

COUNTY WICKLOW H BLOCK/ARMAGH COMMITTEE

With the ending of their hungerstrike before Christmas the prisoners in the H Blocks and Armagh made a positive gesture to settle the protest. The British Government could then no longer claim to be acting under duress and on the basis of documents and proposals shown to the prisoners a reversal of the hitherto inflexible attitude of the Government seemed apparent. This was not to be. The British Government refused this opportunity to put an end to the degradation, misery and humiliation suffered by Irish political prisoners for the past five years. Once more the British reneged. With their cat-and-mouse tactics of forcing the hungerstrikers to the point of death, they hoped to break the will and determination of these prisoners to resist the inhuman treatment being imposed on them.

In the last month the men in the H Blocks have shown their willingness to move more than halfway in their effort to gain a just settlement but these gestures have in no way been reciprocated. British obstinacy has once again forced the prisoners into the position where they have been left with no other option but to embark on another hungerstrike.

We call on all people and organisations, etc., who supported the prisoners' five demands to now exercise their influence and make their voices heard so that the prisoners will not be forced to take this action on March 1st. Again we appeal to the people of County Wicklow for moral, financial and active support in this new phase of the struggle.

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A new branch of the committee has been set up in the Rathcoole, Newcastle area and can be contacted through the Secretary at Connolly Hall, Main Street, Bray.

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The Bray branch meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock in Connolly Hall.