

Brazil agrees to extradite fugitive Lynn

Solicitor will face €80m fraud charges

By Matt Sandy

FUGITIVE solicitor Michael Lynn could be back in Ireland within weeks after Brazil's supreme court last night approved his extradition.

Judge Marco Aurélio Mello granted an Irish request that he should be returned to Dublin to face 33 charges relating to an alleged €80million mortgage fraud.

The decision comes seven years after Lynn left Ireland and more than 16 months after he was arrested near his beach villa in the Brazilian city of Recife.

After a long legal process, throughout which Lynn has been denied bail, the judge delivered his verdict to three of his colleagues at the court in Brasilia. The four-



Bail request denied: Michael Lynn

Lynn is keen to remain in an overcrowded Brazilian jail.

Antenor Madruga, the lawyer for the Irish Government, said: 'The judge saw that the legal requirements for extradition were reached so the decision was inevitable.'

He did not believe that Lynn would be extradited by the end of the year, he added.

The decision is the most significant step in the seven-year battle to bring Lynn back to Ireland, after he failed to attend a hearing at the High Court in Dublin in 2007.

He had debts of €80million but his company was said to have 148 properties, 154 bank accounts and assets worth more than €50million.

He arrived in Brazil in 2012 and lived in a villa near a beach, taught English, joined a country club and dabbled in the property market.

In August 2013, Brazilian federal police, acting on behalf of Interpol, swooped at a shopping centre near

his home. The businessman has now spent 16 months in the Cotel prison with murderers and rapists. The prison, in the grim industrial outskirts of Recife, has a capacity of 700 but has up to 2,400 inmates held there. His request for bail was denied. Judge Mello this year turned down a long-running campaign by Lynn to be transferred to a private hospital after he said he might have tuberculosis.

In his verdict, the judge put three conditions on Lynn's extradition to Ireland: in the event that Lynn is convicted on the charges in Ireland, he should not be given a life sentence, his time served in a Brazilian jail should be discounted from any jail time, and he should not serve more than 30 years.

While there is no extradition treaty between the two countries, a temporary bilateral agreement was struck, meaning Lynn can be extradited, even though he and his wife, Brid Murphy, obtained permanent residency after she bore a child in Brazil.

She has stayed in Recife and later gave birth to their second child. The young family had lived in a villa with swimming pool, barbecue area and security system.

Before his arrest, Lynn spent 13 hours a week teaching English at the Britanic Piedade school, where his 'humble charm' was valued.

He would also visit the nearby office of Quantum Consulting and Ventures, a €500,000 property company he had registered.

Former justice minister Alan Shatter, who began extradition talks with Brazil, said in a statement last night: 'I am pleased that the process I initiated as Minister for Justice to extradite Michael Lynn from Brazil to Ireland to face serious criminal charges has proved successful.'

news@daily@mail.ie

Nurse inquiry hears of 'pills found in bin bag'

By Kevin Keane

MEDICATION intended for elderly patients was found dumped in a refuse sack at a private nursing home, a fitness to practice hearing has heard.

The nursing board inquiry concerning director of care Mary Elizabeth Mealy heard how 20 tablets were found amid wipes and creams in a black plastic bag which was left in the laundry of Thomond Lodge in August 2012.

Ms Mealy faces charges of professional misconduct arising out of the allegation that she failed to administer prescribed medication to patients.

Ms Heather Neary, an accounts administrator at the home in Ballymahon, Co. Longford, yesterday gave evidence claiming nurse Sarah Murray came to her office and said she had found a



Charges: Ms Mealy yesterday

black bag and asked Ms Neary to come with her and bring a camera. Ms Neary said she counted the tablets that she could see while home owner Seán Kelly took photographs. She said there were approximately 20 tablets.

A staff nurse, Anna Joy, told the inquiry that when she went to

administer medicine she found that one patient's night medication was missing. Ms Joy said Ms Mealy told her to 'sort out the problem'. Ms Joy said: 'I took some sleeping tablets from the stock and gave him [the patient] the tablets.'

Counsel for Ms Mealy, Ciarán Craven said Ms Mealy will dispute Ms Joy's evidence that his client told Ms Joy to 'sort it out'.

The owner of the nursing home, Seán Kelly, was also questioned by Mr Craven about a Health Information and Quality Authority report from 2010.

Mr Craven said the report found that there was no system in place to check medication when it was received in Thomond Lodge and that there was no process for auditing the effectiveness of medication procedures. The inquiry continues tomorrow.

Dr Mark Dooley



MORAL MATTERS

The greatest Christmas gift is our time

IT is the little things that make Christmas: little things that cost nothing but that fill this season full of joy. These are the things that draw us away from the frenzy and set the heart aglow.

They are little things like hearing the children sing carols from their nativity play. The purity and innocence of their voices reminds us that Christmas belongs to 'these little ones'. To live this season through them is to savour its true beauty.

My sons wake each morning with magic in their eyes. They bound out of bed, light up the tree and huddle around the Advent calendar. Even at this early hour, their excitement is infectious.

As the dawn breaks, you realise this is truly a season of the spirit. The winter sun streams through the window as the boys count down the days. The air is cold yet there is such warmth in the world.

These are all little things but they are the most memorable. They are the moments to which we shall cling as the years take their toll. The giggles, the golden sunrise and the chirping robin cost nothing but they mean everything.

The shortest day will soon be upon us. It is a day of shadows when we celebrate the dawn of fresh light. As the sun settles, we sit in candlelight and raise a glass to brighter times.

It is a simple ceremony yet one full of hope. For this is a time of faith and hope: hope that, however dark our days, they will soon be made new. Christmas begins on the shortest day, for it is then that the shadows subside to reveal something radiant.

Little things, such as enjoying Charles Dickens, prove that there is splendour in simplicity. What would this season be without Ebenezer Scrooge, Oliver Twist or Pip from Great Expectations? Take some time to read through A Christmas Carol and you will learn how to honour Christmas in your heart.

Christmas never passes in the Dooley household without at least one viewing of The Muppet Christmas Carol. We even possess the soundtrack, every word of which our boys know by heart. I have seen this film a hundred times yet it still causes me to weep. If anything has taught my children 'how to keep Christmas well', this delightful movie is it.

To keep Christmas well is to remember that it is a season of love, one in which we extend the hand of hospitality to all who call. I have found through experience that the greatest gift we can give people at this time of year is our company.

Christmas is not about convenience but about going beyond our usual limits. It is about offering others our

time, about slowing down and providing peace to those for whom it is rare. At its best, it brings light and comfort to every life.

To sit and share a drink with a friend, a loved one or even a stranger is to give them some time. And what a precious gift that is. It is something priceless that simply cannot be purchased.

In a world that is constantly on the go, it is not easy to give time. Yet, time is all that most people yearn for at Christmas. They simply desire a good chat, a hearty laugh and a soothing smile.

Little things they are but without them many lives would be without hope. The elderly relation, young children and those without family cry out for our time.

To give them a little is truly to honour Christmas in the heart.

Most of us glide through life in a spirit of forgetfulness. We take no time to remember good times or bad. However, when we arrive at journey's end and gaze wistfully across the years, we shall inevitably think of Christmas.

We shall recall the excitement of Santa, Midnight Mass with our parents and those glorious moments spent around the table. We shall remember our own children as they scurried down the stairs on Christmas morning, as they played through the day and went to sleep with a smile.

We shall cherish the memories of our grandchildren coming to visit on Christmas Eve, their little eyes full of expectation.

WE shall remember those things because they are simply unforgettable. They are the silver lining of life, the moments that make it all worthwhile. In giving of our time, we get back the perfect present: memories that will never fade.

Christmas is comprised of little things, of those things that the passage of time cannot erode. They are the things that remind us that we are loved and are capable of returning it in equal measure. And in those things we find our redemption, for they bring out the very best in us.

So if you have any to spare, remember to give and take some time. Take time to notice those little things that make this season so spectacular.

Give time to those who pine for it, to those who yearn for little acts of love.

For when we give of ourselves, we receive back a gift that will neither date nor decay. This priceless possession is nothing less than the satisfaction of knowing that we have kept Christmas well.

And having kept Christmas well, we can rest assured that we have lived well.

mark.dooley@daily@mail.ie