

PRISONERS AID COMMITTEE

BOX 9

2A ST. PAULS RD
LONDON N1.

29.9.78

Dear Brother/Sister,

The Prisoners Aid Committee has called a Day of Solidarity with Irish political prisoners for November 26 1978. This will take the form of a national demonstration from Hyde Park, Speakers Corner to Clerkenwell Green. We are calling on all trade unionists in Britain to support this march.

The British government - your government - is engaged in a systematic campaign of terror and torture in order to suppress the democratic right of the Irish people to determine their own future. The government and the media deny this. They claim that they are fighting for 'law and order' against 'criminals'. Yet since December 1977 at least eleven assassinations have been carried out by the Special Air Services section of the British Army. Also, as Archbishop O'Riada has pointed out, the prison population of Northern Ireland has increased from 500 to 3000 since 1968. It is obvious that this increase is a result of the ten year struggle between the British state and the Irish people.

Currently over 300 men are being held naked in solitary confinement in the only concentration camp in Europe - Long Kesh prison camp. These men are being held in the most degrading conditions and are subjected to continual physical and mental torture. 80% of those currently convicted in the special non-jury courts are being found 'guilty' solely on the basis of 'confessions' - no other evidence of any kind is involved in these cases. These 'confessions' are extracted by torture as the mounting evidence from Irish organisations and from organisations like Amnesty International shows. These prisoners are demanding Prisoner of War status. We are calling on all trade unionists to support this demand. Already branches of AUEW, NALGO, NUJ, ASTMS and a number of Trades Councils have given their support to this demand.

Trade unionists in this country have rightly condemned and opposed American interference in countries like Vietnam and also the barbaric regimes in countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe and Chile. We must also condemn and oppose the brutal war being waged by the BRITISH government in Ireland and give our support to the Irish people's right to self-determination.



PRISONERS AID COMMITTEE

BOX 9

2A ST. PAULS RD.

LONDON N1.

We urge you to support the Day of Solidarity on November 26 and thus demonstrate that the British trade union movement stands against British oppression in Ireland.

Please find enclosed a leaflet which gives full details of the Day of Solidarity and the text of the resolution which we are asking you to support. The Prisoners Aid Committee can supply further information and/or speakers on request.

Yours fraternally

Peter Turton
Prisoners Aid Committee