# LEGAL RIGHTS FOR THOSE DETAINED

Many Catholic people are being arrested, brutally ill-treated and compelled to sign statements admitting crimes of which they are completely innocent. The following advice I believe to be the legal rights of detained people and the most prudent and sensible course to follow when they are in the grip of the RUC under Section 10 (three days) or Section 12 (seven days).

1 – When brought in, ask for your solicitor and a daily interview with your family doctor or a doctor nominated by him.

2 – When they ask you any questions say: "I want that question in writing and when my legal representative is present and has checked the question and offered me advice, I shall answer it in writing."

3 – Do not sign your name to any bit of paper while in an RUC station (three days or seven days) unless you are advised to by the solicitor of your choice.

4 – Always have a medical examination before leaving the interrogation centre and / or at the special court (Watch out for bigoted J.P.'s) by a doctor of your choice or your family's. This should be arranged by your solicitor. You may sign for a medical examination by any doctor. You should take all possible medical examinations.

5 – Ignore all documents presented to you as confessions of your friends implicating you. These are usually forgeries. You cannot be convicted on another man's statement : it is a statement signed by you that they want and they usually beat you to sign a statement concocted by themselves which the judiciary accept. Suffer patiently while they beat you up; do not accept bribes or promises; do not hold any conversation with them as they will make it into a "verbal statement," and produce it in court.

6 – After each interview, when handed back to the uniformed men at the cells, say, "I want to see the doctor and I want to make a complaint about physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats or blackmail," if any of these violations of Law have taken place during the interview. You can complain after each and every interview – and do so. Put every detail on record and do not withdraw. Bullies are afraid of exposure.

7 – (When your solicitor is present), You only answer questions about yourself, – not about anybody else – that is your legal right.

8 – Families of prisoners should assume the worst and take immediate steps to get a solicitor, doctor, priest, politician, journalist, alerted to stop the brutality. Please ring me–Dungannon 2165, and leave name and number if I am out, as I am anxious to collect this material about torture of Catholics for the attention of the Vatican and Human Rights Bodies.

9 – Familes can visit their tortured one in the Crumlin Road Jail, without a ticket as soon as he gets there. When you are beaten up by the RUC, make an official complaint (for statistical and legal purposes) a civil claim for damages and publish your story.

February 1979 – FR. DENIS FAUL