

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 not 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 can add the demand

- for segregation of Republican and Loyalist prisoners and the right of prisoners to be represented by the person of their choice



Craigavon and Lurgan resistance to the arrest of those charged with the shootings of two soldiers and a policemen in 2009. Support the struggle for political status for Republicans in Portlaoise, Maghaberry Prison and elsewhere. Write to the POWs and send them whatever literature they need. Contact the Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Association (<http://irpwa.blogspot.com/>, irpwa@mail.com) for details of how you can help.

List of all Republican prisoners held in Ireland and abroad

Maghaberry

Maghaberry Gaol
Roe 3
Old Road
Ballinderry Upper
Lisburn
Ireland
BT28 2PT

Colin Duffy - Lurgan
Harry Fitzsimmons - Belfast
Sean McConville - Lurgan
Damien McKenna - Lurgan
Gary Toman - Lurgan
Brendan McConville - Lurgan
JP Wooton - Craigavon
Jason McCormack - Craigavon
Colie Avery - Lurgan
Turlough Mc Allister - South Armagh
Paul Mc Caugherty - Lurgan
Kevin Barry Nolan - Co Cavan
Gerard McManus - Let-terkenny
Damien McLaughlin - Ard-boe
Sean Carlin - Belfast
Joe Connor - N Belfast
Willie Wong - Armagh
Tony Rooney - Belfast
Darryn McCallion - Derry
Brendy Conway - Belfast
Martin Corey - Lurgan
Joe Barr - Strabane
Stevie O Donnell
Sean O'Reilly - Belfast
Robert O'Neill - Belfast
Stephen McAllister -

Belfast
Christopher Nash - Derry
Martin McLoone - Derry
Mark McGuigan - Omagh
Daniel Turnbull - Omagh

Portlaoise

Portlaoise Gaol
Portlaoise
County Laoise
Ireland

E-2

Patrick Tierney - Armagh
Liam Rainey - Wexford
Tom O'Hanlon - Derry
Jackie Bates - Wexford
Ciaran Dunne - Dublin
Ken Donohoe - Dublin
Tony Hyland - Dublin
Robbie Kearns - Wexford
Michael McDonald - Co. Louth
Michael McKevitt - Dundalk
David Jordan - Tyrone
Toirealach MacDhómhnaill - Fermanagh
Cormac Fitzpatrick - Monaghan

E-3

Derek Brady - Dundalk
John Brock - Dublin
Sean Connolly - Dublin
Anthony Crowley - Cork
Bernard Dempsey - Dublin
Aidan Hulme - Co. Louth
Robert Hulme - Co. Louth
Jim McCormick - Co. Louth
Thomas Morris - Dublin
Fintan Paul O'Farrell - Co. Louth

Barry Petticrew - Belfast
Declan John Rafferty - Co. Louth

E-4

Liam Grogan - Kildare
Darren Mulholland - Dundalk

IRSP prisoners:

Denis Dwyer
Paul Kelly
Eugene Kelly
Eoghan Clail
Gerard Mackin
Thomas Kelly
Paddy Wall
Noel Mooney
Johnatan Keogh
Gerard Kelleghar
Neil Myles
Anthony Lee
Gareth Byrne

Other Gaols

Eddie McGarrigle
Johnny McCrossan

The Grove
Castlereagh Gaol
Castlereagh,
Co Roscommon
Ireland

Kieron Doran,
Ecrou 293249,
Block A, Cellule 119,
Paris-la-Santé.

Michael Campbell
LUKISKES PRISON
Lukiskiu bstr. 6
Vilnius, LT 01108
Lithuania

Report on the Ninth International Symposium against Isolation

The origin of the International Symposium against Isolation was a massacre in the prisons of Turkey in December 19-22, 2000. Military forces raided 20 prisons, killing 28 prisoners. During the assault in the prisons hundreds were wounded and 6 women in Bayrampasa prison were burnt alive. Those who carried out the massacre are only now being tried, 10 years after. The resistance continued and within 7 years a total of 122 people, including those who were killed in the massacre, lost their lives in hunger strikes and during protests.

Free all the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners!

Their only "crime" was fighting for Puerto Rican Independence from U.S. colonialism! Oscar is serving 70 years for "seditious conspiracy" - "attempt to overthrow the government of the United States in Puerto Rico by force". Free Avelino Gonzalez Claudio! Free Oscar Lopez Rivera!

Free the Move 9, unjustly imprisoned for 30 years!

The MOVE 9 are members of the revolutionary MOVE organization imprisoned since 1978 after a police assault on their headquarters in Powelton Village, Philadelphia. In 1985 the government dropped a bomb on the MOVE house on Osage Avenue in Philadelphia, killing 11 people, including 5 children. Mumia Abu Jamal defended Move against police brutality before and after his imprisonment.



Irish Republican Prisoners

Support Group Newsletter

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The IRPS held a 20-strong picket of the Ministry of Justice, Petty France, London on 7 August 2010. The picket involved comrades from Socialist Fight, the Revolutionary Communist Group (Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism!), Workers Power, the Irish Political Status Committee and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal campaign. "End the torture in Maghaberry, political status now!" and "Political Status for political prisoners" were the slogans chanted on the picket to passing sightseeing tourist buses and those emerging from St James' Park station.

The political and ethnic diversity of the picket showed that the struggles of Irish political prisoners has powerful resonance not only among serious revolutionary Socialists but also among those campaigning internationally for justice for the oppressed. It was therefore enormously heartening to see the Mumia Abu-Jamal supporters and Abdul Omer, the sacked Convenor of Sovereign Buses, there.

Special mention must go to 79 year old Theresa Gavin. Not only did she pay for the new IRPSG banner but she struggled on her Zimmer frame to stand on the picket line and shout her slogans in support of Irish POWs, as she has done for over half a century.

floor to the prisoners."

On International Human Rights Day, December 10, the IRPSG handed in a letter to 10 Downing Street protesting the treatment of Irish political prisoners. On the same day nearly 150 political prisoners in West Bengal started an indefinite hunger strike. In New Delhi on December 24 human rights activist Dr Binayak Sen, Vice-President of the People's Union for Civil Liberties, was sentenced to life imprisonment with Naxal ideologue Narayan Sanyal and Kolkata-based businessman Piyush Guha.

Islamophobia has made Muslims the new Irish: Mohammed Hamid was jailed indefinitely with a minimum term of seven-and-a-half years - the

first time an Imprisonment for Public Protection sentence has been used in a terrorist case. His "crimes" were paintballing, camping and possession of a few radical DVDs.

On December 9 thousands of Georgia prisoners went on strike for their human rights. It was the biggest prisoner protest in the history of the US. They demanded not to be treated like slaves and animals. For over 29 years Mumia Abu Jamal has been on death row in the US because he was and still is a powerful political opponent of the racist imperialist US state.

Join the IRPSG in campaigning for political status for all Irish POWs. Free all anti-imperialist political prisoners internationally!—Beir Bua!

"They have nothing in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who doesn't want to be broken" - Bobby Sands

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Free all Anti-imperialist political prisoners Internationally

Palestinians in Israel

The Palestinian prisoners have staged dozens of hunger strikes since the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in 1967. Abdulqader Abu Al-Fahem was the first Palestinian prisoner to die after 15 days of hunger strike at the Asqlan prison in 1970. Prisoners Rasim Halaweh, Alial-Ja'fari and Ishaq Maragheh died in the Nafhah prison in 1980 after 32 days of hunger strike. Prisoners Anees Douleh and Hussein Obaidat died in 1992 after 15 days of hunger strike.

According to recent Palestinian statistics, there are 6,700 Palestinians currently held in 10 prisons and 3 detention camps in Israel and in the West Bank. There are 300 prisoners under the age of 18. Israel also holds 37 women and 10 members of the Palestine Legislative Council.

Maoists in India

Hundreds of prisoners in Patna's Beur Central Jail in Bihar on Friday staged protests and extended their support to activist Binayak Sen, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Chhattisgarh court last week. According to officials of the high-security jail, the prisoners aired their protest by staging a relay hunger-strike and threatened to launch an indefinite hunger strike if justice was not done to Binayak Sen.

"The prisoners observed a day-long hunger strike to protest against conviction of Binayak Sen," a jail official, demanding he not be named, told IANS on Saturday.

It was the first such protest by the prisoners, most of whom belong either to the Left parties or Maoist groups in Bihar, since Sen was convicted on charges of sedition on Dec 24.

During their protest, the prisoners shouted slogans and were also ad-



Detainees in orange jumpsuits kneel in a holding area at Camp X-Ray, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, in January 2002. On the camp's ninth anniversary, 75 of the remaining 173 detainees have been cleared for release, yet remain in custody. Photograph: Getty/Shane T McCoy/AFP

dressed by some inmates in the jail where hundreds of prisoners, including Maoists, are lodged.

Official sources in the state prison department said that the security in Bihar's prisons has been tightened in view of the call of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist to observe a country-wide protest week Jan 2-8, against the court judgment, convicting Sen, Maoist ideologue Narayan Sanyal and Kolkata based businessman Piyush Guha.

Guantánamo prisoners

Moazzam Begg The Guardian, 11 January 2011: I have just returned from Paris where I spent the weekend with some former Guantánamo prisoners to mark the ninth anniversary since the opening of the Guantánamo Bay concentration camp – one of several such protest vigils, including outside the White House in Washington DC. One of the men in Paris, Sabir Lahmar, a Bosnian national of Algerian descent, was resettled in France last year after having spent eight years detained in Guantánamo without charge or trial.

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Osayefo Tongogara is a lone activist who can be often seen in the area of Trafalgar Square, Parliament

and Downing Street in Whitehall doing his one man protest for people who he strongly believes are wrongly convicted of crimes. He voiced his support for Black Panther Activist Mumia Abu-Jamal who was sentenced to Death row for killing a policeman in 1981.

Tongogara spoke and said "We have no confidence in the Capitalist court system, Mumia's case has been acknowledged by Amnesty International as 'In violation of the minimum international standards for fair trials, contradictory evidence, several altered testimonies and the racism of the judge, conspired for Mumia's conviction, even through someone else has confessed to the crime".

It has been 30 years since Mumia was sentenced and Tongogara continues his lone protest for his freedom and of others for what he says are wrongful convictions. Even though Tongogara has never met Mumia he has heart warming support for him and anyone else suffering oppression.

Trafalgar square London 11/01/2011. <http://www.demotix.com>



“They have nothing in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who doesn't want to be broken” - Bobby Sands

Letter From Republican POW in Maghaberry Gaol

The following is a letter from a POW in Maghaberry gaol that he wished could be seen by all Republicans on the outside of the brutal torture that is inflicted upon the six men on protest in Maghaberry Gaol.

"A Chairde, How are you? I'm just writing here to keep in touch with you a chara. I've been so busy with the ongoing protest and my case that I didn't get the proper time to write to you. I actually started this letter several weeks ago but had to stop due to what is currently going on here.

As you probably know by now that the screws have broken the agreement and with only six of us keeping to the original deal that was agreed. We six are subjected to repeated and very violent strip searches as we come to and from the court and even all the time when we come back from visits. I personally have been stripped numerous times along with my co-accused Kevin Barry Nolan. Our friend from Lurgan Colin Duffy is getting special attention from the screws all the time he is getting done more than the rest of us.

Not to long ago when I was on my way back from visits I was violently battered and forcefully stripped because I refused to open my mouth eight to twelve strong riot team battered me with helmets and shields I near passed out. I was then dragged of to the punishment block where I was dragged handcuffed with my hands behind my back all the way over from the wing. Thankfully my chairde were alerted and were all out in

force shouting abuse at the screws and encouragement to me which really lifted my spirits as what I was going through. What happens when they strip search you is that they first of all give you verbal orders to strip which of course we refuse to do which leads them to threaten to forcefully strip you they then give you about 30-45 minutes to think it over. After that three of them come at you head on all dressed up in riot gear there is one of them with a shield he comes for your face while the others go to left and right and grab your arms. They then put a lock on your arms and wrists which is incredibly painful then forcing you to the ground. After this they put further locks and twists on you and then forcefully rip your clothes off the whole time you are in extreme pain.

Our friend Colin Duffy this happened him a total of eight times in four days: no one else has gone through as much as this man has with the lengths of pain and suffering, a chara. Our friend Harry Fitzsimmons from Belfast was the first of us forcefully stripped searched during this protest. Damien McLaughlin from Ardboe in Tyrone also has suffered a lot a chara. Even after being dragged to the punishment block and getting violently and brutally stripped searched I had my mouth forced open and a torch rammed down my throat to see was there anything there. "

Nine Irish Convicts

In the Irish Uprising of 1848, nine men were captured, tried and convicted of treason against Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. All were sentenced to death. The condemned men were: Patrick Donahue, Morris Lyene, Thomas Meagher, Charles Duffy, Thomas McGee, John Mitchell, Michael Ireland, Terence McManus and Richard O’Gorman. Passionate protests from all over the world forced Queen Victoria to commute the death sentences. The men were banished for life to Australia then equivalent

to the Russian Siberia in remoteness if not climate. Years passed. In 1874 Queen Victoria learned that a Sir Charles Duffy who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the same Charles Duffy who had been banished 26 years before. The Queen demanded to know what had become of the other eight convicts. She learned that: Patrick Donahue became a Brigadier General in the United States Army. Morris Lyene became an Attorney General for Australia. Michael Ireland succeeded Lyene as Attorney General. Thomas McGee be-



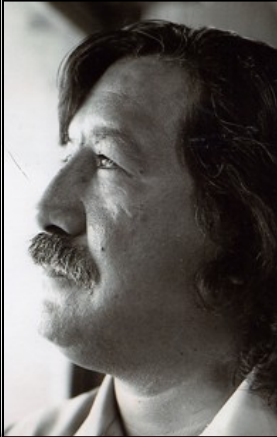
Part of the picket of the Lithuanian Embassy on 17 October 2010 to protest the imprisonment and brutal ill-treatment of Republican activist Michael Campbell.

came Minister of Agriculture for Canada. Terence McManus became a Brigadier General in the United States Army. Thomas Francis Meagher was elected Governor of Montana. John Mitchell rose to become a prominent New York politician and the father of New York’s famous mayor, John Purroy Mitchell. Richard O’Gorman became Governor-General of Newfoundland.

Free Leonard Peltier

Leonard Peltier, a participant in the American Indian Movement, a great-grandfather, artist, writer, and indigenous rights activist, is a citizen of the Anishinabe and Dakota/Lakota Nations who has been unjustly imprisoned since 1976.

Leonard Peltier is deemed as a political prisoner by Amnesty International and has been unjustly incarcerated for nearly three decades. Peltier was convicted of committing the crime of murdering two FBI agents, even though the prosecution has since admitted in open court (Oct. 15, 1985) that the government did not have proof of who killed their agents. The courts have also admitted (10th Circuit Court of Appeals) that "the prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned; they withheld evidence, coerced testimony. These facts are undisputed". In the Spirit of Crazy Horse!



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