



**CIVIL RIGHTS
NOW!**

Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign

CIVIL RIGHTS NOW!

THE CAMPAIGN SO FAR by Pat Denny

This is the first broadsheet of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign. The aim of this campaign is to pull together all the thousands of individuals and all the different political groups (British and Irish) into a united front single issue campaign aimed at supporting the struggle which is going on in the six counties. We hope that we can bring about unity around the following six demands

- 1 end discrimination in jobs and housing
- 2 end gerrymandering (fair redrawing of electoral boundaries)
- 3 one person, one equal vote
- 4 repeal the Special Powers Act
- 5 disarm the police, disband the B-Specials
- 6 for the right of self-determination for Ireland.

So far, the campaign has consisted in a series of meetings across the London area, addressed by Bernadette Devlin, MP. In Enfield on Monday 12 May she addressed a meeting 200 strong consisting of building workers, travelling people and students. On Tuesday, about a hundred print workers from The Times SOGAT chapel heard her speak, many more being turned away because the room was so full. On Wednesday it was the turn of the building workers of the Sunley's site in Fulham to hear her appeal for support. The most important and impressive meetings have, however, been in Hammersmith and Kilburn in this last week. In Hammersmith Town Hall 700 enthusiastic supporters rallied to support the cause of civil rights. More than 200 people came forward and volunteered to work in the campaign. A collection of £55.18.10 was taken. In Kilburn, the Anson Hall was crammed to capacity. Over 300 people heard Bernadette and Allan Morrison of London People's Democracy appeal for solidarity. About a hundred people volunteered to assist with the campaign and a collection of £26.3.9 was taken. There are more meetings planned and, if these are as successful as the ones which have already been held, the campaign will be able to open up a strong second front in the fight. It is planned to form several local branches in the Hammersmith and Kilburn areas. Notices of meetings in these areas should be going out very shortly. These local branches could decide upon means of publicising the campaign in their local areas, support and publicise the activities of the campaign and many other things. An attempt is also afoot to form branches in the various factories and building sites which show interest in our struggle.

If you want to help in the work - if you want to answer the appeal of Bernadette Devlin, then fill in your name and address (block letters please) on the form and post to Bernadette Devlin
ICRSC
6 Cottons Gardens
London E2

IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

I want to help the civil rights struggle in Ireland

Name

Address

Phone

THE SPECIAL POWERS ACTS NORTHERN IRELAND

Under the Act the police are empowered to:

Arrest without warrant;

Imprison without charge or trial and deny recourse to habeas corpus or a court of law;

Enter and search homes without warrant, and with force, at any hours of day or night;

Declare a curfew and prohibit meetings, assemblies (including fairs and markets) and processions;

Permit punishment by flogging;

Deny claim to a trial by jury;

Arrest persons if it is desired to examine as witnesses, forcibly detain them and compel them to answer questions, under penalties, even if answers may incriminate them. Such a person is guilty of an offence if he refuses to be sworn or answer a question;

Do any act involving interference with the rights of private property;

Prevent access of relatives or legal advisers to a person imprisoned without trial;

Prohibit the holding of an inquest after a prisoner's death;

Arrest a person who "by word of mouth" spreads false reports or makes false statements;

Prohibit the circulation of any newspaper;

Prohibit the possession of any film or gramophone record;

Arrest a person who does anything "calculated to be prejudicial to the preservation of peace or maintenance of order in Northern Ireland and not specifically provided for in the regulations."

Alongside you will find reproductions of leaflets issued by the London branch of Peoples Democracy. We reprint the extracts from the Special Powers Acts to show the Police State nature of the Stormont regime. To the Special Powers Acts they intend to add the Public Order Bill which will reinforce already totalitarian powers seen against this background any talk of a liberal regime must be nonsense

REJECT STORMONT REPRESSION

The Public Order Bill, may soon become law in N. Ireland, it provides:-

MARCHES:-

Requires you to give 96 hours notice of a march. In England NO notice is required. YOU can be sent to prison for 6 months or fined £100 for TAKING PART in a march which has not given 4 days notice to the police.

YOU can be sent to prison for 2 years or fined £500, if you defy a ban on a march or a police re-route order. It is NO defence that you believed the ban or order to be improper. This Bill says Courts CANNOT question the UNIONIST GOVERNMENT. SIT DOWNS:-

YOU can be imprisoned for 1 month or fined £50 or both for "sitting, kneeling or lying down in a public place". YOU can be fined £20 if you refuse to give your name to a police officer at a 'sitdown'.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS:-

If you protest peacefully in any Public Building, in anyway YOU are liable to 2 years imprisonment or £500 fine or both. Public Buildings include any government local authority, school or university Building. A police officer can remove you BY FORCE without the consent of anyone in charge of the building.

COUNTER - DEMONSTRATIONS:-

People who oppose marches have the right to do so. The police have enough powers under the present law to deal with those who wish to be violent or physically obstruct processions.

A separate law should deal with offensive weapons and para-military organisations.

This Bill is Repressive. It intends to banish peaceful protest against injustice. We call on you to PROTEST against it NOW. The answer to unrest is full Civil Rights: not more power to police and government.

PUBLISHED BY PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

Financial Report

Collections so far have reached £105.14.7 of which £63.16.0 has been spent on running the campaign leaving a balance of £41.18.7