

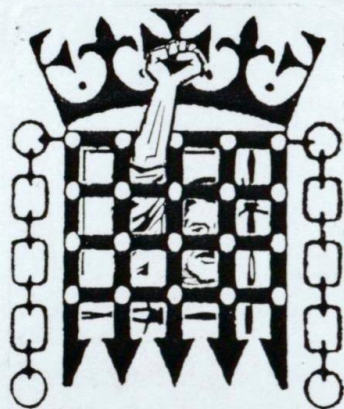
Political HOSTAGES



Irish political prisoners are being brutally ill-treated in Britain's prisons. Held in 'Special Secure Units' described as "concrete coffins" they are often subjected to lengthy periods of solitary confinement, bad food, electronic surveillance and medical neglect. Family visits take place with a thick glass screen between the prisoner and his/her family. Britain -the architect of Irish Partition- now partitions Irish families. Collective punishment is imposed on the prisoners families who are forced to make costly and exhausting visits to England over periods of many years. Every obstacle is erected to obstruct visits, from harassment under the racist 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' to 'ghosting' -moving the prisoner to another jail immediately prior to a visit without informing the family.

Transfer and repatriation are provided for under the Council of Europe's Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners to which both the London and Dublin administrations are signatories. In 1992 Britain first commissioned and then accepted the findings of **The Ferrers Report** which recommended the transfer of all such prisoners so as to make visits less stressful for families. The British Home Secretary, however, has done his utmost to avoid implementation and -four years on- dozens of Irish political prisoners remain in English cells, hostages of a malevolent British Government and a sadistic Home Secretary. British statements that Irish prisoners are treated no worse than other prisoners is a lie. They are political hostages of the British State who should be allowed transfer home to Ireland to be near their families.

END THE TORTURE, TRANSFER AND REPATRIATE THE PRISONERS.



"Who is it speaks of defeat?
I tell you a cause like ours
Is greater than defeat can know
It is the power of powers...."