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WHAT TWO YEARS IN AUSTRALIA TAUGHT ME

Laura Kennedy
Life



> Before she was led to the other end of the plane, the woman said to me: 'I hope you're not going to write about this for The Irish Times!' I merely smiled back. In this business, you've got to be ruthless

Seán Moncrieff
Life





WILL RYANAIR HAVE TO FOLLOW AER LINGUS AND CUT FLIGHTS?

John McManus
Business Opinion

Kinahan expected to face single criminal charge

State plans to use evidence it says proves Dubliner has been cartel leader for years

Many of alleged crimes relate to years-long Kinahan-Hutch feud

CONOR LALLY
Crime and Security Editor

Daniel Kinahan is set to go on trial at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on a single criminal charge, The Irish Times has learned.

The State plans to produce evidence it says proves the 48-year-old Dubliner has been the leader of the Kinahan cartel for years as its undisputed director of operations.

Gardaí believe they have secured evidence proving Kinahan has been in an unparalleled position of power and influence at the top of Irish organised crime, controlling and directing other senior criminal figures, with most of the evidence relating to the period from 2015 to 2017.

The case will involve other evidence going back a number of years to the period Kinahan first became involved in a dispute with former cartel associate Gary Hutch, who was shot dead in Spain in September 2015.

The prosecution will set out how that dispute began, resulting in the Hutch faction acrimoniously leaving the Kinahan cartel, and both sides feuding in the years that followed.

Just one charge, directing the activities of a criminal organisation, has been approved by the Director of Public Prosecutions against Daniel Kinahan, arising from a Garda inquiry completed in the summer of 2023.

That charge carries a term of life imprisonment on conviction.

Though his father and cartel founder, Christy Kinahan, and his brother, Christopher jnr, who live in Dubai, have yet to face charges, they remain under investigation by the Garda and international law enforcement.

Rewards of up to $5 million (€4.25 million) for information leading to the arrest and convictions of the Kinahans remain on offer from US law enforcement.

Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly said yesterday the arrest of Daniel Kinahan in Dubai last Friday, on foot of an extradition request from the Republic, had come about after years of work by the Garda's Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, which is led by Det Chief Supt Séamus Boland.

Former assistant commissioner John O'Driscoll, who retired in 2022 and died in September 2024, had also helped secure vital international co-operation to target the cartel, with former commissioner Drew Harris also heavily involved.

"This work resulted in an international coalition including An Garda Síochána, the US treasury department, US homeland security, the DEA [drugs enforcement administration], FBI, the United Kingdom's national crime agency and Europol coming together four years ago to disrupt and dismantle the Kinahan organised crime gang," said Kelly, who insisted that international investigation was continuing.

Encrypted devices

Kinahan, who has lived in Dubai since 2016 when the Hutch gang tried to murder him at the Regency Hotel in Dublin, has been in custody since his arrest by Dubai police last Friday. It is expected he will remain in custody there until his extradition, which could take months.

According to sources familiar with the case, some of the evidence against him is from encrypted devices used by the cartel.

Many of the crimes Kinahan will be alleged to have directed are violent offences committed or planned during the Kinahan-Hutch feud.

The case against him will also centre on the cartel's core drug-dealing business, with evidence related to drug trafficking and money laundering set to feature.

Gardaí appear most confident about the evidence that will be produced to support the allegation that Kinahan directed feud-related violence.

Messages have been found on a number of encrypted devices seized by gardaí during feud-related arrest operations in Dublin in 2017.



Falling Up Aurianna wins art award

Aurianna Hanlon, a 16-year-old student at Loreto Secondary School in Kilkenny, has been named overall winner of the 72nd Texaco Children's Art Competition. She also took first prize in the 16-18 age category. Her winning work, for which she receives a prize of €1,500, is entitled Falling Up and is a self-portrait created using acrylic paint.

Photograph: Nick Bradshaw

Iran dismisses US 'ploy' after Trump extends truce

MARK WEISS
in Jerusalem

US president Donald Trump announced in a social media post last night that he was indefinitely extending a ceasefire with Iran at the request of Pakistan, which has been mediating talks, until Tehran responded to the United States's negotiating positions or until discussions reached a dead end.

"I have therefore directed our Military to continue the Blockade and, in all other respects, remain ready and able, and will therefore extend the Ceasefire until such time as their proposal is submitted, and discussions are concluded, one way or the other," he wrote on Truth Social.

The move bought time for the US and Iran to continue pursuing a nuclear deal to end the war.

However, an adviser to Iran's parliament speaker and top negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said Trump's ceasefire extension was a "ploy to buy time" for a surprise strike.

The adviser said in a post on X that the continuation of the US blockade on Iranian ports was "no different from bombardment and must be met with a military response".

Earlier yesterday, JD Vance called off his planned trip to Islamabad, citing a lack of response from Tehran about whether they would participate, according to people familiar with the matter.

The US vice-president could travel immediately should Iran respond, the sources said. Yesterday afternoon, Vance was seen arriving at the White House for emergency meetings.

Trump's announcement extending the ceasefire marks a more conciliatory tone after he spent the weekend telling advisers he did not want to extend the ceasefire unless Iran reopened the Strait of Hormuz, a position he repeated in an interview with CNBC yesterday.

"I expect to be bombing because I think that's a better attitude to go in with," Trump said. "We're ready to go. The military is raring to go."

Before Trump's announcement of a ceasefire extension, Ghalibaf, who is expected to head the Iranian delegation if and when peace talks resume, said Tehran would not attend negotiations under threat, warning they were "prepared to reveal new cards on the battlefield". Only three ships sailed through the Strait of Hormuz yesterday as the US continued to blockade Iranian ports and Iran maintained its closure of the strategic waterway. The strait handles about one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supply. – Additional reporting: Guardian/Reuters

People return to Beirut suburbs to assess damage: page 6

Teacher ended up in car chase after eating cannabis cake

TOM TUITE

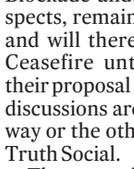
A music teacher who said she unwittingly ate a cannabis-laced cake and ended up in a Garda pursuit, during which she drove in reverse for 800m on the wrong side of a Dublin road, has been fined €700 and banned from driving.

Marta Burns (47), of The Downs, Alderbrook, Ashbourne, Co Meath, mistook Garda members for thieves when they approached her car on Emmet Road, Dublin 8, at about midnight on April 29th last.

She "took off" at speed and called 999 to report a crime when they gave chase, Dublin District Court heard.

Sgt James Ward outlined the facts of the case after Burns pleaded guilty to dangerous driving with cannabis in her system. He said local drug unit officers were on patrol and saw Burns's car parked at the Emmet Road-Spa Road junction, where she was engaging with an unknown woman.

The gardaí activated their blue lights and Garda Conor Conway and another officer approached Burns, who was in the car with her son, and identified themselves with their official badges. She refused to engage with the officers and "then placed her vehicle into reverse" and proceeded up Spa Road before going on to St Vincent Street West.



Marta Burns pleaded guilty to dangerous driving with cannabis in her system

Burns then sped off from gardaí, took a right onto Emmet Road, reached the junction of Tyrconnell Road before stopping. The gardaí again exited their vehicle and attempted to open her car door. However, Burns "proceeded to reverse the vehicle back up Emmet Road on the wrong side of the road" with oncoming traffic approaching. She continued reversing for about 800m and collided with an occupied vehicle.

Defence counsel pleaded for leniency, saying the accused attended a party earlier and ate some cake she was not aware had cannabis in it.

When Burns got through to the emergency service call operator to report what she believed were thieves following her, she was told it was actually gardaí pursuing her, the court heard.

Burns was given a two-year driving ban and fined €700 by Judge Treasa Kelly.

Weather

Dry and breezy day for most with sunny spells. Highs of 11-14 degrees.

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