

REPUBLICAN SINN FEIN FOR CONFIRMATION CONTACT DES LONG AT (061) 343314

POBLACHTACH

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REPUBLICAN NAKED IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CLAIM RSF

A Republican prisoner is lying naked in his cell denied letters and visits because he is demanding political status, a leading spokesman of Republican Sinn Fein claimed last night.

Mr. Des Long said Clareman Michael Hegarty is being held in Cork prison in conditions similar to the H Blocks in which Bobby Sands and his comrades were detained.

"We remember the tragic outcome of this type of imprisonment meted out to Republican prisoners," he added.

Michael Hegarty began his campaign for political status last Monday in Limerick prison. Within hours he was moved to Cork where he was placed in solitary confinement. "He is also denied all so called normal privileges of prison and in fact he has been moved to the punishment block in the jail," said Mr. Long.

"He can have no visits, no reading or writing materials and no radio. In addition he cannot receive or send letters. On last Saturday he was denied a visit from his solicitor Garrett Sheehan. These visits are a normal legal procedure for people on remand.

Mr. Long said the conditions in which Michael Hegarty is being kept should cause an outcry but the politicians have been silent on the terrible injustice being meted out to Republican prisoners.

RSF are holding a protest to highlight the case of Michael Hegarty on Tuesday (10th) when he is due in court, gathering at Buswells Hotel at 12 noon to march on the Department of Justice. Mr. Long called on all those interested in justice to join the in protest.

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