

JUSTICE

This document is a publication of the County Derry Anti-Internment Co-ordinating Committee, issued in the public interest to maintain an awareness of the evils of Internment and the Emergency Provisions Act, as sources of communal tension and strife. On the Committee are represented the G.A.A., C.R.A., REPUBLICAN CLUBS, SINK FEIN (KEVIN STREET), A.O.H., ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL JUSTICE, DUNGIVEN RELIEF COMMITTEE, ARDMORE RELIEF COMMITTEE and the COUNTY DERRY INTERNEES DEPENDANTS' FUND, which initially sponsored its formation. (IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A COPY PLEASE PASS THIS TO A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR).

EDITORIAL

Internment, or imprisonment without trial, can be fought best by publicity. It is the abrogation of law by its casting aside the essential safeguards of human liberty as worked out painfully over many centuries of striving for liberty, justice and freedom. With one stroke of the pen, Merlyn Rees has been able to remove the civil, legal and human rights of almost fifty people during his few short weeks in power. This arbitrary power to take away the liberty of the human person, of the citizen, in an arbitrary fashion is a terrible and immoral power. It gives no explanation for its conduct; it acts in an arbitrary and capricious fashion, based on prejudice, hearsay and downright bigotry. It is not good government, but tyranny. When this is exposed in all its detail, step by step, in its numbers and the one-sided nature of its application, it can be seen and will be seen by all men of just nature in the world that Mr. Rees and Faulkner and the others who co-operate with them, have restored slavery.

70-YEAR-OLD TERRORIST !!

We are all familiar with the British Army Press Officers' stories of child terrorists. Now they have discovered a superannuated seventy-year-old suspect. In Dungiven, recently, a lady of this age was arrested and taken to the police station for interrogation for almost an hour.

HARASSMENT ARRESTS

Over the last year one feature of Army harassment has become more and more common in County Derry. This is the tactic of arresting a number of young men of a particular district, holding them for a day or two, and then releasing them. It happens now with sickening regularity. In Swatragh, Dungiven, Ballinderry, Maghera, the story is the same. Every area of the County has to suffer these visits. The people concerned are taken from their homes in the early morning with no information for their unfortunate relatives as to where they are being taken. When their parents or wife try to locate them they are usually given the run-around from a variety of Police stations, Army camps and civil servants. Usually they are found later in the day in Ballykelly Detention Centre. At this stage the Police operate a lock-out tactic. Solicitors, family, even at times doctors, are refused permission to see or speak to the prisoner. All are told to try again later, usually the following morning. In actual fact, in the vast majority of these cases the men are released the following day unharmed. All concerned are usually so relieved at this development that the incident is written off and no importance attached to it. After all, in the midst of so much serious harassment and brutality and with hundreds of men and women incarcerated without hope or sign of release, what does it matter about a few men being held overnight and then let go.

In fact, this is just the kind of attitude that the British Army hope to foster by these raids. As the community's toleration of this kind of activity increases so will the harassment of the population. Where, two years ago, an Army raid anywhere

HARASSMENT ARRESTS (continued)

in the County produced a sense of outrage which revealed itself in pickets and demonstrations, today a raid of the type described hardly rates a mention in the next townland. It is thus, by the "softly, softly" approach, that the spectre of a total Police State grows larger as time goes by. This growth puts the country in a state of practical martial law and this is intensified with time. The variety of political solutions periodically announced by the politicians is completely meaningless when set against the reality of Army activity "on the ground." People should now recognise this behaviour by the "guardians of the peace" for the outrage it is. They should be made aware that these tactics are not acceptable to the people of this country. Because they release a man after a few days' detention does not lessen the oppression of arresting him in the first place. Because these people are, for the most part, not physically abused, doesn't make it tolerable that they should have to spend hours under psychological pressure and interrogation by "silver-tongued" Harry Bennett and his friends. There may be many wrongs committed in this country by the authorities which are more cruel in their results and more savage in their execution, but there are few so insidious in design as this random selection of individuals for a few days' victimisation. They aim to blunt our sense of injustice because, after all, that was what destroyed the Unionist State after so many years.

THOSE WHO SUFFER HARASSMENT OR
ILL-TREATMENT SHOULD CONTACT
ANY OF THE BODIES WHICH MAKE UP
THE COUNTY DERRY ANTI-INTERN-
MENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

LEGAL RIGHTS OF THOSE DETAINED

When brought in ask for your solicitor by name. If he is not available ask for another. Everyone should know the names of two solicitors who are willing and not afraid of the R.U.C.

When asked *any* question ask to have it in writing. And say that when your solicitor is present and has checked your reply it will be given in writing.

Do not sign *any* paper during the seventy-two hours unless advised by your solicitor.

Always get medically examined by your own doctor both during your detention and afterwards.

Ignore *all* documents presented to you as confessions made by your friends.

Be patient for the seventy-two hours. You cannot be held any longer.

Do not talk with your questioners on politics, "the troubles," etc.

The above is reprinted with the permission of
Fr. Denis Faul, Dungannon.

A VIEW FROM WITHIN

Talk is growing that, come the 24th July this year, all the internees are to be released. We hear this now from all our politicians as a reason why we need no longer be concerned with fighting Internment. Actually, it is quite an old story. I first heard it in Long Kesh in May, 1972. Then the date was to be 10th July, 1972. Paddy Devlin even came to tell us it was true. So how could we doubt it? We had our bags packed and were ready to go. The morning of July 11th was a big disappointment to us all. The Kesh didn't close for good. In fact it was enlarged. Some took it harder than others. Some were completely broken mentally by the despair which followed the dashing of our hopes. So remember, Internment isn't just a useful political weapon. Cheap promises can be very cruel to men who have nothing else. On 24th July this year, to make Internment legal for the next year, the Emergency Provisions Act must be renewed in Westminster. This can only be stopped by you, the people, making it clear by a vigorous campaign that it will no longer be tolerated.