

Poetry Ireland Review, 2024, 142, p. 77-78

Silence Would be Treason

i.m. Ken Saro-Wiwa, executed 1995

by Helen Fallon

2. Letters from the Breadbasket

Port Harcourt 1995

Detained at the pleasure of a puppet president,
armed with pen, he sifts words into letters.
They escape through heavy doors in breadbaskets.
Abacha, talons stained with oil and blood,
dismisses Clinton's call for clemency,
crushes Saro-Wiwa's slender bones to dust,
not knowing his legacy of letters, to a Sister
from Fermanagh, will free his shackles, fan the flame
for justice around the globe.