial claims. While a clause in the previous Legacy Act, passed in 2023, sought to block such payouts, that provision is no longer in place following recent legislative changes. Ministers are now working to close that gap through new primary legislation.

Northern Ireland Secretary Hilary Benn confirmed the government's intent to introduce legislation that would reaffirm the legal framework around internment orders and prevent potential compensation payments. He emphasized that the move was not only about financial responsibility but also about upholding the integrity of government procedures during a difficult period in British and Irish history. The decision has received support from unionist parties and other political figures who argue that any compensation would be inappropriate given Adams's past association with republicanism and the wider context of the conflict.

Opposition Leader Sir Keir Starmer has also indicated that Labour would back efforts to stop the payout. He stated that every available legal route should be explored to ensure public funds are not used in ways that could be perceived as rewarding unlawful activity or revisiting deeply contentious events without due context.

While the government's move may limit one avenue of redress for former detainees, it raises broader questions about handling historic grievances. Legal experts warn that up to 1,500 former internees could file claims, and some human rights advocates argue that blanket legislative responses could undermine access to justice.

As the issue returns to Parliament, the debate over compensation reflects the ongoing struggle to reconcile accountability, legality, and legacy in post-conflict Northern Ireland.