

Professor calls for end to 'biased' bullying probe

A PROFESSOR at NUI Galway has appealed to the High Court to stop a 'biased' investigation against him after he was accused of bullying and career sabotage by a colleague.

Heinz-Peter Nasheuer, a professor in biochemistry, is one of ten university employees facing a formal complaint by the colleague, the court heard.

Prof. Nasheuer complained to Justice Marie Baker that the investigation is being conducted by someone who previously represented the same employee in a union dispute.

Mark Connaughton SC, for Prof. Nasheuer, said the first notification he received of a complaint by the colleague –

By Helen Bruce

who is not being publicly named – was in an email from the HR department on December 1, 2016. The email referred to a number of complaints about 'bullying', counsel said.

Prof. Nasheuer had emailed back, saying he 'did not understand how he had ended up in this' and that he felt 'personally threatened'.

He asked for more information.

Mr Connaughton said it then became apparent that the complaint had been first 'created' in April 2013, and given to the university in April 2014.

He said that, in April 2017, the

professor was informed that Janet Hughes had been appointed to lead the investigation on foot of a Labour Court decision.

Prof. Nasheuer then discovered that Ms Hughes had set the terms of reference for the investigation, having spoken to the complainant but not to him, the court heard.

'Ms Hughes had represented [the colleague] many years earlier as a trade union official. He [Prof. Nasheuer] was completely in the dark about this.'

Counsel said his client believed the investigation was biased against him.

The case continues on September 13.

Dr Mark Dooley



MORAL MATTERS

Communists offer paradise, but deliver hell

WHEN I was in school, we had to write an essay on 'man's inhumanity to man'. It was the time of the Cold War, a time when we faced the real prospect of nuclear war. That we have reached that point once again is not surprising in a world where communists still govern.

Even as children, my school mates and I were acutely aware of the distinction between good and evil. There was no attempt on our part to mitigate the crimes of communists. As far as we were concerned, they and their rotten system were wicked.

Because we read the grim statistics, we knew that Joseph Stalin, Pol Pot and Chairman Mao were the greatest mass killers in human history. Theirs was not the new 'heaven on earth' as promised in their demented speeches and pamphlets. It was, if anything, hell on earth.

So, when we wrote about 'man's inhumanity to man', we wrote about that diabolical experiment called 'communism'. We wrote about Pol Pot's Cambodian 'killing fields', about the 'gulag archipelago' and the frenzied terror of Mao's 'cultural revolution'. We wrote about mass murder.

North Korea is a remnant of that benighted era when communism spread like a virus across half the globe. It provides ample proof of a thoroughly evil system: starvation, paranoia, death camps and people without hope. That it has been ruled by a single family since its inception shows that communist despots are royalty in everything but name.

To my children's generation, North Korea is a world away. To them, it is barely conceivable that, in my childhood, the people of Berlin were terrorised by a menacing wall that signalled the end of the free world. And in the darkness behind that wall, there was a secret police force called the Stasi which was even more terrifying than the Gestapo.

After World War II, Winston Churchill said that communism will, by its very nature, always lead to a Gestapo. For that is the only way that people can be forced to live without faith, culture, hope and true liberty. It is the only way that human distinctions can be denied and the human spirit suppressed.

The Berlin Wall was a tangible

reminder of the horrors of something that sounded good on paper. However, an idea can only be judged by how it works in practice. From the very beginning, when Lenin called for the murder of socialist moderates, that idea was doomed to disaster.

And yet, nearly 30 years after the fall of that monstrous wall, we are still threatened by a communist despot. In Britain, Jeremy Corbyn praises Karl Marx, and promotes many of the policies which led to ruin elsewhere. Here in Ireland, we have elected politicians totally wedded to communist ideology, people who still use all the old socialist slogans as though they were not emblems of evil.

Is it that we have forgotten those beautiful scenes in 1989, when our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe decided enough was enough? Is it that we have forgotten how they smashed that wall with their bare hands and fled across the ruins to a new life of liberty? Is it that we cannot hear the millions who, from their mass graves, still cry out for justice?

Two of my friends were arrested by the communist dictatorship in Prague during the 1980s. The philosophers Roger Scruton and Jacques Derrida were detained and beaten by the secret police for bringing a message of hope to those with very little.

UPON his release, which had to be secured by French president François Mitterrand, Derrida remarked: 'Until one is touched by something like this one cannot imagine what a paradise of liberty we live in.'

Those are words which should resound in our ears when we encounter politicians posturing as Marxists or communists or socialists. For this is a politics the true monument of which is the gulag, the Stasi, the Berlin Wall. It is a politics of death, the living embodiment of which is the maniacal Kim Jong-un, a man who thinks nothing of murdering members of his own family.

The promise of heaven soon became hell and we lived in the shadow of that awful spectacle for 70 years. And then, we watched awestruck as they tore down the statues of their oppressors and seized the freedom they were so long denied.

Marxism, communism and socialism were all names denoting a truly evil experiment. That anyone should still subscribe to them is simply shameful.

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