

ARMAGH **AND** **H-BLOCKS**



**Organise for
Industrial Action**

**BRITISH JAILS FOR IRISH
TRADE UNIONISTS**

INTRODUCTION:

This leaflet contains a few case histories (the documentation continues) of Derry prisoners on protest in the H-Blocks and Armagh Women's Prison. The prisoners are working-class manual workers. They and their families suffered severe harassment at the hands of the R.U.C. and the British Army in the months and years prior to, during and after their arrest. (Amnesty International and Bennett Reports), **In addition, the women prisoners have been attacked and manhandled by male warders.**

They come from areas which have the highest unemployment rates in Western Europe, and many were unemployed for long periods. All joined Trade Unions when they did work.

MEMBER OF I.T.G.W.U.

SADIE McGILLOWAY

ARMAGH GAOL

28 LISLANE DRIVE

Age 24 years, single

Arrested with Lyn O'Connell. Interrogation took place through the night, deprived of sleep. Her clothes were taken for forensic tests. Charged with explosives offences. Sentenced to seven years.

On dirty protest for past three years. Was beaten by male warders during February riots.

HEALTH:

Loss of weight. Had operation a few weeks ago on her nose due to constant blockage.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

St. Cecilia'S SECONDARY School.

JOB:

Worked in Rocola Shirt Factory.

MEMBER OF A.T.G.W.U.

MICKEY DEVINE

(H-BLOCK)

Age: 28 years.

Arrested 20th September, 1976. Held for four days in Strand Road R.U.C. Remanded in custody. Charged with possession. Sentenced in June, 1977, to 12 years.

EMPLOYMENT:

Worked as window cleaner and for Enterprise Ulster.

STATE OF HEALTH:

Loss of weight; eyes sore.

PRISONERS DEM

The prisoners and their families do not want to be treated as Trade Unionists should agree with them. They only maintain that in the light of the fact that they were arrested under 5 years of the 1976 Act they were interrogated in SPECIAL CENTRES and tried in SPECIAL non-jury courts that the British Movement should support the following demands of them as prisoners:

1. THE RIGHT OF PRISONERS TO WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHES INSTEAD OF PRISON UNIFORM.
2. THE RIGHT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND VISITATION FOR PRISONERS.
3. THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO DO PRISON WORK.
4. THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY LETTER; A VISIT AND A VISIT.
5. RESTORATION OF FULL REMISSION.

MEMBER OF A.U.E.

LYNN O'CONNOR

ARMAGH JAIL

20 CIRCULAR ROAD. Age 24.

Arrested on 27th November, 1976. Charged with possession of a bomb. Sentenced to 5 years. Released on 27th November, 1977.

From her release she was contacted by the British Army. Her home was raided on numerous occasions. Arrested on 27th November, 1976. Charged with possession. Held in custody for 8 months. Sentenced 1978 to 8 years.

STATE OF HEALTH:

Had minor operation in Craigavon Hospital which she was immediately transferred to. During the February riots she was beaten. She sustained black eye on the right side of face. Male warders were violent. She was seen by Dr. Daly and Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of the British Movement. admitted male warders were res

EMPLOYMENT:

Worked in Irish Shop.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

Waterside Girls, St. Breacan's C, St. Cecilia's Girls, Creggan.

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WHAT WE CAN DO:

NOW THAT the bloodyminded intransigence of the British administration has left the protesting prisoners no choice but hunger strike to achieve their rights, the Trade Union Movement must TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION to force the government to grant the five demands which other prisoners in Long Kesh already enjoy. If the Trade Union officials and leadership fail to give the lead, INDUSTRIAL ACTION must be taken by Derry workers themselves on behalf of the prisoners.

Begin to organise for industrial action by forming informal groups of sympathetic workers. Industrial action is the only weapon that the British administration has no answer to.

Further information and leaflets from:

**THE DERRY H-BLOCK / ARMAGH ACTION
GROUP. — P.R.O. TEL.: 68116**

MEMBER OF A.U.E.W.

EUGENE (GINO)

McCORMICK

H-BLOCK 5

6 VIRGINIA COURT, GOBNASCAL

Age 24 years.

Was an active Trade Unionist, always attended branch meetings, was a conscientious worker. Day release, City and Guilds, Derry College of Technology.

A voluntary community worker, was elected as a community representative to Top-of-the-Hill Community Association; was heavily involved in community action, on housing, etc.; was also a voluntary youth worker in the Waterside Youth Club.

While employed with Du Pont, his car was booby-trapped, explosives were wired to the ignition, which failed to go off. Before and after this incident, Gino was subjected to constant harrasment by Brits and R.U.C. He lost count of the number of times he was stopped, searched and arrested by them.

During his interrogation, much play was made of the booby-trap attempt on his life. His family's lives were also threatened in that, they would be set up for assassination. This was a real fear due to a terror campaign by loyalists in the Waterside.

He was charged on 25th August, 1976 with murder. Sentenced by Judge McGonigle (deceased) on 23rd May, 1977, to double life plus 12 years. The judge passing sentence said that although he knew Gino didn't fire the shots, he was as guilty as those who did the killing, but who were not before the courts.

Served his apprenticeship as fitter in Du Pont.



TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

FRANK DOHERTY

H-BLOCK 5

5c COLUMBILLE COURT

Aged 31 (married)

Arrested in 1975. Held for three days. Made a statement under duress (i.e. mental torture). At the Court, Frank denied the charges under oath, while a soldier who gave evidence refused to do so, saying he was a non-believer. His word was accepted.

Sentenced to ten years, he has now completed 3½ years on the blanket. He received two beatings during this time.

STATE OF HEALTH

During the time on the blanket he was admitted to Musgrave Park Hospital for one week.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Rosemount Boys' and St. Joseph's.

JOB

Employed by Molins, Du Pont and the Western Education and Library Board.

MEMBER OF A.U.E.W.

DENNIS HUTTON

H-BLOCK 5

123 CREGGAN HEIGHTS

Age 21, single lives at home.

Age when lifted, 17 years.

Arrested on 26th April, 1976, taken to Piggery Ridge army camp and then to Strand Road R.U.C. barracks. Held for two days without sleep, roughed up and threatened continuously. He was then charged with four bomb-making offences. Held on remand for eight months before being tried. Sentenced to 14 years.

When he refused to wear a prison uniform he was beaten by warders to deter him going on the blanket. Nevertheless he has spent all his time on the blanket.

HEALTH:

Deterioration of eyesight due to constant bright light and now requires glasses.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

Long Tower Primary; St. Joseph's Secondary; College of Technology.

EMPLOYMENT:

Employed at the Government Training Centre.

MEMBER OF A.U.E.W.

WILLIAM PIUS McNAUGHT

H-BLOCK 4

51 IVY TERRACE, DERRY

Aged 24

Arrested on 5th May, 1977, aged. 20. Detained with three other before being charged, for three days. Made a statement under duress (little or no sleep during this time). Was examined by Dr. Monroe.

Refused to recognise Court. Sentenced to 12 years. No status. Joined Blanket Protest. He has now completed two years on blanket, during which time he has had some beatings.

STATE OF HEALTH

His health has deteriorated generally, and he has become weak through lack of nourishment.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Long Tower and St. Joseph's.