

**NO
EXTRADITION**

RELEASE

ROBERT

RUSSELL

TIME IS RUNNING OUT for Robert Russell. On August 27th next he is due to be taken from Portlaoise Prison to the border and handed over to the RUC. For nearly five years he has been held in prison in the 26 Counties while he fought attempts to extradite him. His long court battle ended when the Supreme Court delivered a highly controversial judgement and ordered his extradition.

Two of the five judges dissented strongly from that majority verdict and pointed out that Russell was wanted for "a classic form of political offence" and would face ill-treatment in the Six Counties. It would not be his first experience of British 'justice'.

Robert Russell was born in Belfast in 1958. He was one of thousands of nationalists interned without trial in the early 1970s. In 1980 he was arrested and charged with the shooting of an RUC superintendent. There was no

evidence against him except for a sketchy identification. Nevertheless this was enough for the Diplock court to convict him and he was sentenced to 20 years in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. As he says in his own words:

"I appealed conviction on the grounds that the RUC deliberately withheld conflicting evidence at the trial concerning the identification. The notorious Judge Gibson said I was guilty anyway and merely cautioned the RUC for what he called procedural irregularities. He upheld the sentence of 20 years. I went on the blanket while I was in jail to regain political status and was in the H-Blocks during the hunger-strike of 1980-'81."



In September 1983 Russell was one of 38 republican prisoners who escaped from the H-Blocks. The following May he was arrested in Dublin on foot of RUC warrants for his extradition.

The Minister for Justice has the power to order the release of Robert Russell under Section 50 of the 1965 Extradition Act. If this man is not to become yet another Irish victim of British injustice then the Minister must be forced to use his powers. The shameful handover of an Irish citizen to the discredited RUC and the corrupt courts of the Six Counties must not be allowed to happen. Act before it is too late.

- Write to Mr. Gerry Collins, Minister for Justice, Department of Justice, Dublin 2, and demand Russell's release.
- Ring the Minister at his home 068-31126 or at the Dept. of Justice Dublin 789711
- Join your local action group or set one up if there is none already. Support the activities during the month of August.

DON'T HAND HIM OVER

Saturday August 6th 2.30pm

Rallies at the Border – Killeen, Aghnacloy, Lifford/Strabane.

Tuesday August 9th

Anniversary of internment in 1971. Local action against extradition.

Saturday August 20th

National demonstration in Dublin

STOP THE EXTRADITION OF ROBERT RUSSELL ON AUGUST 27th!