

SAOIRSE

FREE IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS

SAOIRSE is the campaign set up in the light of the peace process to secure the release of all Irish political prisoners. Saoirse was formed because the British Government needs to be persuaded that the release of all prisoners is vital to the peace process itself and integral to building a peaceful and confident future.

There are over five hundred political prisoners still in jail in the North of Ireland. But of immediate concern to Saoirse in Britain are the prisoners in English jails. The conditions for prisoners in Britain have always been harsh but since August 1994 these conditions have deteriorated alarmingly. Irish political prisoners in English jails, far from seeing a peace dividend, have been treated even more inhumanely since the ceasefire.

Amongst the most pressing issues are:

- Eleven prisoners are now serving their 20th year in prison.
- The government refuses to hold prisoners in a prison close to their families.
- Compassionate parole is refused to Republican prisoners.
- Ghosting, the practice of moving prisoners suddenly and without notice causes great hardship to visiting families.
- Prisoners are held for long terms in the notorious Special Secure Units (SSUs) which are a prison within a prison and lead to long term physical and psychological damage.
- The treatment of prisoners in Belmarsh prison has lead directly to serious weight loss and medical problems.

Despite the recommendations of its own internal report by Lord Ferrer in 1992, the government refuses to transfer the prisoners to prisons nearer their homes. Families and relatives continue to suffer by having to travel long distances while the prisoners are kept here as political hostages.

However despite their callousness the government is susceptible to pressure. After a campaign mounted by relatives and Saoirse, involving expressions of concern by Irish T.D.s, the Irish embassy and others, a number of basic rights have been restored by the government.

SAOIRSE demands:

- * All Irish political prisoners in English jails are transferred without delay to Ireland.
- * The release of all Irish political prisoners.

The prisoners are there as a result of the conflict - the British government's commitment to the end of the conflict can be shown by the rapid release of all political prisoners.

Ní bheidh aon Síocháin gan Saoirse
No peace without freedom

JOIN IN THE CAMPAIGN. Support us by filling in the form below and send it to: Saoirse Co-Ordinating Committee, PO Box 7242, London E5 0HF. We want you to become involved in the campaign in your area to secure the release of all Irish political prisoners.

I wish to support Saoirse. NAME & ADDRESS
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..... TEL. NO.....
.....
I enclose £..... . We ask you to donate at least £10 p.a. to support the campaign. Please make cheques payable to Saoirse.

Show your support for the Prisoners- Wear a Green Ribbon

IMPORTANT- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH
LIVERPOOL SAOIRSE
P.O. Box 110
Liverpool L69 8DP