

Treatment of medics in Bahrain

Thu, Jun 23, 2011

Madam, – I write as a graduate and former member of the academic staff of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and as one who has written several books and many articles upholding the proud traditions of these institutions, to express my sadness and sense of shame, indeed betrayal, at seeing the presidents of both these institutions on a dais above the 1784 motto of RCSI *Consilio Manuque* (Scholarship and Dexterity) and beneath the banner “Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister” at the graduation ceremony of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland- Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) on June 13th, 2011.

This action betrays the reality that doctors, some of whom are graduates of RCSI, and nurses are in prison where some have been tortured and all of who face serious sentences, while the Royal Colleges excuse themselves from lending support by claiming to be non-political organisations.

Such an attitude is anathema to those of us who believe that the traditions of medicine must be upheld however unpleasant the consequence, which in this case is simply a large investment by RCSI in the medical school in Bahrain.

I can do little other than protest to the council and fellows of RCSI but I can express my concern in a more direct way to RCPI by resigning as a fellow. I have today written to the president, Dr John Donohoe tendering my resignation in protest

against the failure of either Royal College to support colleagues who have been prevented from performing the fundamental duty that doctors are trained for, namely treating the sick and wounded.

I hope others who share my sentiments and who are fellows of both colleges might show their disapproval by acting accordingly. – Yours, etc,

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