

PRESS RELEASE

from

SINN FÉIN

26 - County Government To Be Arraigned Before

Court of Human Rights.

February 25th , 1972.

In view of the fact that the 26- County Government has now invoked the Offences Against the State Act and detained and charged a number of members of Sinn Fein under this repressive legislation , and in view of the fact that such legislation is permitted by the 1937 Constitution , Sinn Fein has decided to seek the intervention of an international body.

Accordingly , counsel is being briefed and a formal complaint against the 26 - County Government for a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms will be lodged as quickly as possible with the European Commission on Human Rights at Strasbourg.

It is also intended to lodge a complaint on behalf of a number of Northern Republicans who have escaped from Belfast Jail and on whose behalf the 26 - County Government has already arraigned the British Government on grounds of torture and internment without trial. These men are now threatened with re-trial and double jeopardy by the 26-County Government under the Courts of Justice Act of 1936, and in this case also a formal complaint will be lodged as soon as possible.

Sinn Fein asks the Irish people at home and abroad, both individually and in their various organisations, to protest publicly against the latest capitulation by Mr. Lynch to British pressure and the denial of basic Human Rights and Democratic Freedom which the use of the Offences Against the State Act involves.

Sinn Fein is determined to expose before the eyes of the world the double - dealing and hypocrisy of the 26-County Government in the present national

struggle.

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