

"Let the Fight Go On"

Patsy O'Hara

May 1981

**I.C.A.
1913**

**I.N.L.A.
1974**



SAOIRSE GO DEO
// //

**Songs and Poems of the
Irish Republican Socialist
Movement**

"We are England's political prisoners but Ireland is the oldest political prisoner of all and her imprisonment is the most blatant of all England's crimes."

--Irish Political Prisoner

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Compiled and Designed by Ray Collins

Project Co-Sponsors: James Daly and Maoilíosa Costello

Foreward

"No Revolutionary movement is complete without its poetical expression. If such a movement has caught hold of the imagination of the masses, they will seek a vent in song for the aspirations, the fears and hopes, the loves and hatreds engendered by the struggle. Until the movement is marked by the joyous, defiant singing of revolutionary songs, it lacks one of the distinctive marks of a popular revolutionary movement: it is a dogma of a few, and not the faith of the multitude."

So stated James Connolly in his introduction to Songs of Freedom in 1907. Indeed, in Ireland, with its fervent revolutionary traditions, there is an ever-growing wealth of music and song that has been born of the generations of struggle for self-determination, and the bitter class battles between Labour and Capital.

This treasury of song not only records the events of our historical turbulent relationship between oppressed and oppressor, but also touches the pith of our human feelings and gives vibrant expression to our demands for justice. It embodies all the strong and passionate emotions that make up our love of freedom. We are heirs to all those great songs from McCall, Davis, Kickham and Connell through to the present day. From 'Follow me up to Carlow', 'Boulavogue', 'Maid of Slieve na mBan', 'Foggy Dew', 'Dublin 1913', 'Red Flag', through to 'Sean Sabhat', 'Tom Williams' and 'The H-Block Song'.

All these songs are indeed "the faith of the multitude" and not the "dogma of a few."

The songs, poems, and writings contained in this booklet have been born as a consequence of Britain's barbaric rule in Ireland, and the courageous and determined resistance of the Irish people against such barbarity. Much of the material comes from the period of the hunger strike in the H-Blocks of 1981.

These writings are the product of strong independent minds--young and not so young--the product of minds that yearn for freedom and justice; that detest repression and corruption; that abhor the torture, murder and imprisonment of the freedom-loving Irish by British thugs and murderers.

These writings are the product of Irish political prisoners, of ex-prisoners, of relatives of dead hunger strikers, of dead volunteers, of those engaged in the fight for national liberation and socialism--in the fight to free our country from British domination.

These writings testify to the greatest strength of the Irish freedom fighter --the strength of love and of song--that indomitable spirit has always been ably and fervently portrayed in Irish music, song and poetry. Bobby Sands referred to it as the "Spirit of Freedom".

It has been our intention for some time to record some of those songs, now after many set-backs we have done just that and also printed this lyric booklet as well. If you do not have a copy of the cassette which is produced in conjunction with this songbook then write to the addresses printed on the back cover of this booklet. The cassette is entitled "Let the Fight Go On/SAOIRSE GO DEO."

Having started with a quotation I will finish with one. It is from a talk given by Nora Connolly O'Brien several years ago to the Old IRA Debating and Literary Society on "Songs, poems and ballads of 1916":

"Life is of no value, can be nothing more than a dreary, empty existence unless based on an ideal and the struggle to achieve that ideal. Without such, this life must be empty and meaningless. I truly do believe that a knowledge of our patriotic songs and ballads would enrich the lives of our younger generation, give them a purpose in their lives, and relieve them of the feelings of frustration and 'not-worth-whileness' which spoil their enjoyment of the fullness of their youth . . . They can learn of the richness of their country's past, of the courage of its people in the past, who strove to ensure that their country should enjoy the stature of full nationhood. That knowledge can spur them to determine that they and their children, and all the children of the nation to come, shall enjoy all the fullness of living in a country completely free and unfettered."

All proceeds from this project will go to the Republican Socialist Prisoners Welfare Fund. --R.C.

The Citizen Army

The Irish Citizen Army was formed in 1913 initially as a workers militia to defend against the brutal and savage attacks of the Royal Irish Constabulary during the Great Lock-Out of 1913. The police were defending the interests of the Dublin bosses led by William Martin Murphy, owner of the Irish 'Independent' daily newspaper, proprietor of the Imperial Hotel, and the Director of the Dublin United Tramways Company.

Sean O'Casey, the playwright and secretary of the I.C.A. proposed a re-organization of the I.C.A. This was achieved at a meeting in Liberty Hall, Dublin, on March 22nd, 1914, when the following constitution was adopted:

1/ That the first and last principle of the Irish Citizen Army is the avowal that the ownership of Ireland, moral and material, is vested of right in the people of Ireland.

2/ That the I.C.A. shall stand for the absolute unity of Irish nationhood, and shall support the rights and liberties of the democracies of all nations.

3/ That one of its objects shall be to sink all differences of birth, property and creed under the common name of the Irish people.

4/ That the Citizen Army shall be open to all who accept the principle of equal opportunities for the Irish people.

5/ That before being enrolled, every applicant must, if eligible, be a member of his/her Trades Union, such a union to be recognised by the Irish Trades Union Congress.

The Irish Citizen Army, along with the Irish Volunteers and the I.R.B., took part in the Easter Rising of 1916 under the leadership of James Connolly. Connolly was also Commandant General Rebel Forces, General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, editor of the Irish Worker and Vice-President of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic.

The poem 'The Citizen Army' was written by the poet Liam MacGabhann.

The Citizen Army

Words by Liam MacGabhann/Music by Ray Collins

The Citizen Army is out to-day and if you wonder why
Go ask the Lords of the banking house if their cash returns be high.
'Tisn't the bosses who bear the brunt, 'tisn't you and I
But those women and kids whose tears were hid as the strikers went stumbling by.
The docker loads 200 tons in his master's ships per day
At night the docker's daughter bends her weary limbs to pray
From the old North Wall to Liberty Hall was a deadline of unskilled
They heaved 'n' hauled when the bosses called and stopped when the bosses willed.

The Citizen Army is out to-day and if you wonder why
Jim Larkin came this way to nail the bosses lie
That the iron gyves on their limbs and lives would crush them 'till they die
Those women and kids whose tears were hid as the strikers went marching by
The docker and carter and heaver of coal were only the backwash then
'Till Larkin built that union up and the bosses feared again
From the old North Wall to Liberty Hall came that deadline of unskilled
In a new-born fight for the workers rights that the bosses thought they'd killed.

The Citizen Army is out to-day and if you wonder why
Go ask the troops in the master's pay if the blood on their guns be dry
Ah, well, they won where the baton and gun have swung where the dead ones lie
For the women and kids whose tears were hid as the wounded went staggering by
Jim Connolly watches ships sail out through flags at Kingstown Pier
And starving Dublin sends its toil of guard and fusilier
Food for the guns that over the world have thundered murder's peal
And Dublin's broken union men die first on Flanders Fields.

The Citizen Army

The Citizen Army was formed in 1914 largely as a military unit to defend against the threat of invasion from the south. It was organized by a group of men who were active in the Irish nationalist movement. The group was led by James Connolly, a well-known Irish nationalist and socialist. The group was active in the Dublin area and was known for its involvement in the 1916 Easter Rising.

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For his was the voice of the worker and justice for all was his creed
and he told us "arise in your greatness, and conquer this world full of greed."

Not bigots nor hate can divide us, as we fight for the flag of the free
Not murder nor armies defeat us when we strike out for our liberty
And his voice it came back from the coffin, as I shouldered it close to my cheek
"Go on - ever onwards my comrades - 'til we build up that nation we seek."

"And no power in this world can stop you - the assassin has failed can't you see
And remember as you bury my body, my spirit as always is free.
And I stride along there beside you, as you march on to your destiny
And remember I was willing to trade it, my life for your liberty."

It was cold when we buried that hero, and many's the heart cried with pain
For we knew as we buried our comrade, we'd not see his likes e'er again
But his words seemed to ring in the morning, as we slowly departed his grave
"Remember you were born to be free then, not quising, not lackey, not slave."

And my work in this life was an honour, so take up my struggle with pride
Doing that this cold day is beaten, and I, Seamus Costello, have not died.

Acknowledgements to John Gilligan and the *Seamus Costello Memorial Committee
for the above song and also the poem Seamus O Coistealbha by Cormac Breatnach.

*Seamus Costello Committee
c/o 39 Dollymount Park
Dollymount
Dublin 3

Youthful Homage

Following the death and funeral of Seamus Costello, a young poet then aged 14
composed the following lines as a tribute to his memory especially for Maoifosa
agus a clainn.

SEAMUS O COISTEALBHA

Written by Cormac Breatnach

Dúnmharafódh Séamus ar an gcéadaoin
'Ba thobann an nuacht é do na daoine
Bhí ómós is grá óna chomrádaí
Nuair a shíúileadar taobh leis an gcónra is a mhuintir

Bhí socraid Shéamais ar síúil ar an Satharn
'S bhí daoine ón tuaisceart a freastal ar an aifreann
Bhí mná agus páistí ó bhré ina láthair,
Thart ar trí mhíle is dóigh liom a bhí sa cheantar

Fear é Séamus a bhí macánta
Chomh maith leis sin bhí sé ionraic ina chuid oibre
Beidh sé deacair a'bhearna a ifonaidh.

Women of Armagh

There are about 30 women political prisoners in Armagh Jail serving sentences
ranging from 6 years to life imprisonment. Since November 1982 these women
have been subjected to the most barbaric sexual harassment of their bodies and
debasing of their integrity at the callous hands of their captors.

In excess of 2,000 strip searches have been carried out on these Irish women
political prisoners during the past 2½ years. [See section entitled Strip Searching

in Armagh Women's Prison on page 22].

A few years ago a black militant activist from the USA visited Belfast. During his stay he had a lengthy meeting-cum-interview with two mothers of Irish political prisoners. When the meeting was concluded I asked him what his impressions were. Straight away he replied--"I have just been talking with the core of the struggle." --How true his words are.--

The women engaged in the struggle for Irish freedom, and in particular, the women POWs in Armagh, are indeed the core of our fight for national liberation.

All too often their courage, dedication and unstinting determination is ignored and written out by men. This song is dedicated to the "core of the struggle".

I would like to thank Anne Marie (Loughrin) McKeever for her help and advice in the writing of this song.

Women of Armagh (Beidh Muid Saor)

Words & Music
by Ray Collins

Dedicated to women political prisoners in Armagh Jail
and jails throughout the world

Brave women of Armagh, determined and strong,
Victims of male violence, for far too long
Risen to fight, to free your land,
Of the British invader and all the other rotten bands
Freedom Fighters locked up in a cold filthy cell
You refuse to give in to that English hell.

Stripped naked and degraded by the scum of the land
In a small cold cubicle forced to stand
In front of (their) gawking eyes and groping hands
The cowardly weapons of humiliation of that wretched band of screws.

Despite the abuse, the beatings, the cover-ups, the lies,
Your spirit is strong, it will never die
Your message is clear for all to see
We're gonna have to fight if we really want to be free.

CHORUS:

Yes, we're gonna have to fight if we want to be free,
We're gonna have to fight if we want to be free.
Reform is no substitute for true liberty
We're gonna have to fight to gain our real destiny.

Stripped naked and degraded by the scum of the land
Vulnerable and alone in front of that cowardly band
Who abuse your body and treat you with scorn
Even searching your baby, to you just born.

CHORUS:

We shall be free. Beidh muid saor.
Beidh muid saor. Beidh muid saor.

Miriam Daly

Miriam Daly was a member of the Ard Comhairle (National Executive) of the Irish Republican Socialist Party when Seamus Costello was murdered. Her politics were very close to those of Seamus, and she was instrumental in seeing that Seamus was fittingly remembered and honoured, particularly with the unveiling of Seamus's memorial at Little Bray churchyard, Co. Wicklow, in 1979. For the occasion she wrote an historic oration which was delivered by her husband, James Daly. As the Costello Memorial booklet states: "Her tribute is in itself a tribute

to her own kindred spirit."

During her vibrant and profound political career she was chairperson of the IRSP, Secretary of the Murray Defence Committee, *Secretary of the Campaign Against the Free State Heavy Gang (who framed Mick Plunkett (General Secretary IRSP), Osgur Breathnach (Editor Starry Plough), and Brian McNally and Nicky Kelly), founder member of the Relatives Action Committee, Founding Chairperson of the Seamus Costello Memorial Committee and Chairperson of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee.

Miriam was a tireless and totally dedicated worker on behalf of Irish political prisoners. At the time of her death she was in the process of starting to write a history of Republicanism.

So it was that the enemies of our struggle for freedom saw Miriam and all that she stood for as a threat to their own evil, sectarian and bigoted existence. On "a fine June day in Belfast" in 1980 Miriam Daly was shot dead in her home in Andersonstown, by Loyalist fascists just as Seamus Costello had been gunned down by the reactionary elements of the Workers Party. (Her children Maire and Donal--10-year-old twins--returning from school, found her body lying in the hallway.)

James Daly wrote this very personal and emotive memorial to her life's work. I have arranged it to the air of 'The Curragh of Kildare', at James' request. The Curragh of Kildare is the place of Miriam's birth.

In Memory of a great Republican Socialist, academic, scholar and champion of Irish political prisoners.

*In 1976 the IRSP was involved in the broad campaign for the repeal of the death penalty in the 26 counties and in particular for the reprieve of Noel and Anne Murray who were awaiting execution. Their death sentences were eventually commuted to life imprisonment.

Miriam Daly

Words by James Daly/Arranged by Ray Collins

It's a fine June day in Belfast, and the summer's come at last,
The children from school will soon be free, their little hearts are glad,
But mine is very sad,
For my country's oppressed from sea to sea.

CHORUS:

To my birthplace I'll repair, to the Curragh of Kildare
For our struggle there I'll plead for sympathy.

For 800 years and more the Irish people have suffered war
Famine and threat of genocide, under orange bigotry and British tyranny
Our spirit has often all but died -- (CHORUS)

Those who love your countrymen and would see them once again
For the wearing of the green still have to die.
In the H-Blocks and Armagh on the blanket now they are
And for help across the border they all cry. (CHORUS)

From the South I heard your cry and I answered here am I
Your sufferin' and pain I will share,
I will stay here by your side, not let partition us divide.
And I appeal for all our people to care. (CHORUS)

Who are these men at the gate, with their faces full of hate
O, no, they mean to murder me.
Let my death help to unite Irish people in the fight.
To help end the cruelties of Irish history.

For no more I will repair to the Curragh of Kildare
For our struggle there to plead for sympathy.

"Twelve good men and true" as a jury to serve
Might cause the bigots on the bench to loose their flimsey arthritic nerves
A jury might find in favor of the "accused".
But in your royal, loyal statelet--you couldn't allow "justice" to be so abused.

CHORUS:

In this grand land of scholars and saints by the score
We don't need the bishops to tell us who the real Judases are anymore
We can do without their dogmas of all the wrongs and all the rights
When they've turned their backs on those who've refused to sell out the fight.

CHORUS:

*Now you've seen and heard the evidence, so what will you do?
Pretend the paid perjurers and show trials don't personally affect you?
But are you really so sure that your name won't end up on their lists
Are you really so sure that you won't be next?

*This song was originally written as a soundtrack for a video about the show trials
hence the reference to "seeing and hearing the evidence."

¹Hermion - Chief Constable R.U.C.

²Havers - Brit Attorney General

³Lowry - Lord Chief Justice N.I. Judiciary

Michael Devine

Michael Devine, from Derry City was the 10th and last hunger striker to die in the H Blocks in August 1981. Several months before his death Michael had smuggled out a letter "telling of the H Block horror" and appealing especially to trade unionists to support the demands of the prisoners. His letter was read out at support meetings and factories throughout Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Europe, Australia,² North America and Quebec.

It was read out to a mass meeting of workers who assembled at the gates of a plant in Dunmurray just outside Belfast--the white elephant factory of John DeLorean. Amongst those assembled workers was my good friend, a young Belfast shop-steward named Jackie Fitzpatrick. Three weeks later on August 20th Jackie finished his work on night shift and went home. Listening to the radio he learned of the death of Michael Devine. He returned to the factory to see what was doing. There, the workers had downed tools in unison without a formal meeting, and en masse walked out the factory gates towards West Belfast, --"in silent anger, we made a class protest."

Jackie Fitzpatrick and the rest of his comrades and friends later lost their jobs when the white elephant became a lame duck and John DeLorean moved from cars to cocaine.

It was around the episode of the letter being read at the factory gates and the mass walk-out that Jackie wrote this simple, powerful moving tribute to a great Irish Freedom Fighter.

Jackie was later to find himself behind bars charged on the word of paid perjurer and bought-again Christian, Kevin McGrady. He was subsequently released and beat the rap. He asked me to include the song on the cassette which I have done. My deepest thanks to Jackie for the song.

Michael Devine

Words & Music by Jackie Fitzpatrick

On Mick's 42nd day of H/S the phenomenon he dreaded most occurred. Due to severe vitamin deficiency, he lost muscular control of his eyes, which gyrated wildly in their sockets. He had spells of dizziness and vomited mucous. After 3 days this had passed . . . but the end was near. By the 7th week, 49 days without food, Michael's speech was slurred, he lost his sense of smell, and he complained of talking echoes in his head. By the 56th day, five days before his death, Michael was blind and could barely hear. He communicated

with his family by squeezing their hands. After he had been without food for some weeks, Michael wrote to a friend: "I do not wish to die, for I have too much to live for. Yet, in what manner must we live? If we have not our dignity, then what have we? I am what I am--a human being. . . a man with feelings and emotions. Yet, in the eyes of my oppressors, I am nothing."

The workers stood in silence
At the thought of a man who'd died
We heard the news that morning
And downed tools for the site.
We marched in silent anger
We made a class protest
As the tenth hunger striker
In Long Kesh met his death.

Weeks before we'd heard your letter,
Read out at the factory gates
Telling of the H Block horror
Britain's cold regime of hate
We knew you were a Freedom Fighter
You would not be criminalised
Michael Devine from Derry City
For Freedom you sacrificed.

On the thoughts of your last hours
As you slipped into death's cold hands
Were you thinking of your loved ones
Of friends throughout Ireland
Were you dreaming of your childhood
Laughin' as you played
With those other Bogsie children
In those far-off distant days.

Did you hear the words of Connolly
As he spoke at the G.P.O.?
Did you see the Citizen Army
As they marched out to face the foe?
Did you see the Starry Plough flying
High above the Imperial Hotel?
Did you hear the British guns roarin'
Blastin' Connolly's headquarters to hell?

Or was your vision of the future
In the rights of the working class?
Scarlet banners flying,
As the serried ranks marched past
When Irish men and women
In their thousands will answer the call
Taking power from our oppressors
To the strains of the International.

Ah, you were a gallant soldier
You fought them to the last
Irish workers tell your story
From Limerick to Belfast
Thinkin' on your struggle
It's hard not to cry
Michael Devine from Derry City
In our hearts you'll never die.

Michael Devine our Derry hero
In our hearts you'll never die.

INLA Freedom Fighters

SAOIRSE GO DEO*

Written in Summer 1981

This song is dedicated to the Volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army, those Republican Socialist activists who have died fighting for national liberation and socialism and Republican Socialist prisoners-of-war in Ireland, Britain, Europe and U.S.A.

In Proud and Loving Memory of Those Who Have Given Their Lives
For National Liberation and Socialism:

Hugh Ferguson
Danny Loughran
Brendan McNamee
Colm McNutt
Roddy McCormick
Seamus Costello

Tony McClelland
Thomas Trainor
Ronald Trainor
Miriam Daly
Noel Little
Ronnie Bunting
Jim Power
Hugh O'Halloran

Rose Campbell
Michael Montgomery

Patsy O'Hara
Kevin Lynch
Michael Devine
Matt McLarnon
Seamus Grew
Roddy Carroll
Neil McMonagle
Gerard Mallon
Brendan Convery
Joseph Craven
Paul McCann

Fuair siad bás ar son saoirse
mhuintir na hÉireann.
SAOIRSE GO DEO

*Pronounced sear-shah go jaw -- Freedom Forever.

INLA Freedom Fighters

*(SAOIRSE GO DEO)

(Collins, O'Hearn, Breen)

I'll sing you of an army brave, who fights from the cradle to the grave,
That the people be no longer slaves, the INLA Freedom Fighters.
Followers of Connolly they fight to bring us liberty,
And socialism we might see, --the INLA Freedom Fighters.

*Saoirse go deo is our cry, the Starry Plough our flag flies high,
England's tyranny we defy, the INLA Freedom Fighters.

Fighting throughout the land Connolly in head and gun in hand,
The working class will take its stand with the INLA Freedom Fighters.
Fighting for the working class the priest condemns us at the Mass
This will not turn us from our task as INLA Freedom Fighters.

To make the Tory tyrants grieve, one Volunteer a bomb did leave
To kill Imperial Airey Neave
--Thus did the Freedom Fighter.

(Despite) murder, torture, imprisonment, our movement is still not spent,
We vow we'll make all our foes relent,--the INLA Freedom Fighters.
The Brits tried to criminalise, our comrades who on the blanket lie
But we'll ensure the fight does not subside--we're the INLA Freedom Fighters.

Captured guerillas to jail are sent, as prisoners-of-war their time is spent
With heads unbowed and knees unbent--unbroken Freedom Fighters.

It was in 1981, a hunger strike for rights begun
Till death or victory was won for all the Freedom Fighters.
At British hands died Bobby Sands, McCreesh and Hughes for the five demands
O'Hara's death our symbol stands for the INLA Freedom Fighters.

Fight on beneath our banners high
To avenge our comrades who have died,
"Let the Fight Go On" as Patsy said
For the INLA Freedom Fighters.

CHORUS:

*Gaelic--Freedom Forever. Pronounced *sear-shaw go jaw*.

Thatcher's Little Boy

Joe Mulhearn, from Derry, wrote a song entitled "Ballad of Jack Lynch" which was recorded by the "People of No Property" in the early '70s.

I have re-written the song using some of the original verses.

The song needs no further explanation than is already expressed in the lyrics.

Thatcher's Little Boy

Arranged by Ray Collins,

Acknowledgements to Joe Mulhearn

Dedicated also to Gerry Fitt (Lord Hell's Bells)

His name's Garret Fitzgerald and take it from me,
He hates everything and anything to do with democracy
His policies they are the very height of hypocrisy
And he plans to sell to N.A.T.O.--Ireland's neutrality.

CHORUS:

Let him go, let him tarry, let him sink or let him swim
He doesn't give a damn for us, nor we a damn for him.
He sits on his ass in Dublin, and we know he does enjoy
Selling out our country for he's Thatcher's Little Boy.

O, the Special Branch in Dublin are something for to see
They crawl out from the Castle to inform on you and me
But the day is coming soon and the rifles they will bark
And the only snakes left in Ireland will be those in Phoenix Park.

CHORUS:

Now Garret went over to India to mourn Gandhi's demise
Got a pat on the head from Thatcher, but that's hardly a surprise
To save the poor man a long wait at the baggage check
She offered him a lift back in her Royal Air Force jet.

CHORUS:

She asked him about extradition and the Special Criminal Court
He pulled out a hefty file, sez he "There's me report."
Then he sighed, coughed and spluttered, the Forum he asked about
She pulled away his parachute and yelled "Out", "Out", "Out."

CHORUS:

O, where were you last August when they murdered Sean Downs?
Were you on the Falls Road or up in Andytown?
No you were on the phone to London, squealing all you knew
About every Irish rebel that would hold a gun 'tis true.

CHORUS:

When we finally get our freedom we'll make them understand
Scrap Free State Gestapo and all that rotten band.
For we want a true Republic with the workers in command
Who won't betray their country or sell it out of hand.

CHORUS:

On final chorus add--"Let him sink to the bottom of the deep blue sea."

PRISON WORDS



— Peter Gourfein

Bright Star

by Tony O'Hara

Tony O'Hara spent 5 years on the blanket in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh Prison. He was released in September 1981--four months previous, on May 21st, his brother Patrick (Patsy) had died after 61 days on Hunger Strike. When Tony was released I went to his home in Derry City. I had brought along as a gift a battered old EKO six-string acoustic guitar which had accompanied me on many hitch-hiking, cum-all-ye sing-song trips of the Wild Rover variety, in my "youth". Tony grabbed the instrument from me, bounced into the living-room and immediately launched into a 12 bar blues run. Needless to say I was very impressed given the length of time he had spent on the blanket, the conditions he (and his comrades) had had to endure and the fact that it was such a long time since he had last held a guitar in his hands.

I had also brought along with me a cassette copy of the H Block album which I had told Tony about during our long clandestine correspondence. He had not heard any of it so we "listened" to it while we chatted. One track sparked something in Tony's memory. It was the poem "Bright Star" recited by the actor Stephen Ray. The credit on the album did not mention the author's name.

At the time Tony thought that it may have been written by Bobby Sands with whom he had shared a cell for several months. The puzzle became submerged in the general festivities of Tony's release and his re-union with his parents Peggy and Jim, his brother Sean Seamus and his friends and neighbours.

A few days later we went to the west coast of Clare to meet Tony's sister Elizabeth and spend a few weeks holiday with our good friends Aine and Dabheoc Rynne and their five amazing children--and the best of hospitality, friendship and crac.

The holiday over it was back to business. Tony and myself were walking down a Dublin street when he stopped abruptly throwing his long arm across my chest halting me in my tracks and causing panic amongst our ubiquitous companions following behind--our Special Branch "escort."

"The poem", Tony screeched, a wide grin across his heavy beard. "I wrote that poem", he affirmed.

Apparently he had written the poem several years before, at the height of the no-wash protest, on the wall of his cell in Long Kesh. Eventually he had smuggled it out and forgotten about it until he had heard the words coming back at him from a small cassette player.

Bright Star

written by Tony O'Hara in the H Blocks

A bright star shines through my window each night,
Bringing me comfort in my trial and plight
High in the sky far away and free,
Shining so brightly, bringing comfort to me.

My feeble existence is punishment for revolt
Beatings, endless confinement, hunger and cold
For refusing to play along with their propaganda and lies
To forsake my cause and be criminalised.

I have fought for my country and her liberation
For our people to decide their own determination
To break the shackles that invaders have enforced
And destroy the monster that kills without remorse.

So on the blanket my struggle goes on
I never will yield for my spirit is strong
For a cause I am proud to have played up my part
Serving my land with body and heart.

So come bright star tonight you must stay
But soon disappear when dawns a new day.
For your people that slept are now awakened
To join in the fight to take back what was taken.

Blanket Changes

written by Tony O'Hara
in the H Blocks of Long Kesh, December 5th, 1980

"The Blanket Changes" . . . I am lying on a damp piece of sponge wrapped up in three blankets and a towel. I am afraid to move in case a bit of cold air manages to get in and gives me the shivers. 'Tis around mid-day and not as cold as it was last night. Talking of cold I was freezing lying here trying to stop my teeth from chattering. Whenever I do manage to do so I can hear the chattering of a number of other men's teeth. It reminds me of a newspaper office with all sorts of typewriters going at once. There must be 20 or 30 of them lying frozen --the rest of us must have been holding back. I don't think there was anyone sleeping. Could you imagine trying to sleep on a block of ice in a refrigerator? Well, this is something similar. I have three blankets, one of which is four feet by two feet. The three are badly tattered and torn and thin; you have to arrange the positions so as to cover the holes in them and therefore keep out the draught. It is bearable during the day but terrible at night. Most of the mens' blankets are the same but if you are lucky you will get one without any holes. I repeat--if you are lucky. My luck wasn't in these past couple of times. A voice rings out in the wings--"Blanket Change"-- . . . a murmur goes through the men in the wing. They, like me, are hoping to be lucky this time. The changes are usually every three weeks but I don't know why they bother as the blanket becomes filthy after a few days. The doors are getting opened now. My cell is next. My heart skips a beat. It is incredible, but I can't help getting excited at the anticipation of getting a good blanket.

They are here.

The orderly throws a ragged heap into my cell and quickly he grabs the other ones then the door closes. Quickly me and my cell mate start to examine the ragged pile. He gives a shout of delight as he finds a good one. You see, it is his turn to have it as I had the last one we got six weeks previously. It is a pity we didn't both get one.

Another couple of lads give similar shouts of joy then after a couple of minutes the hustle and bustle dies down. I'm not looking forward to the night-time --I'll freeze to death. Talking of death--what about the seven men and three women on hunger strike*? I hope they have good blankets as a little warmth might help to ease their pain and hunger.

Ten poor figures dying slowly--at Christmas too. I am lucky that a bit of cold is all I have to worry about. They have a lot more--God help them.

*Refers to the hunger strike of October-November 1980 in which 10 POWs (7 men in Long Kesh and 3 women in Armagh) took part. The hunger strike was settled but the Brit government, as usual, broke their side of the agreement.

Strip Searches

"Oh there's nothing to complain about"

How oft I've heard those words.

"It's carried out most humanely--

To call it degrading is absurd."

They thunder in my mind tonight while I lie down to sleep

For tomorrow I must endure it again, but tonight my tears I'll keep.

Because anger now replaces fear and disgust is what I feel
For these people who profess to be women while another's self respect they steal.
Sisterhood and womens' rights are alien words to them,
Because the only thing they are good for is doing the job of chauvinistic men.
By trying to degrade our bodies and make us feel a sense of shame,
But the shame is eternally theirs and they wholly carry the blame.

Tomorrow we will stand in a waiting room - waiting to be selected.
As victims of their strip search policy our bodies must be inspected.
Our clothes we will be told to remove, like so many times before,
And if a refusal is our reply we will be thrown onto the floor.
To have our clothes forcibly removed while pinned down against our will,
Their hatred for us will become apparent as their faces contort to kill
Let no one be mistaken or try to hide the fact -

STRIP SEARCHING IS IMMORAL - IT IS RAPE
AND A PRACTICE THAT MUST STOP.

Signed: Women Republican Prisoners
Armagh Gaol.

Christian Sunday

written by Thomas 'Ta' Power in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast

Thomas 'Ta' Power has been held in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast, since January 1982 on the uncorroborated evidence of five paid perjurers, the most recent being Harry Kirkpatrick.

On December 5th, 1983, Joseph Craven, an INLA Volunteer in Belfast, was assassinated by Loyalist fascists. At his funeral the RUC attacked the cortege, almost knocking the coffin to the ground. Mr. Craven's relatives and other mourners were viciously beaten and floral wreaths were torn and destroyed. The funeral cortege was then hi-jacked by a large contingent of heavily armed Brits and RUC men in Land Rovers and armoured tanks, who forced it to take a route away from the Republican Falls Road where thousands of mourners waited to pay their last respects to Vol. Joseph Craven.

At the graveside, in Milltown Cemetery, hundreds of Brits and RUC personnel saturated the burial-site in an attempt to intimidate people from attending the funeral. Despite the heavy presence of Brits and cops, and weapons trained on the gravesite, hundreds of people made their way in the pouring rain to witness four INLA Volunteers give a defiant salute in honour of their dead comrade and further hear an oration by an IRSP officer praise Joseph Craven's commitment to Republican Socialism and also condemn and castigate the barbarous behaviour and intimidatory presence of the British forces of occupation and their native lackeys.

This procedure has been repeated at many Republican funerals since.

Christian Sunday

That self-righteous, pious flock of Christian souls
Of Ulster's planted stock and Loyal proles
Come guised as law and order in battle-green
In fealty to their Union, God and Queen.
Detailed from Knock¹, their chief's central command, and Thiepval
Barracks² they also lend a hand
While those ex-specials, revived and regimented, join in
Their numbers, hardware training--all augmented.
Yes, increased since those old days of infamy

¹Knock - H.Q. of RUC (Belfast)

²Thiepval Barracks - British Army/SAS/UDR Centre in Lisburn

When once the private army of the Orange Ascendancy
but now--a new name and image--and professional at that.
But can leopards change their spots
Somehow I reckon not!

Thus Ulster's final forces in grimness grind along
In heavily armoured columns several hundred strong.
But here--what task is near for such armed display?
What splended deeds of valour may be seen this day?
As armed detachments display, for miles around,
Completely sealing off their intended target ground
With checkpoints, foot patrols and choppers in the air,
Who'd guess it's to surpress a funeral service and prayer?
Yes--their Christian task reveals itself at last
And to those on-lookers who observe quite aghast.
Those who observe baton-charges into mourners,
Into families, into friends, relatives and neighbours
Who observe the scrambling over churchyard walls
By those green clad, helmeted, visored trolls;
And those who observe the trampling and desecration of graves
By those jack-booted zealots--those good Christians brave
Who surge right up to the very burial plot
To ensure no honours are bestowed on one just shot.
Yes--shot--in his native land by foreign troops
Who stalk our land in so-called lawful killing groups.
Unseen and nameless--given shelter and protection
By those in power who enforce the British connection.
Even in the courts, by judges, they are lauded
Put down for citations, vindicated and applauded.

To those onlookers aghast at such a scene
(Don't be surprised--for this is how it's always been)--
This is what British rule upholds and what we've always said
"Denied our rights while living; denied our rights when dead."
And if you're wonderin' how such Christian souls
Can do such deeds and rejoice in such foul roles;
Then remember--that to these good British bigots
We are to be crushed for ceasing to be tame helots.
Thus, when they let slip their Dogs of War on us
It means nought to them, to defile and kill and curse.
No--to these armed provincials and Brit Tommies--
Brain-washed to do these deeds right down the centuries--
We are no more than Irish
For them to scorn and assail--
For we, to them, have always lay beyond the Pale.

Jacqueline Moore

24th July 1984

We the Republican Socialist Prisoners on Remand in Armagh Jail feel it necessary to issue this statement about our comrade Jackie Moore who has recently had a baby. Since Jackie has had the baby they have both had nothing but harassment from the screws here in Armagh jail. For example--

(1) Jackie and the baby are searched before and after visits, every day when Jackie goes to the yard, they are searched again. In total, the baby is searched 25 times per week.

(2) Jackie has got nappies* sent into the prison, she must request them as she needs them, i.e. go and ask for a clean nappy, this Jackie won't do so she has to buy them from the prison shop at £4 per week.

(3) The prison Authorities have told her the child has too many toys. The baby only has 6 Teddy Bears, they have told Jackie some of them will have to be sent out.

(4) Jackie's mother, Anna, who is also on remand here, asked the Prison Governor could she spend one night per week with Jackie and the baby, but she was refused.

The above are just a number of the hardships and harassment that Jackie and her baby are facing in here at the moment. We call on all concerned bodies to protest to the Governor and British Government over Jackie and her baby's harassment.

PRO
Republican Socialist Prisoners
On Remand, Armagh Jail

*diapers

Remand Wing,
Armagh Women's Prison
Armagh City, Ireland

A chara,

Now that I have had time to reflect and attempt to rationalise the situation in which I find myself, I feel that it is imperative that I inform the public of some of the circumstances which have led to my incarceration.

Let me state first and foremost that I am completely innocent of any charges which have been made against me. Secondly, statements made by my mother, were made by her while I was being physically abused in front of her.

The name "Castlereagh" has become notorious throughout this country, and there is no need for me to remind people of the mental and physical atrocities which have taken place there in order to extract statements from people arrested. However in my case it is important that I outline the nature of my circumstances.

The fact that I was pregnant seemed to be a great incentive to my interrogators, and every time I was abused I was continually reminded that any further physical abuse could lead to the loss of my baby. The anguish of the possibility of losing the baby is something which I find is extremely difficult to put into words. Yet I am sure any mother will realise exactly the mental torment that such a thing creates.

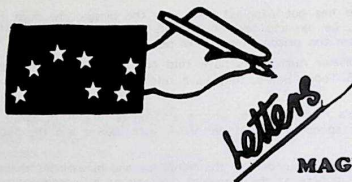
I was taken in front of my mother and physically abused in her presence, particularly by one Welsh interrogator, and she was informed that my abuse would cease when she started co-operating with them.

It was under these circumstances that we were charged with the Ballykelly bombing. I decided that it would be better to do what they wanted than risk losing the baby. My mother could not tolerate the beating of her daughter and future grandchild, and did likewise. It is because of this that we find ourselves spending Christmas in prison away from our loved ones and friends. Thanks to the many who sent us seasonal greetings and to those who are fighting to publicise our plight.

We are totally innocent, we need your help.

Is mise,
Jacqueline Moore

(For further information about Anna and Jacqueline Moore [the Bogside Two] write to Sean McCool, 25 Liscloun Drive, Shantallow, City Side, Derry City, Ireland).



MAGILLIGAN

A chara,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to *SAOIRSE readers attention some of the facts surrounding the repressive running and scandalous situation which has arisen in Magilligan Camp. As most may not be aware, owing to hush ups by the N.I.O. and the Media there is continually, dangerous and violent confrontations between Loyalist and Republican prisoners here due to the Administration's vindictive policy of enforced integration. Since I was moved here this explosive situation has rapidly deteriorated. I have witnessed scaldings, punch ups, explosions and intimidation. All this plus the over enthusiastic screws, who will frequently hand out beatings to any Republican Prisoner that tries to defend himself when attacked by Loyalists. Also since the recent arrival of the new Number One Governor, many Republican Prisoners, including myself, have borne the brunt of his excessively harsh punishments. Like his counterparts outside, it is clear to see that he is obsessed with smashing the Republican Socialist Movement within these Blocks. Of course we know well this is impossible. Finally are the N.I.O. going to remain intransigent until some prisoner here pays the ultimate sacrifice before they give the segregation issue a serious thought.

H. 3. Magilligan Camp.

*SAOIRSE-Belfast newspaper of the IRSP

A chara,

I would like to inform SAOIRSE readers of the latest tactics being used by the N.I.O. and the bigoted screws in their continuing vindictiveness towards Republican Socialist Prisoners and their families. This is one of many incidents which is happening in this prison every other day. While I was entering D. Wing of H. 3. on my way back from my visit there were four Loyalists standing between the grills on the way out to the visits. The screw who was taking me back told me to stand between the grills and wait for the class officer, at this I told the screw there were four Loyalists there and could he give me a guarantee of my safety. At this he just laughed and walked away. As soon as this happened I was set upon by the Loyalists and received a lot of cuts and bruises. As soon as the screws came on the scene I was taken to the hospital and treated for my injuries. Then I was taken to the Punishment Cells and charged with assaulting a Loyalist Prisoner. I don't have to tell you I was found guilty and received 28 days loss of remission and 90 days association and three days Cellular Confinement. None of the Loyalist Prisoners were charged - all of them said they were attacked by a Republican Prisoner and their word was taken. Now if that wasn't enough--they went a bit further by taking my weekly visits off me for three weeks. So punishing my family as well as myself. This is the level of pettiness and bigotry which the Prison Authorities and screws will stoop to in the hope of breaking Republican Prisoners and at the same time appeasing the Loyalists. Within the last ten days a total of 14 Republicans have been charged with this kind of offence and three Loyalists have been charged. This is what we are up against--the whole lot--from the Governor down to screw. All of them bigoted, sectarian pigs!! But the morale of our prisoners is high and will remain so. Slan.

Sean O Conchobhair
Republican Socialist Prisoner
H. 3. Magilligan Prison.

Women

The Chief Bread Winners

I am going to talk about the plight of women in capitalist society. I prefer to start by relating my own personal experience of their suffering. Even though I was but nineteen when I found myself in jail, I hope that this does not restrict me in any way. When I was five years of age, Britain and N. Ireland were going through an industrial boom. The average family could afford a car, they were buying homes and home comforts. This was the picture of working families in Britain and Ireland except up the Falls and West of the Bann. At this time I remember my mother used to take me and my three sisters and two brothers on a walk to Lifford'. We would have a nice unobstructed walk by border checkpoints as is now the case. But however one couldn't say the purpose of this walk was nice. The least one could say is that it was an indictment of the sectarian regime in Stormont.



At that time basic foods were cheaper across the border hence the purpose of a woman and six children making this trip to buy such things as bread and potatoes. Why I mention this is because on our walk we would pass a very lucrative part of the town where the rich lived and my mother in later years told me I used to point to one house in particular and say "Mummy when I grow up we are going to own that house and not need for anything." It is right that people have hope for the future, especially from their children. But when there is no hope until you have sons and daughters who are old enough to work, then there is something terribly wrong with the form of government of which there was and still is.

My mother like other women in our town worked in the local Flax Mill until it took its toll on them and their health. And what did the capitalist Mill owner do in gratitude to those women who gave not only their labour but their health? Not a thing did they do for them. That's how they treated workers then and that's how they

treat workers today. But with the spirit of workers united it's not what they will be doing tomorrow.

The bourgeois nationalist system of education if it has taught the working-class anything, it has taught us how wrong they are. We find ourselves today in a state of bigotry and hatred, it's there all around us, and no matter what one thinks there is a certain amount bred into us by our schooling. But I am not saying that the War of Liberation going on at present is sectarian as I am not talking specifically of this issue and as it would take a whole book to explain why it's not sectarian, I will leave it for the present. No, I'm talking about intolerance among working people toward each other and especially of a sad manifestation of this, namely our attitude towards women in our society.

Working-class women of Ireland have borne the brunt of all our battles, should it be in industry or more seriously again, in the treatment they get while prisoners of the occupying forces. Something else they have been suffering is violence. It's bad enough coming from the State but when it is coming from working men then that is more than enough warning that something is wrong. And to see what is wrong takes us back again to the pseudo-nationalist education system and the intervention of churches into our schools.

Catholic Education

On the Catholic side, a child goes to school and right away is in a single sex school. Young males are encouraged to look upon young girls as domestic slaves.

Young people go through their school life without any contact with young people of the opposite sex except in the form of teachers. Quite often these teachers will be the only people of the opposite sex some children will know apart from their own families. And when these children eventually get married and violence enters these marriages, doctors and social workers etc. look to social deprivation and although to some extent it contributes to such violence it is in no way the sole cause. No, the cause can be laid at the door of the educational system, which goes all out to hinder any contact between male and female in young formative years.

Eamonn McCallion
H Block 1

'On Donegal/Derry border

Winds Of Change

written while in solitary confinement
dedicated to Anna and Jacqueline Moore
by Jimmy Anderson,
Scottish Republican Prisoner

You can fill my horizon - With storm clouds and driving rain
Fill my world with hopelessness - tears, despair and pain.
You can steal my dreams - and all the visions that they hold
Take away all I ever loved - leave me standing numb and cold.
Make every road I walk - a mountain for me to climb,
Weigh me down - Make me old and grey long before my time.

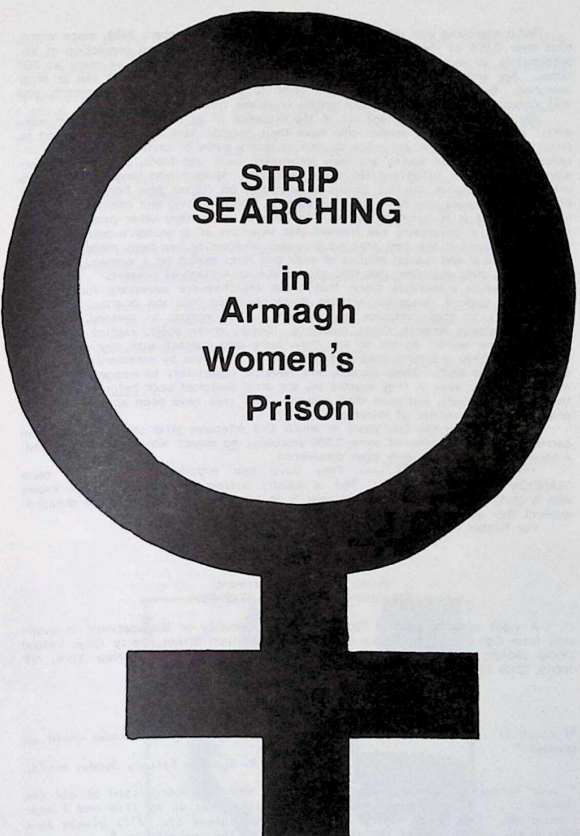
But I shall not be defeated
When all your wicked deeds are done,
For I am a song of Freedom
And one day I shall be sung,
Yes I shall rise above you
On the winds of change soon to come.

You can lock me in your prison - Throw away the key
Make me walk in darkness - hide the morning sun from me.
You can call me by a number - Shackle me in chains,
Torment me till the bitterness - flows like ice in my veins.
Yes, make me rage - make me hate the day that I was born,
Laugh at my struggles - treat me with contempt and scorn.

But I shall not be defeated,
When all your wicked deeds are done,
For I am a song of Freedom
And one day I shall be sung,
Yes I shall rise above you
On the winds of change soon to come.

You can beat me - till my body's beaten beyond all hurt
Humiliate me, drag me - through all the shame and dirt.
You can discriminate against me - abuse my dignity,
Tear my heart apart - with your talons of hypocrisy.
Chain me in your dungeons - chain me in poverty,
Chain me in your ghettos - strip the very soul from me.

But I shall not be defeated
When all your wicked deeds are done,
For I am a song of Freedom
And one day I shall be sung,
Yes I shall rise above you
On the winds of change soon to come.



**STRIP
SEARCHING**

**in
Armagh
Women's
Prison**

Beansaor *free woman*

Strip searching was introduced to Armagh Jail in November, 1982, since which time over 2,000 of these strips have been carried out on a prison population of approximately 30 women. Some of the prisoners have been stripped as many as 250 times. Any woman charged with any crime and on remand in Armagh can be strip searched. By the time you eventually come to trial and are found innocent, you will already have been through this ordeal countless times.

Strip searches are carried out in the presence of as many as ten prison warders. Pregnant women, women who have their periods have all been subjected to strip searches. Women are made to remove every piece of clothing for minute inspection, their naked bodies are then scrutinised back and front, their hair is examined, their feet lifted and the soles examined. Women who have their periods are made to remove sanitary towels or tampons, no matter how heavily they are bleeding. Prisoners who have been put through this degrading and inhuman practice have compared it to a cattle market. In common with many other people, a Dublin professor of psychiatry has likened this violation of a woman's body to rape, and has highlighted the fact that no provision whatsoever has been made to monitor the physical and mental effects of even one strip search on a woman, let alone of intensive strip searching like that carried out in Armagh at present.

The prison authorities claim that these searches are necessary for security reasons, to prevent dangerous articles being smuggled into the prison. However, the majority of these searches are carried out on women on remand, who are obliged to attend Armagh Court regularly. During these short, routine court appearances, the women do not at any time come into contact with any member of the public. They are surrounded and observed at all times by members of the prison service and RUC. These women, who have no opportunity to smuggle anything into the prison, even if they wanted to, are strip searched both before they leave the prison for court, and upon their return. They may have been absent from the prison for only a matter of minutes.

Equally during the two years in which this intensive strip searching has been carried out, in the course of some 2,000 searches, no object which could be called a threat to security has ever been discovered.

*****LATE NEWS ---- They have now introduced what they term 'RANDOM STRIP SEARCHES'. This is equally distressing, because no one knows who is going to be selected and everyone is on tenderhooks waiting on the dreaded moment they are called.

For further information, write to:

STOP THE STRIP SEARCHES COMMITTEE
c/o 170A Falls Road, Belfast BT 12

or
Prison Welfare Department
392 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6DH

A video cassette entitled "Strip Searching--Security or Subjugation?" is available from Derry Film and Video Collective, 36 William Street, Derry City, Ireland (0504) 260128; or The Irish Network, Inc., c/o 553 W. 51st St., New York, NY 10019, (212) 757-0800.

Extracts From:
STRIP SEARCHING, SECURITY OR SUBJUGATION?

"I think it is the most degrading and humiliating thing any woman could go through."

MICHELINE McCORMACK, Women's Editor, Sunday World.

"I went through 82 strip searches and at the end I was acquitted of all the charges . . . I never experienced anything like that in my life and I hope I never do. That's not saying I'll ever forget about it. I'll always look back on it, and I think of the girls still going through with it."

MAUREEN O'NEILL, Former remand Prisoner, Armagh Gaol.

"These people being strip searched are, by and large, remand prisoners. Remand prisoners are a very special category of prisoner. These are people who have no conviction against them. As far as the law is concerned . . . irrespective of what we might think of the fact they are in prison, they are in-

nocent till proven guilty. We ought to be very careful what is done to them in the name of law and order."

MARY McALEESE, Lecturer in Criminal Law and Penology, Trinity College, Dublin

"I think the only way to describe it is a violation. It's a violent act, and I think in this sense it has all the connotations of rape. The main reason for doing this would seem to be to gain emotional control over the person through carrying out these procedures."

IVOR BROWNE, Professor of Psychiatry, UCD, Dublin.

"How can anyone sit in the N. Ireland Office and tell me that I haven't been embarrassed and traumatised and indeed haven't complained - I don't know."

LINDA QUIGLEY, ex-prisoner Armagh Gaol, activist,
Stop the Strip Search Campaign.

"If this was done in any other country, Britain would be the first in line to roar and shout about it."

SUSAN O'HAGAN, Aunt of Jacqueline Moore, Prisoner, Armagh Gaol.

"It's another form of interrogation. Certainly the Trade Union Movement over the years has been particularly concerned about the treatment of prisoners in places like S. Africa, the Philippines, Central and S. America. I would see what's going on in Armagh as no different."

NOIRIN GREENE, Irish Trade Unionist.



Jacqueline Moore and her baby Dominique, Armagh Gaol.



BELOW ARE SOME OF THE WORST INSTANCES OF STRIP SEARCHES IN ARMAGH.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| DENISE WHITLA | - Strip searched on her return from hospital after having a miscarriage. |
| A YOUNG OFFENDER | - Suffered an epileptic fit, the strip search continued. |
| PAULINE McKINNEY | - Strip searched <u>230</u> times. |
| DOLORES O'NEILL | - Strip searched on her return from hospital after having had a cyst removed. |
| EILEEN McILKERNEY | - Five months pregnant on her release and strip searched. |
| ROSE HARVEY | - A pensioner who was strip searched 65 times. |
| MAUREEN O'NEILL | - Stripped 82 times - acquitted at trial. |
| CATHERINE MOORE | - Was pinned to the floor by a number of warders and her face covered by a towel during one strip search - she was acquitted at her trial. |
| LIZ McWILLIAMS | - 240 strip searches. |
| JACKIE MOORE | - Strip searched continually while she was pregnant and again shortly after giving birth, all sanitary protection removed. (Baby searched also). |

NUMBER OF STRIP SEARCHES FROM NOV. 84 - APRIL 85

NOVEMBER	26
DECEMBER	40
JANUARY	35
FEBRUARY	30
MARCH	62
APRIL	70-80



STATEMENT FROM ARMAGH - Issued March 1985

Our Dear Friends and Comrades,

Firstly we would like to thank all of you here today for coming from all over the world for this march of International Women's Day. Through the years you have given your support to us women prisoners, not only in Armagh but in every jail in Ireland and England who are being subjected to inhumane and degrading conditions.

Strip searching, the barbaric act introduced by the British Government in November 1982, is an attempt to demoralise and humiliate women. To strip them of their character. To harrass women in general, but especially Republican prisoners. We feel united with you today. In solidarity with all women who are oppressed, with our sisters and brothers in the armed struggle for the reunification of Ireland and its people.

A thought for today, to all women here, especially our women comrades in the Irish National Liberation Army and the Irish Republican Socialist Party. "The foulest death is preferable to the fairest slavery." Thank you for your continued support, and great work you are doing for us in the strip search campaign. Your strength is our strength. Sisters and comrades, we salute you.

P.R.O., Republican Socialist prisoners in Armagh Jail.

STOP

THE UK-US SUPPLEMENTARY EXTRADITION TREATY

SUPPORT

*** Jim Barr**

FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

The Supplementary Extradition Treaty between the US and Britain amends the 1972 UK-US Extradition Treaty with six "articles". The reason for the amendments is stated in the supplement: "to make more effective the Extradition Treaty." The implied ineffectiveness of the original treaty is the political offense exception clause. The clause bars extradition from the US when the actions of the accused are decided, by a US court, to be political, i.e. stemming from or related to an oppressive political system. Irish Republicans arrested in the US on UK Extradition Warrants defend their actions under the political offense exception clause. US courts have refused numerous UK warrants citing British policies in the North-Diplock (juryless) courts, Internment without trial, uncorroborated evidence of paid informers (Supergrass), SAS (Secret Air Services) assassinations of political activists, Human Rights violations . . .

By denying extradition, the courts have affirmed that the situation in the North of Ireland constitutes a war. The Thatche and Reagan administrations deny that a war situation exists. Both administrations try to "criminalize" Republican military actions which aim to end British control of Ireland. The United Nations however, has clearly outlined the right of people to oppose foreign domination. UN Resolution 2621 (signed by the US Government) states: "The program reaffirms the inherent right of colonial people to struggle by all necessary means at their disposal against colonial powers which suppress their aspirations for freedom and independence."

The Supplementary Treaty violates the constitutional tradition of balance of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. The Reagan administration is usurping the function of the judiciary to foster its own ideological perspective. Prof. Charles Rice of Notre Dame Law School writes: "The treaty is an affront to the Rule of Law. . . It is nothing more than an attempted end-run around judicial decisions which have long recognized the political nature of the conflict in Northern Ireland. If it is ratified, every ethnic and national group ought to be concerned."

THERE WILL BE NO PEACE WITHOUT FREEDOM

*On August 25th, Judge Clarence Newcomer denied the Brit extradition request on the grounds that "probable cause" had not been established in the case of Jim Barr. Jim was then turned over to the Immigration & Naturalization Service on Monday, September 9th, a hearing being granted on Tuesday, September 10th. Judge John S. Gossbert, Jr., conducted a telephone hearing from the Baltimore Federal Court. Jim and his lawyer were in Philadelphia. Jim was finally released from custody on 15,000 bail and so, still faces deportation.

The Irish Republican Socialist Movement, especially Republican Socialist POWs in Brit and Irish jails, extend greetings of solidarity and congratulations to their comrade Jim Barr, on his victory over Thatcher and Reagan.

Jim Barr Defense Committee extends thanks to all those who contributed their time and support to Jim Barr.

Ní Síochán Gan Saoirse 

what is the Irish Republican Socialist Movement?

The Irish Republican Socialist Movement is comprised of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the Irish National Liberation Army, and Republican Socialist Prisoners in Ireland, England, Europe and the U.S.A.

THE IRSP

The IRSP is a registered political party with a 32 County membership. Formed in December 1974 we are a group of active Republicans, Socialists and Trade Unionists who recognise the need for a Party capable of offering the Irish people a political programme which would end imperialist interference in Irish affairs, and bring to a successful conclusion the struggle for Democracy, National Liberation and Socialism.

Our policy is aimed at replacing the existing 6 County and 26 County States by a Democratic 32 County Socialist Republic, where the working class people can utilise the wealth and resources of the nation for their own benefit.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

In order to provide the most coherent analysis of imperialism in Ireland, to centralise and direct revolutionary experience and provide clear political leadership, a revolutionary party is necessary. The party is not a constitutional party, nor a discussion club. It is committed to agitation and mobilisation of the people. The IRSP seeks to build that party.

THE NATIONAL QUESTION

The British Presence:

The real reason for the presence of British Troops in Ireland is to protect British economic interests in both parts of Ireland through the imposition of political "solutions" with the active support of middle class native politicians. We oppose all attempts, such as the Coalition's Crusade to change the Constitution, in a way which divides the 32 Counties. Ireland being the most westerly point in Europe with easy access to all countries is also of strategic importance to Britain.

NATIONAL LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM

Through its presence in Ireland, Britain not only encourages sectarianism and unemployment in the northern state. It also distorts and controls the political life of the entire 32 counties. Faced with the unresolved question of national independence and sovereignty, the working class must develop both the political consciousness to achieve national unity and the class consciousness to achieve a Socialist Republic. The Irish Republican Socialist Movement is committed to these twin tasks of national liberation and socialism.

ON LOYALISM

WE SAY - loyalty is a reactionary ideology which subverts the interests of the working class. In no way is it progressive. We oppose any talks or proposals involving devolved government or an independent Ulster. We see the loyalist paramilitaries as neo-fascist death squads, whose purpose is to smash any progressive force and to terrorise the nationalist people.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women are doubly oppressed by Capitalist society as workers and women. Employers claim they cannot afford to grant them their right to equal pay. Women are discriminated against in family law, social welfare benefits, tax etc. No attempt is made to provide the essential facilities for a working mother e.g. day nurseries.

WE SAY -

- * That contraception should be freely available to all who wish to avail of it.

- * We are neither in favour nor against abortion, we support a woman's right to choose.

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- * that Britain must immediately disband and disarm the UDR, RUC, and RUC reserve and withdraw all troops from Ireland.
- * that the British and 26 County governments must immediately release all political prisoners and grant a general amnesty for all offences arising from the current conflict.
- * that Britain must agree to compensate all who have suffered as a result of imperialist violence and exploitation in Ireland.
- * recognising that no country can be free and independent while it permits imperialist domination of its economic life, the Irish anti-imperialist Front will oppose all forms of imperialist control over our wealth and resources.
- * that the Irish anti-imperialist Front rejects a federal solution and the continued existence of two separate states in the 6 and 26 counties as a denial of the right of the Irish people to sovereignty and recognises the only alternative as being the creation of a 32 county democratic Republic with a secular constitution.
- * that the Irish anti-imperialist Front demands the convening of an all-Ireland Constitutional Conference representative of all shades of political opinion in Ireland for the purpose of discussing democratic and secular Constitution which would become effective immediately following a total British military and political withdrawal from Ireland.
- * The repeal of all repressive legislation North and South.

SUMMARY

We regard ourselves as followers of Connolly. He saw clearly the central role of the working class. He saw clearly they were the "incorruptible" inheritors of the fight for Irish freedom. National and social freedom cannot be separated.

We maintain his belief. We stand for national liberation and socialism. We are the only Socialist party in Ireland that unequivocally supports the armed struggle against imperialism.

We make no apology for existing. Despite massive repression specifically directed at us, despite our own past mistakes, we exist, proud and defiant.

Our flag is the Starry Plough. Our class is the working class. Our enemy is foreign imperialism and native capitalism. We are the Irp's. Here we are and here we will remain until Ireland becomes a Socialist society in the image of Connolly, Mellows, and Costello.

Conclusion

We hope that you have found the preceding pages informative and the songs and poems uplifting.

The purpose of this project is twofold. One--to raise funds for Republican Socialist Political Prisoners, and two--to promote the aims and aspirations of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement through song, poetry, and verse.

We thank you for your contributions and your interest. We trust that there will be more original recordings from Starry Plough Music/Saoirse Records in the near future, and more poetry and verse from Starry Plough Publications.

If you require more information or you have any material which you feel might be of interest to us, please write to either of the addresses, on the back cover of this booklet, most convenient to you.

We thank you for your support.
Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

SAOIRSE GO DEO.
BEIDH MUID SAOR.

We would like to thank all the individuals and organizations who have helped us with this project.

Special acknowledgements to Jim Gaffney for his assistance.

Peter Gourfein



WE REMEMBER

Irish Republican Socialist Party for National Liberation and Socialism

For further information about
the IRSP and Starry Plough Music
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NORTH AMERICA:

For Republican Socialist Publications/
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