

Irish Political Status Committee



NEWSLETTER

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I'll wear no convict's uniform, nor meekly serve my time

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Britain's prison policy a 'scandal' says archbishop

We are surprised sometimes when some one speaks out on issues which are of interest to us — especially from an unexpected source! The Church of England is a case in point in this instance.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, described the Government's penal policy recently as scandalous and urged people from across the political spectrum to make penal reform "a general election issue."

Dr Williams, speaking in a debate on a report, RETHINKING SENTENCING, at the Church of England's General Synod in York, said that there was a cross-party consensus that the present situation in penal policy was 'simply scandalous.'

Bishops, clergy and laity endorsed a motion welcoming the Government's proposals to develop what they called 'restorative justice' in an attempt to limit re-offending. Urging that prison should be regarded as a 'last resort,' they expressed dismay at the rising prison population — and called on individual church members to embrace criminal justice as a cause for public concern.

Dr Williams criticized the imprisonment of women and children — and raised the 'ethnic profile' of Britain's prisoners, overcrowding and the regular moving of prisoners from one prison to another — which in essence showed scant regard for the welfare or well-being of the prisoners — or the real hardship moving them imposed on their families. Whether the 'ethnic profile' of the prisoners included Irish prisoners, we do not know, as Dr Williams did not say — but we should give him the benefit of the doubt in this instance!

"Programmes of rehabilitation and education in the prison system are consistently frustrated by the abnormal mobility of the prison populations — a direct consequence of

overcrowding," he said. (This has been the case for decades and goes without saying).

It is interesting — in fact welcoming — to hear a leading clergyman speak out on prison conditions. Dr Williams no doubt has a genuine concern regarding the treatment — or more appropriately — the ill-treatment of prisoners generally — and their families. However, the General Synod — well-meaning as it no doubt is — made no mention of 'political prisoners.'

Of course, we are all told continually that there are 'no political prisoners in Britain — only ordinary criminals!' Nor did the Synod discuss the worsening situation in Maghaberry Gaol in Co. Antrim — where the conditions the POW's have to endure are the worst not only in these islands — but in the European Union.

There are also political prisoners in the infamous Belmarsh Prison in South London — most of them held without charge — or even the possibility of a trial in the foreseeable future. Most are from the Middle East and Asia and of the Islamic faith — now considered to be almost a crime!

Dr Williams had the courage to speak out on a great injustice within the prison system — an injustice which seems to have the approval of not only the right-wing Home Secretary David Blunkett — but the British Government as a whole. His comments won't have profound implications, but he must be congratulated. Nor will his comments have much support amongst the 'hang 'em and flog 'em' brigade! But contrast that with the silence of the Roman Catholic bishops and clergy in Ireland and Britain! That silence speaks for itself!

By Michael Holden

In Memory of Joe Cahill

By DM Gould

Joe Cahill — veteran republican, honorary life vice-president of Sinn Féin, past IRA chief of staff — died of asbestosis on 24 July 2004.



One cannot open a newspaper without coming upon a bit about Joe Cahill these days. But, then there are few heroes these days; and perhaps we, all of us, are in need of one. Morale is down, infighting is at its worse ever and much of the movement is simply stagnant. Moreover, Veteran Republicans have done what they vowed never to do — gave up the good fight.

But despite the compromise we thought we would never make, some of the old school will forever hold a place in our hearts — not for what we lost in 1998, but for the hope we gained prior to that point. They — Republicans, such as Joe Cahill, Seamus Twomey, Máire and Jimmy Drumm, Proinsias MacAirt, J.B. O'Hagan — were our heroes because we believed they could lead us to where we needed to be; and with their guidance, we thought we could see freedom on the horizon. If inundating the media with Cahill memorials can somehow spark revolution out of apathetic ennui, then so be it.

Joe Cahill was life-long Republican. He spent over 60 years at the heart of the struggle. He was born on 19 May 1920 in the Divis Street area of Belfast, where his father ran a print shop. He left school at the age of 14 to become a joiner. His family life was centred around republicanism, and that at a time

when political, even nationalist or "Irish" events were banned. He grew up with secretive commemorations as well as Irish events, such as céilí; and both his mother and father had Republican sympathies. Add to that, Joe once said that one of his clearest sectarian memories was going to Easter commemorations outside Milltown Cemetery, because having them inside was banned. Thousands would gather, police would surround them, and by the fifth decade of the rosary, the police would begin batonning the crowd and inciting riot.

By 1940, Cahill had already been gaoled on a number of occasions and in 1942, he was facing a death sentence for the murder of a police officer. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment after the intervention of the then Pope, and he was released from gaol in 1949. Upon his release, he began working at a shipyard in Belfast, where he eventually contracted asbestosis, from which he would later die.

Cahill's freedom did not last long, however. When the IRA launched its next campaign in 1956, Cahill was one of the first interned without trial and the last to be released after it was called off in 1962. He did find time to marry Annie Magee, however; and she survives him, as do their son and six daughters.

Joe Cahill was one of the founders of the Provisional IRA after the split from the Official IRA in 1969. Provisional IRA, led by an old guard rooted in the working-class neighbourhoods of the North of Ireland...

Joe Cahill was one of the founders of the Provisional IRA after the split from the Official IRA in 1969. Provisional IRA, led by an old guard rooted in the working-class neighbourhoods of the North of Ireland, including Joe Cahill, Billy McKee and Seamus Twomey, preached radical change through radical methods, and

eventually they established a solid support base and the wherewithal to wage full-scale guerrilla war.

In general, they were typically more interested in military than political affairs, and labelled dedicated republicans who renounced violence, like Cathal Goulding, chief of staff from 1962 through the split, who had impeccable credentials, as "fair-weather revolutionaries."

But with Cahill and the others in charge, the Provisionals would come to have the means, both in arms and in finesse, to see the struggle through. And they did; with Cahill certainly doing his part and more. In 1969, after the IRA failed to protect Belfast neighbourhoods, and British troops were brought in, Cahill took over as the IRA commander in Belfast.



Joe Cahill with Members of the Felons Club in East Belfast, circa. early 1970s

When I was writing this article, I asked Michael Holden, Secretary of the Irish Political Status Committee, how he remembered Joe. "I remember him as the highly-respected republican that he certainly was — very much a legend in his own lifetime," Michael said.

"As younger men at the time we all looked up to him — and when he spoke we hung on his every word! But despite all that, he was a good listener, would hear you out — then tell you what he thought!"

In those days, the early 1970s, Michael Holden was a member of the Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle (representing the republican movement in Britain), and he remembers seeing Joe at the national executive meetings at the old Sinn Féin

offices on Lower Kevin Street in Dublin:

"It was in an old part of the city and I believe demolished now. Joe would be there wearing his trademark cloth cap and glasses! The building certainly had seen better days and was in serious need of repair — in fact, I believe now, looking back, it was positively dangerous to be even in it! The meetings were held on the first floor, and to gain access you had to climb a steep narrow stairs. I remember once hearing Joe say to Ruairi Ó Bradaigh that the floor was so uneven that walking on it was like being out at sea in a boat!" And Cahill would have first-hand experience with 'sea legs.'

In the early '70s, Joe Cahill was one of those responsible for travelling to Libya and persuading leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to provide weapons.

In the early '70s, Joe Cahill was one of those responsible for travelling to Libya and persuading leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to provide weapons. In 1973, he slipped out of Libya on the Claudia and headed towards Ireland with five tonnes of sophisticated weapons and explosives. He intended to land the haul at an isolated spot on the southern coast of the Irish Republic, but was intercepted and arrested by the Irish Navy.

In a Dublin court, Cahill and four other men were sentenced to three years for attempting to import the arms and explosives. When the judge described him as the leader of the operation, he replied: "You do me an honour." But the haul on the Claudia was not the only shipment sent out by Col Gaddafi; Cahill did the IRA an honour.

Meanwhile, by this time, Gerry Adams was already becoming involved in 'negotiations' with the Brits. And, although Cahill attended some of the ceasefire talks and peace negotiations, he saw much of it as "a complete waste of bloody time." As for the Bloody Friday bombings, Cahill was quoted as saying: "That's the way it's got to be."

In the end, however, Cahill would stand staunchly behind Adams and Martin McGuinness, although it has been said that Cahill was privately critical of the way the IRA was running down its military capability. And despite Cahill's unease with the peace process, in 1994,

he was deployed to "sell it" to key supporters in the U.S.

Nostalgia is a bitter pill these days. Its hard to look back on the past 60 years of Republican history, and then look at what is going on today, and not lament Pádraig Pearse's *Éire Míse*: "Great is my shame, My own family Have sold their mother, I am Ireland."

And, it is hard to look around at the dissension, lack of cohesion, power-mongering and general missing of the forest for the trees of much of today's movement.

But perhaps if we can force ourselves to look back on the Fathers of Republicanism and grasp some of that hope and determination that men like Joe Cahill once inspired in us; and perhaps if then we can remember the time when we, The People, could work together for a common goal, when we knew the meaning of a true revolution, and were willing to fight for freedom; then, perhaps we will be able to move onwards to victory.

"I last saw Joe when he attended my father's funeral in Carrick-on-Suir in the summer of 1993. My father had sided with Republican Sinn Féin by then — after the split in the '80s — but Joe was there nevertheless," said Michael Holden.

"I must say I was surprised when Joe supported the Belfast Agreement. I never thought he would, but I believe he will be remembered more for his republican activities during the 1940s, 1950s and following two decades than in more recent years."

I think we can all agree on that. Sleep in peace Joe — you did your best and more than most when it was needed.



From Left to Right: Jimmy Reilly, Michael Holden, Cathleen Barrett (who was Cumann Cabhrach representative in England at the time) with Joe Thompson, Billy McKee and Albert Price.

The IPSC

Over the past three years the IPSC banner has been a feature of Irish and anti-war demonstrations in London (see picture below).



We campaign for the restoration of political status for Republican prisoners — which was given away when the GFA/Belfast Agreement was signed by Provisional Sinn Féin.

Don't allow more blanket protests, or deadly hunger strikes, to ever happen again.

JOIN US TODAY IN OUR CAMPAIGN.

The IPSC is not affiliated to any organisation. We are an independent committee supported by Irish and socialist groups and individuals.

Our primary concern is the restoration of political status for those who are imprisoned for their involvement or activity to end partition and British rule in Ireland.

These are political prisoners, not criminals, and we defend their right to be treated as such without necessarily agreeing with their methods of struggle. We work with all organisations that support the demand for political status.

Our founding statement has been endorsed by a large number of individuals and organisations in Ireland and Britain, including political prisoners in Ireland.

We invite letters and articles. If you would like more details: IPSC, BM Box 1981, London WC 1N 3XX.

politicalstatus@aol.com
www.humanrightsonline.net/IPSC.html

Editorial

The Faithful

By Liam O Coimain

The fact that we have Irish republicans incarcerated in British and Irish prisons although negative in one sense has a positive aspect in that their internment reflects the reality of the truth that our Nation has not lost its 'anawim' or faithful few.

It also shouts to Adams and McGuinness and their mafia of lundies that the spirit of Bobby Sands is alive and well and roaring like the late summer wind across the City of Derry as I pen these few lines of solidarity.

If there is any fool out there that believes that the Belfast Agreement is the basis for a free and self-determining Ireland then why are Irish patriots denied the human right to be free?

Why are lovers and servants of their homeland incarcerated by the forces of a foreign power and the toady quislings of the Dublin Establishment?

Why as our fellow patriots lie in prisons do the so-called free part of our country permit the USA establishment to fuel their planes of hell in the latter's thirst for revenge and geographical power and control? Why! Why! Why!

The answer: the revolutionary is a harbinger of a new order! He or she is light years beyond the thought of those minds who are the lap dogs of capitalistic imperialism. Not alone are they willing to risk their freedom for the welfare of others, they will risk even life itself for

the same objective. They cannot and will not tolerate lies and conditions which prohibit the full realization of Emmet's epitaph.

They will not accept the so-called 'new Ireland' flogged under the lies of the Belfast Agreement. A partitioned Ireland that the southern political establishment supports for it will not rock their corrupt control of the ordinary decent man and woman of the 26 counties.

A fake Ireland where unity is deposited to the bin of friendly border co-operation and the acceptance of an injustice, that is, foreign occupation in the name of a false peace.

Whereas those imprisoned know that there cannot be authentic peace without authentic justice. A justice whereby the right of Ireland to be free and one is the basis. An authentic peace providing the conditions whereby the means of production, distribution and exchange are in the hands of the people not an elitist minority.

A fake Ireland where unity is deposited to the bin of friendly border co-operation and the acceptance of an injustice, that is, foreign occupation in the name of a false peace.

Comrades! I salute you; you are in my thoughts... and will do whatever in my power for the realisation of our shared objective. It is an objective which I have pursued since I was 15 years old in 1955 — many years before some of you left the wombs of your mothers — but an objective which in a sense is a vocation to us all.

Our day will come, in that I have no doubt!



There is no peace without justice.

What does political status mean?

The five demands of the 1981 hunger strikers were:

- The right not to have to wear prison uniforms
- The right to not to have to do prison work
- The right to free association among political prisoners
- Restoration of the right to earn remission (early release)
- The right to a weekly visit, letter, parcel and the right to organise recreation and education

To these we add the demand for the continued segregation of Republican and Loyalist prisoners, and the right of prisoners to be represented by the person of their choice.

Past Irish Political Status Committee Newsletters are available online at <http://humanrightsonline.net/ipscTOC.html>

The newsletter is available from:
Housmans Bookstore, 5, Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London, N1
Index Books, 16 Electric Avenue, Brixton, London, SW9 8JX
Mandy's Irish Bookshop, 161 Willesden High Road, London, NW10-2SG

And at the **Irish Shop**, 118 Lordship Lane, East Dulwich, SE22; open: 9am to 5.30pm; Saturdays 8.30am to 6pm; closed Tuesdays. Next door to St Thomas Moore Hall.

Alternatively, send an SAE to: IPSC, BM Box 1981, London, WCIN 3XX. Any comments to the Editor: DM Gould, politicalstatus@irelandsown.net

Tyranny in Ramallah!

Last summer, I took my family on a trip to my homeland of Palestine. After a few days in the Jerusalem area, we headed to Ramallah to visit my wife's family and my children's grandparents. After much hassle and confusion at the Qualandia checkpoint, we finally arrived in Ramallah to a teary welcome by my wife's family, which helped take the sting out of what I had just witnessed. We spent the entire day and well into the night talking and catching up on the last eight years since the last time my wife and children had been in Palestine.

Next morning we were informed that the Israeli occupation forces had decided to close the Qualandia checkpoint and therefore we would be spending an extra night in Ramallah. This did not make us the slightest bit bothered, as we had wanted to spend more time there anyway.

On Saturday morning, we got up, had breakfast with the family and decided that we should head back to Beit Hanina where my parents and brother lived. We headed for the Qualandia checkpoint. As we got closer to the checkpoint, the sound of automatic gunfire could be heard. My youngest son, who had seen too much of the Israeli destruction and oppression during the April invasion, was beginning to get unnerved by the sound of the gunfire. I calmed him down and told him it was nothing about which to worry. My wife's sister was also with us in the car as she was accompanying her daughter, who had a one-month-old baby with her. She had come to Ramallah to see us, and also ended up being trapped there and now wanting to get back home. The day was turning out to be a scorcher, and soon the afternoon sun would make it much hotter.

We arrived at the checkpoint to find that it had just been closed. There were hundreds of people waiting to cross in the oppressive sun and heat — without any form of shelter or shade. I walked up to the young Israeli soldier and tried to get him to allow at least my sister-in-law, her daughter and baby to pass, but to no avail.

My sister-in-law then spent the next hour pleading to be allowed through. They eventually let her pass

By Rashid Azis

with the baby — who was now crying from the heat and suffering dehydration. I heard Palestinian women ask the Israeli soldiers if they had mothers and sisters, and if so, would they approve of seeing them treated in this way?

After a couple of hours in the blazing sun, tempers began to run short — I saw one man carrying his mother on his back as he attempted to cross, but to no avail. Then the Israeli soldiers waded into the crowd, pushing people down with the butts of rifles. They heaped verbal and physical abuse at the people who had been waiting for hours in the hot sun. I saw one man who had been sitting patiently on the barricade wall get hit in the lower back by an American-made rifle. Another older man who had witnessed what had happened got up, attempted to go after the soldier and had to be restrained.

At this point, I noticed the look on my fifteen-year-old son's face. Tears were welling up in his eyes; also, my daughter and younger son were very distressed. They had been born and brought up in Britain, and had never experienced such abuse before. Now, thanks to the Israeli's, they were being introduced to a whole new world of inhumanity and oppression. I had to restrain my son — even strike him in the face — to keep him from going after the

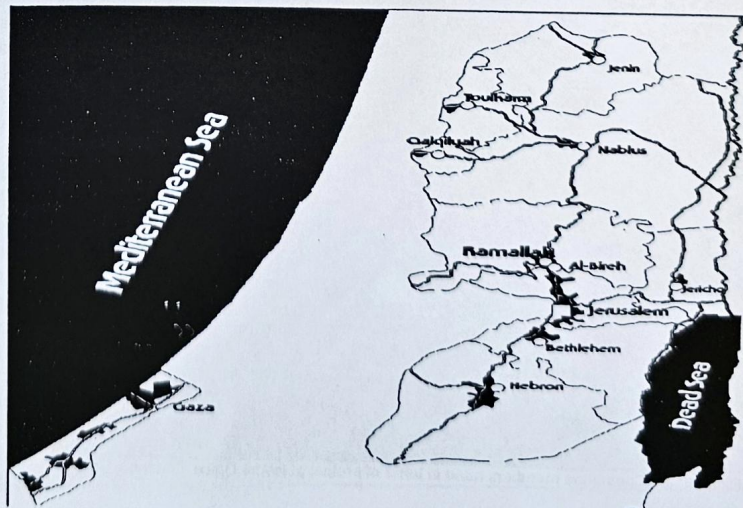
Israeli soldiers. This went against everything I had ever taught my son. I had taught him never to stand silently in the face of oppression, to speak out against any wrongs that he witnessed. Yet, here I was now striking him because he was doing what I had been telling him to do all his life. But I knew these soldiers — barely a few years older than my son — could kill any Palestinian there, and nothing would ever happen to them.

I asked the soldier to please point the gun away from my son's head. He laughed and told me that: "he is a Palestinian and should get used to it."

After over three hours in the hot sun, we finally started making our way through the long lines.

Once we got to the front of the line we were approached by an Israeli soldier. He was about nineteen years old. He demanded our identity cards. While he was checking our documents, I noticed my eleven-year-old son was shaking, and that the barrel of the soldiers machine-gun was almost touching his forehead. I asked the soldier to please point the gun away from my son's head. He laughed and told me that "he is a Palestinian and should get used to it."

That my young son should get used to having the barrel of an American-made-M16 pointed at his head...NO child should ever have to get used to such abuse and total disregard for fellow human beings....



Political status and political prisoners

By Cínead de Canntón

The present-day treatment of Irish POWs is very similar to that of the Irish Martyrs of 1981 who courageously gave their lives for political status.

Historically, the British Government has endeavoured to conceal the nature of the struggle by criminalizing republicanism. The nature of British oppression is one of conquest — and to suppress all forms of struggle in order to maintain the empire's economic gain.

Today, there are similarities between the ill-treatment of republican prisoners in Maghaberry Prison, Portlaoise in the Free State, and the cruelty and degradation of prisoners held in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan. And with the British and US media in "denial" that their soldiers could torture and humiliate prisoners. One has only to look at the historical British mistreatment of prisoners — which led to the Fenian response of 1876 (Catalpa mission).

Historically, men and women

have been forced-fed, abused in all its forms, including perverse body searches, facing total isolation and being put in oppressive situations that ignore human and family values.

The 1981 hunger strike still holds the proudest moments of the best-loved leaders of Irish resistance. They shook the British Government as their struggle gained national and international support. While the media covered the marriage of Charles and Diana, they were unable to hide the struggle within the gaols. The hunger strikers unselfishly gave their lives — and politicised large sections of the thirty-two county Irish working-class people; and, people abroad in Iran for example, named a street after Bobby Sands — who is to date a role model for anti-imperialist struggles.

Margaret Thatcher's whole intentions were to criminalise those fighting for self-determination, and her intransigent government was guilty of letting men and women die in gaol while their mercenary soldiers and police roamed the streets with impunity, intimidating the oppressed people of the Six Counties.

As men make their own history,

and after the ten men died, not only did republicans gain support from mass movements across the world, President Fidel Castro of Cuba's statement illustrates the dichotomy between the inflexibility of Thatcher and the commitment of the 1981 hunger strikers:

"In my opinion, Irish patriots have written one of the most heroic chapters in human history. They have earned the respect and admiration of the world, and likewise they deserve support."

—Fidel Castro

"In my opinion, Irish patriots have written one of the most heroic chapters in human history. They have earned the respect and admiration of the world, and likewise they deserve support.

"Ten of them have already died in the most given gesture of sacrifice, selfishness and courage one could ever imagine.

"Humanity should be ashamed that this terrible crime is committed before its very eyes. These young men did not ask for independence nor make impossible demands to put an end to their strike; they asked only for something so simple as the recognition of what they actually are — POLITICAL PRISONERS."

With the statement of the commencement of the first hunger strike of 1980s, they called on all solidarity and support groups to intensify their efforts; and they gained support from their exiled brothers and sisters from the USA, Australia, Britain — and around the world.

At the time Sinn Féin leaders made a statement that its effects would be felt for years to come. With the gains of the 1981 hunger strike with 10 men dead, and the loss of political status since the signing of the so-called peace agreement — it is left to those who have fought to date and are incarcerated for fighting for a Socialist Irish Republic.

With prisoners' families being intimidated by the authorities, and activists being intimidated by those in favour of the so-called peace process — doesn't it demand of all who support



Irish Political Status Committee members hand in letter of protest at Home Office, London.

POLITICAL STATUS — the need to CAMPAIGN AND WORK TOGETHER — instead of in-fighting and jealousy? The IRSP, RSF and the IRPWA in Ireland have been working arduously for the POWs — as have the IPSC in England. Let us unite instead of working independently.

The IPSC are totally against ISOLATION which some political prisoners face with every day.

The IPSC supports all POWs internationally. So let us unite, and not let history say that we as people on behalf of oppressed POWs — did not work together.

Let us not forget either that the POWs' families are suffering as well and they need our support. The Brits do not want another hunger strike — NOR DO WE.

The IPSC condemns first of all,

the intimidation of prisoners' relatives endeavouring to visit their families, and also intimidation by the British state — which endeavour to harass prisoner welfare groups in Ireland.

We also condemn the oppression of Turkish and Kurdish political prisoners — and what they are forced to endure inside the isolation dungeons in Ankara and Istanbul.

TIOCFADH AR LA!

IRISH REPUBLICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Portlaoise Prison + E2, E3 Wings + Portlaoise + Co Laoise + Ireland			
Robert Brennan	4 Years	Age 33	Dublin
Gery Burns	N/A	N/A	Dublin
Declan Carroll	5 Years	14 Sep 1976	Dublin
Cathal Gartland	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liam Grogan	22 Years	1 Jan 1977	Kildare
Tony Hyland	25 Years	13 Sep 1972	Dublin
Thomas Larkin	5 Years	9 April 1956	Dundalk
Kieran McDonagh	10 Years	19 Aug 1961	Dundalk
Paddy McDonagh	10 Years	25 Oct 1963	Dundalk
Seamus McGrane	4 Years	26 May 1954	Dundalk
Kevin McLaughlin	N/A	N/A	N/A
John McNamara	3 Years	28 Jan 1962	Kildare
Michael McKevitt	20 Years	Age 53	Dundalk
Gerard Moyna	7 Years	26 Aug 1954	Belfast
Darren Mulholland	22 Years	28 Feb 1979	Dundalk
Frank Nolan	3 Years	10 Sep 1962	Dublin
Steven O'Rourke	18 months	1 Jul 1979	Dublin
Alan Patterson	9 Years	11 Mar 1970	Dublin
Kenneth Patterson	7 Years	11 Mar 1970	Dublin

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Portlaoise Prison + E4 Wing + Portlaoise + Co Laoise + Ireland			
Thomas Barry	Remand	N/A	Co Waterford
Patrick Blair	N/A	N/A	N/A
Derek Brady	N/A	N/A	Co Tyrone
Gery Burns	5 Years	7 Oct 62	N/A
Brian Cavan	N/A	N/A	Tyrone
Liam Campbell	5 Years	26 Sep 64	Dundalk
Anthony Crowley	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seamus Daly	Remand	1971	Kilmurray
Patrick Deery	Remand	N/A	Co Waterford
Kieran Doherty	6 Years	12 Mar 78	Derry
Dominic Dynes	N/A	N/A	Armagh
Brian Galvin	Remand	N/A	Co Waterford
Cathal Gartland	4 Years	N/A	Dundalk
Aidan Grew	N/A	N/A	Armagh
Sean Hoey	Remand	1969	Armagh
Alan Hickey	N/A	N/A	N/A
Larry Keane	15 Years	28 Mar 57	Kildare
Timmy King	5 Years	N/A	Limerick
Cathal Loughran	N/A	N/A	Armagh
Christy Magee	5 Years	1 Mar 48	Dublin
Colm Maguire	N/A	N/A	Dublin
Danny McAlister	8 Years	26 Feb 55	Dublin
Terry McCafferty	Remand	1969	Belfast
Seamus McGreevy	4 Years	25 Oct 54	Co Meath
Paul McIntyre	N/A	N/A	Dublin
Seamus McKenna	Remand	1955	Dundalk
Sean Mulligan	Remand	11 Aug 50	Co Louth
Brian Murphy	N/A	N/A	Co Louth
Patrick O'Mahoney	N/A	N/A	N/A
John O'Rourke	N/A	N/A	N/A
Patrick O'Shea	4 Years	1949	Limerick
Shane O'Sullivan	N/A	N/A	N/A
Patrick O'Toole	3 Years	25 Jan 77	Dublin
Thomas Redmond	4 Years	05 May 39	Co Wexford
Alan Ryan	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christopher Smith	8 Years	1960	Limerick
Antony Walsh	N/A	N/A	Co Wicklow

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Portlaoise Prison + Other Wings + Portlaoise + Co Laoise + Ireland			
Eddie Heaney	8 Years	1981	Co Louth
Mick Hegarty	10 Years	08 Mar 53	Co Clare
Colm Murphy	14 Years	1953	So Armagh

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Maghaberry Prison + Old Mill Road Ballinderry, Lisburn + Antrim BT28 2PT + North of Ireland			
Ben Brady	N/A	N/A	Co Tyrone
John Brady	N/A	N/A	Co Tyrone
Martin Brogan	N/A	N/A	Co Down
Mark Carroll	N/A	N/A	Co Down
Conor Casey	14 Years	N/A	Co Tyrone
Michael Close	N/A	N/A	Co Antrim
J. James Connolly	14 Years	24 Oct 75	Fermanagh
Ciarán Cunningham	Remand	14 Sep 75	So Armagh
Mark Diver	N/A	N/A	Co Tyrone
Seamus Doherty	N/A	N/A	Derry
Michael Gallagher	N/A	N/A	Derry
Sean Gilleece	13 Years	1976	Fermanagh
John Paul Hannan	17 Years	1983	Co Louth
Gearoid Mac Uaid	11 Years	1963	Belfast
Kieran McLaughlin	18 Years	1954	Derry
Eugene McNulty	N/A	N/A	Co Tyrone
Tony Notarantonio	8 Years	1959	Belfast
Stiofan O Dalaigh	12 Years	1976	Fermanagh
Patsy Reid	/A	N/A	Belfast
Carl Reilly	Remand	N/A	Belfast
John Martin Swift	13 Years	1965	Fermanagh

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Maghaberry Mourne House Women's Unit + Old Mill Road Ballinderry, Lisburn + Antrim BT28 2PT + North of Ireland			
Mary Burns	N/A	N/A	N/A
Diane McGlinchey	N/A	N/A	Co Tyrone

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Training Unit + North Circular Rd + Dublin			
Mick Kenny	5 Years	05 May 53	Dublin

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Whitemoor Prison + Long Hill Road + March, Cambridgeshire PE15 OPR + England			
James McCormack	22 Years	1969	Co Louth
Michael McDonald	30 Years	1957	Co Louth
Declan J Rafferty	30 Years	1960	Co Louth

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Full Sutton Prison + Stamford Bridge + York. YO41-IPS + England			
Aidan Hulme	20 Years	1977	Co Louth
<i>[Miscarriage of justice]</i>			
Noel Maguire	20 Years	1970	Co Louth
<i>[Miscarriage of justice]</i>			
F. Paul O'Farrell	30 Years	1964	Co Louth

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Long Lartin Prison + South Littleton + Evesham Worcestershire WR11-8PZ + England			
Robert Hulme	22 Years	1979	Co Louth
<i>[Miscarriage of justice]</i>			
Barry Toman	N/A	N/A	Armagh

NAME	SENTENCE	BIRTHDATE	FROM
Castlereagh Prison + Harristown + Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon Ireland			
Declan Duffy	9 Years	20 Aug 73	Armagh
Dessie O'Hare	Life	N/A	Armagh

In ? The Ground

International Prisoner News

Palestinian: Hunger Strike

About 2,900 Palestinians in Israeli gaols are on hunger strike to protest conditions they say are humiliating and unnecessary.

Sources say most of the around 7,500 Palestinians in various gaols held by Israel are expected to join.

Within the first week, the strike nearly doubled from the 1,500 with which it commenced.

The Palestinian Prisoners Society is presenting the strike as non-political. Their demands include:

- Guards to stop conducting strip searches;
- More frequent contact with families; (40% of inmates are currently denied any visits)
- Improved sanitary conditions
- Access to public telephones

In response, prison officials have confiscated televisions and radios, stopped the sales of cigarettes and sweets, and stopped all visits.

Moreover, Israel's security minister said they would not bow to pressure and the prisoners could "starve to death."

Internal Security Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told *Associate Press* reporters: "As far as I'm concerned, they can strike for a day, a month, until death. We will ward off this strike and it will be as if it never happened."

A Palestinian lobby group said some of the inmates were in critical condition

and the Prisons Service is withholding medical treatment.

"Prisoners are in real danger," the Palestinian Prisoners Club said in a statement, calling on Yasser Arafat Palestinian Authority to push harder for the cause of the strikers.

Israel denies withholding treatment.

Breton: Political Prisoners

The Breton struggle is not over. Sources say at least five Breton nationalists are still incarcerated.

Breton nationalists protest the French repression of Breton culture. Groups such as the Breton Revolutionary army and the Movement of National Liberation by Socialism, like Óglaigh na hÉireann, are committed to the socialist movement of national liberation and political independence within the framework of self-determination.

Many in Brittany also face harassment and persecution for supporting the prisoners.

Brittany

Breton Breiz or Bretagne received its modern name when it was settled (c.500) by Britons whom the Anglo-Saxons had driven from Britain.

Breton history is a long struggle for independence — first from the Franks (5th–9th cent.), then from the dukes of Normandy and the counts of

Anjou (10th–12th cent.), then from England and France.

Support

Please support our Breton comrades, and write to the political prisoners.

Write to Pascal Laizé, 274 740 D 2 / 237; Jérôme Bouthier, 279 896 K-B 129; and Kristian Georgeault, 276 024 - A 234 at M.A.H., 42, rue de la Santé, 75674 PARIZ Cedex 14 (France)

Write to: Stefan Philippe, 317 768 A-G243, and Alain Solé, 21135 M.A. at: M.A.H., 133, avenue de la Commune de Paris, 92014 NANTERRE Cedex (France)

For more information, contact the following groups:

Skoazell Vreizh

Skoazell Vreizh / Breton Aid Committee was created to aid imprisoned Bretons and their families. For more information, contact:

Feuteun Wenn
3, rue Aristide Briand
F-44350 Guérande
Brittany via France
Tel: +33 2.40.42.92.94
info@skoazell-vreizh.org
<http://www.skoazell-vreizh.org/>

The Celtic League

The Celtic League works to promote cooperation between the six Celtic Countries of the western British Isles and Brittany. It campaigns on a broad range of political, cultural and environmental matters, and it targets human rights abuse. For more information, contact:

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Port Erin IM9 6BY
Mannin / Isle of Man via UK
Tel: +44 1 624 877918
mlockerby@enterprise.net
<http://www.manxman.co.im/cleague>

