



# This Christmas remember the prisoners

THERE are presently over 650 Irish republican political prisoners in jails in Ireland, England and the USA.

THEIR CAUSE IS JUST.

*"We love them yet, we'll not forget the felons of our land"*

STOP STRIP SEARCHES — REPATRIATION FOR IRISH  
POWS IN ENGLISH JAILS — RELEASE DATES FOR  
LIFE PRISONERS

# **This Christmas remember the POWs**

## ***Did you know that...***

There are nearly 650 Irish political prisoners in jails in Ireland and abroad; that many of these people were convicted solely because they signed self-incriminating statements under duress; that a sizeable number of prisoners, including the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four, were victims of deliberate frame-ups.

Women political prisoners in Maghaberry and Durham jails are forcibly strip-searched; that leading medical opinion has compared the trauma of these searches to the trauma of rape; that in recent weeks a pregnant woman (jailed for non-payment of a fine) had a miscarriage after being strip-searched.

Northern Diplock courts have jailed hundreds of people on the testimony of perjurers; that these perjurers (who are also known as supergrass) are rewarded for their testimony with money and the guarantee of a new life abroad; that the entire system of show-trials is to stay, despite international and legal criticism, and that it is being refined to appear more acceptable with less defendants to each perjurer.

Attempts to force integration between loyalist and republican prisoners in Magilligan Prison have resulted in attacks on the numerically isolated republicans by loyalists and prison staff alike.

While British soldiers convicted of offences in the North of Ireland are sent back to prisons in England, Irish political prisoners convicted in Britain are held in English jails; that this causes severe hardship to the families of these prisoners; that the detention of Irish political prisoners in England is made deliberately worse by long periods in isolation units and continued moves from prison to prison.

Despite the documented anti-Irish prejudice of British courts and prisons, Dublin governments are quite willing to extradite Irish people to the North and to Britain.

There are a growing number of prisoners, North and South, who have no release dates; that some of these 'lifer' prisoners have already spent nearly 15 years in jail; that many of them were very young when sentenced and are now in their 30s.

This Christmas, remember the prisoners and resolve to do something to help them in the New Year.

FOR FURTHER details and suggestions about prisoner-related activities contact the Sinn Fein POW Department at 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast (phone 249975); or 5 Blessington Street, Dublin (phone 308783).