

PAC NEWS

2P

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1977



PRISONERS AID COMMITTEE
182 UPPER STREET
LONDON N1

THE PRISONERS

Billy Armstrong life Wakefield
Paddy Armstrong life Wakefield
Jimmy Ashe 12 yrs Long Lartin
Liam Baker 20 yrs Albany
James Bennett 20 yrs W Scrubs
Stevie Blake 15 yrs Wakefield
Martin Brady life Gartree
Eddie Butler life Leicester
Eddie Byrne 14 yrs Wakefield
Sean Canavan 10 yrs W Scrubs
Hugh Callaghan life Albany
Sean Campbell 10 yrs L Lartin
Anthony Clarke 14 yrs Walton
Pat Christie 10 yrs Albany
Thomas Cooper 5 yrs Bristol
Gerry Conlon life Canterbury
Joe Conlon 12 yrs Wakefield
Joe Coughlan 7 yrs L Lartin
Martin Coughlan 14 yrs Gartree
Gerry Cunningham 20 yrs L Lartin
Busty Cunningham 20 yrs Albany
Tony Cunningham 10 yrs Albany
Hugh Doherty life Leicester
Adrian Donnelly life L Lartin
Brendan Dowd life Strangeways
Joe Duffy 12 yrs Bristol
Harry Duggan life Parkhurst
Kevin Dunphy 12 yrs Albany
Hugh Feeney life Long Kesh
Fr Fell 12 yrs Albany
Noel Gibson life Parkhurst
Ann Gillespie 14 yrs Durham
Eileen Gillespie 14 yrs Durham
Pat Guilfoyle 14 yrs Gartree
Pat Hackett 20 yrs W Scrubs
Sean Hayes 20 yrs W Scrubs
Wally Heaton 6 yrs Walton
John Higgins 10 yrs Parkhurst
Paddy Hill life Parkhurst
Paul Hill life Gartree
Paul Holmes life Gartree
Gerry Hunter life Gartree
Gerry Kelly life Long Kesh
Jimmy Kelly 5 yrs W Scrubs
Sean Kinsella life Parkhurst
Tony Lynch 7 yrs W Scrubs
Liam MacLarnon 15 yrs W Scrubs

Michael MacLochlainn 5 yrs Wakefield
Ronnie McCartney life Bristol
Con MacFadden 20 yrs Winchester
Bernard McCafferty 16 yrs Parkhurst
John McCluskey 10 yrs Gartree
Ray McLaughlin 12 yrs Albany
Donal McLaughlin 10 yrs Walton
James Murphy 10 yrs L Lartin
Richard McIlkenny life L Lartin
Anne Maguire 14 yrs Durham
Pat Maguire 14 yrs Gartree
Pat Maguire jr 4 yrs Aylesbury
Vincent Maguire 5 yrs Aylesbury
Tony Madigan 10 yrs Parkhurst
Gerry Mealey 10 yrs Gartree

John Melia 10 yrs L Lartin
Paddy Mulryan 20 yrs W Scrubs
Andy Mulryan 20 yrs Parkhurst
Mick Murray 12 yrs Wakefield
Steve Nordonne life W Scrubs
Paul Norney life W Scrubs ?
Joe O'Connell life Parkhurst
Shane O'Doherty life W Scrubs
Eddie O'Neill 20 yrs W Scrubs?
Pat O'Neill 8 yrs Parkhurst
David Owen 10 yrs L Lartin
Billy Power life Albany
Marian Price life Armagh
Dolours Price life Armagh
Carole Richardson indefinite
Michael Reilly 10 yrs Wakefield
Gerry Rush 7 yrs Long Lartin
Phil Sheridan 10 yrs Gartree
Mike Sheehan 9 yrs Gartree
Peter Short 10 yrs Gartree
Gerry Small 12 yrs Parkhurst
Sean Smyth 12 yrs Albany
Peter Toal 10 yrs W Scrubs
John Walker life Wakefield
Roy Walsh life Parkhurst
Judith Ward life Durham
Gerry Young 14 yrs W Scrubs

SEAN O'CONAILL

Sean O'Conaill died in Moor Green hospital, Southampton on 1 October. He had been very seriously ill with cancer for some time but had received no treatment for it whatsoever in any of the prisons in which he had been held over the past three years. The only "medicine" he had been given was pain killers and ointment to rub on his chest. When finally in August his pain had become unbearable and his symptoms unmistakable he was moved from Gartree 20 minutes before his sister arrived on a visit from Ireland. He was taken first to Albany where other Irish political prisoners sent out a message to say that he was critically ill. When his solicitor contacted the prison he was told that Sean, who had by then been moved to Parkhurst prison hospital, was not seriously ill. On the following morning the assistant governor phoned to say that in fact Sean had only 2 or 3 months to live. By the time his solicitor arrived to see him 24 hours later, the consultant called in by the prison gave him only 5 weeks to live. NO BRITISH PRISON HAS FACILITIES FOR TREATING

Sean Ó Conaill, R.I.P.

CANCER AND SEAN RECEIVED NO MEDICAL ATTENTION WHICH MIGHT HAVE PROLONGED HIS LIFE. The Catholic chaplain wrote to Sean's aunt in Ireland to say that he was receiving "X ray therapy"- this was a complete lie as Parkhurst has no such facilities. When we realised the gravity of Sean's condition we attempted, with the help of his solicitor and Frank Maguire to get him moved out of prison. The sadists in the Home Office engaged in a prolonged delaying tactic. In the meantime Sean made his will asking to be buried in Ireland. He also asked to be allowed to see Jacqueline Kaye of the PAC before he died and the Home Office refused this dying request. We also discovered that his wife had not been informed of his illness nor of which prison he was in. When she made arrangements to travel to see him from Newcastle, the local Social Services said that they would only pay for her to spend one night at the prison with her three daughters. It was not until Friday 30 September that Sean was moved out of Parkhurst to hospital. On Sunday morning, 2 October, Jacqueline Kaye arrived at the hospital to visit him. She was told that he had died the previous afternoon, less than 24 hours after being removed from prison. His body had already been put in the public morgue. No announcement of his death had been made by those responsible for it- the faceless nonentities in the Home Office. The nurse in charge of Sean's unit called the police to report that Jacqueline Kaye had visited and they arrived just as she was leaving the hospital.

On Friday 7 October, Sean's body was flown to Dublin and he was buried in Glasnevin on the following day after mass had been said in St Josephs Church, Berkeley Road. His funeral was arranged jointly by the PAC and Sinn Fein (England) and was attended by members of the Republican

movement, including Joe Cahill, George Lynch and Brendan Magill.

Roger Casement Cumann, London provided pall bearers and in accordance with Sean's wishes his coffin was draped with the national flag. Jacqueline Kaye gave a brief oration at the grave side in which she pointed out the sufferings which Sean had endured in prison like all Irish political prisoners and that he too, like his comrades Michael Gaughan, Proinsias Stagg and Noel Jenkinson had given his life for the cause of Irish freedom.

The Prisoners Aid Committee extends its deepest sympathy to Sean's wife and family.

Amongst the wreaths placed were those from the PAC, Sinn Fein, and from his comrades in Gartree prison and from Clann na Gael Scouts.

NOEL JENKINSON

9 October was the first anniversary of the death of Noel Jenkinson. Members of the PAC placed flowers on his grave in Deans Grange cemetery, Dublin.

FR FELL

Fr Fell is still in Albany, 12 months after he and five other Irish political prisoners were attacked and beaten by screws. He has made repeated applications to be moved to another prison but in his latest refusal Rees has said Fell must stay there for reasons of "administrative convenience."

HARRY DUGGAN

Harry was visited in Parkhurst by his girl friend on 8 and 9 September. When she returned for a final visit on 10 she was told that Harry had refused to allow a degrading body search and that therefore the visit would not be allowed. When she pointed out that on the other two visits no such search had been carried out, she was told that the screw who had supervised them "did not know his job." This degrading procedure applies only to Irish political prisoners who are also strip searched before and after the visit which is closely supervised by screws. As a result of Harry's refusing to comply with this he was given seven days solitary.

ALBANY

Irish political prisoners in Albany have been forced to have their visits with their wives and families in the presence of a police woman as well as screws in clear defiance of the prison rules which only allow for the presence of screws.

WORMWOOD SCRUBS

On 2 October Ronnie McCartney, Eddie O'Neill, Paul Norney and Eddie Byrne decided they could think of better places to be than the Scrubs and decided to make an exit by the nearest wall. Three of them were caught in the act but much to the consternation of the screws there was no sign of Ronnie. A full scale alert resulted with police patrolling the walls all night. Ronnie descended from a tree on the following morning. As a result of this expedition all four are to be shipped out of the Scrubs. Ronnie and Paul got 56 days solitary, Eddie got 28 days solitary and lost 120 days remission and Eddie Byrne got 14 days solitary and also lost 120 days remission. Better luck next time lads.

PAUL HILL

Paul discovered that a P0 for £2 had been sent to him along with a "Peace with Justice" card. He got the card but the money was missing. The Governor in Gartree told him that he had given the money to NACRO, a Home Office financed prisoner organisation. As a result of this Paul is to sue the governor for theft.

PARKHURST

All IPPs in Parkhurst have been told that they cannot have any kind of classes for "security reasons."

ADRIAN DONNELLY

Adrian went on the blanket with his comrade Shane Paul O'Doherty in the Scrubs in September in protest at constant harassment. However in early October he was moved to Long Lartin where he has rejoined his comrades.

CON MACFADDEN was moved from the Scrubs to Winchester at the beginning of October to do 56 days solitary. In Winchester he is the only prisoner on the block, has no books or papers and no radio. He is exercised alone in a tiny yard. When his girl friend visited, she was searched by a female PC who was brought specially to the prison. 5 screws sat in on the visit and Con's girl friend was not allowed to have a cup of tea or to use the toilet. She also discovered that Con had been kept without his letters from home for over two weeks.

Guildford and Woolwich Appeal; full analysis in the next issue of the Irish Prisoner.

AMNESTY

The PAC held a picket on Amnesty on 10 October outside the Albert Hall where this wealthy organisation was holding a junket. The picket held placards pointing out Amnesty's complete failure to do anything about the torture of Irish political prisoners in England. The picket had great effect as Amnesty called the police and officials wearing penguin suits angrily attacked the picketers for the "harm" they were causing. In the meantime fur clad ladies swirled into the Hall full of smug satisfaction, though some asked for PAC literature but the police said they would arrest anyone who sold it. The following day Amnesty were given the Nobel Peace Prize in company with that other wealthy bourgeois organisation, the "Peace People". Mr Nobel made his money from the manufacture of dynamite.



In a letter to The Guardian on 28 September, Paul Oestreicher, British Section of Amnesty, denied that he had ever alleged that Brit soldiers in the North were using torture. He said that Amnesty were only concerned about the existence of a "unit in the British Army which specialises in torture techniques. This unit is defnded by HM Government on the grounds that it is needed to train soldiers to resist torture. However valid this may seem it opens the door to potential abuse". Meanwhile the torture of men women and children by Brits continues in the North, organised by a government which has been condemned for this by an international court. Apparently Mr Oestreicher has been asleep for the last eight years and really believes that the Brits in the North are busying torturing each other. These are the kind of people who have reputations as humanitarian and disinterested organisations Cold comfort for Leo Martin, Peter McGrath and others like him who are at the receiving end of the torture units in the Brit Army.



ANTHONY CLARKE

Anthony Clarke was sentenced to 14 years in prison in Liverpool on 28 September after pleading guilty to four charges connected with explosives, including a charge of conspiring to cause explosions. He had been in custody since his arrest last February. Following his arrest, his brother was deported from Southampton under the Terrorism Act and a relative called to give evidence at his trial was arrested on his way from Belfast and never arrived. JOSEPH McDONAGH appeared with Clarke and pleaded guilty to a charge of harbouring Clarke and was given two years. On 16 June Gerald McDonnell, who had originally been charged with Clarke, had charges dropped against him and he was handed over to the RUC and taken to Belfast.

TERRORISING ACT

PETER GRIMES, organiser in Britain of the IRSP, was held under the Act and appeared in court at Old Street on 1 September charged with having "information which he knew might be of material assistance in preventing acts of terrorism." He was given bail of £5000 on condition that he report to local police every day and that he have nothing more to do with the IRSP. Another man, Harry Driver, whom Grimes had visited in Kent, was also arrested and is in Maidstone prison on remand awaiting trial on explosives charges. It could be as long as 12 months before Grimes is brought to trial and meanwhile all his political activity is at an end.

JAMES RICE, of Hackney, appeared in court in Chorley on 16 September after being held for a week under the Act. He was charged with possession of guns, ammunition and explosives and was remanded in custody.

GEORGE BINGHAM and MICHAEL MCGUINNESS were arrested under the Act in Liverpool on 29 August. They were held for a week and then Bingham was charged with being in breach of an exclusion order served on him two years earlier and McGuinness was charged with aiding and abetting him. Both were remanded in custody and sent to Walton prison where they are still awaiting trial. Bingham, whose wife was pregnant at the time of his arrest and who has since given birth to a little girl, has not been allowed to see either his wife or daughter because his wife has also been served with an exclusion order and police said if she attempted to visit him in Liverpool she would be arrested.

RICHARD GLENHOLMES was arrested in the Short Strand on the night of 19 September & taken to Castlereagh. The following day he was flown to London and held first at Scotland Yard and subsequently in Paddington Green where another man and woman arrested in England were also being held. At no time were they told what offence they were supposed to have committed but Brit police leaked a story through obliging Tom Brady of The Irish Press linking them with the so-called "container case" and attempted start of a new bombing campaign which so far has taken place only in the heads of certain British and Irish hacks. By the time the story had appeared, 24 September, the other man, McCarroll from Luton, had already been released along with the girl and after a successful picket on Paddington Green organised by the TUCPTA, Glenholmes was flown back to Belfast and handed back over to the RUC who released him on Monday 26 Sep, exactly one week after his arrest. He was not charged with any offence or given any indication of why he had been held.

JOHN GREER LAMB was sentenced to 5 years in prison at Dumfries court on 18 Sep. after being found guilty of collecting money for use in acts of terrorism. (See PAC News, August-Sep 77). The judge, Lord Stewart, ordered that Lamb, a member of the UVF should forfeit £150 and shotguns and cartridges found by Special Branch when they raided his home. Part of the "evidence" against Lamb consisted of a book with the Red Hand Commandos insignia on it and a belt with the letters "UVF".

TERRORIST CASES

Raymond Byrne and Andrew Beattie, members of the Black Watch, were sentenced to 6 years each at Downpatrick on 4 Oct. for the rape of a 19 yr old girl at Newcastle, Co Down.

Ex-Brit Peter Sturley held a bank official's family at gun point on Hayling island and demanded £6,000 claiming that he was raising funds for the IRA. When he appeared in court in Winchester on 16 Sep the prosecution obligingly pointed out that Sturley had nothing to do with the IRA. As a result he got only 8 yrs rather than the 12 or 15 yrs he might have got.

John Campbell, Earl of Breadalbane, ex-Eton and Sandhurst, was given a conditional discharge when he appeared in court in London on September after being convicted on a mugging charge.



Wealthy shipbuilder parasite Harold Dowsett was in a "bad mood" on 26 April and decided to cheer himself up by shooting his valet in the leg. He appeared in court in Lincoln on 31 August and got off with a suspended sentence.

NATO'S autumn "manoeuvre" resulted in the deaths of 12 civilians and injury to 94.

William Laing, who was discharged from the Paras in 1959 and who then served as a mercenary, was given a suspended sentence for forgery in Huddersfield on 9 October. The offence carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Three Coldstream Guards were fined £50 each at Strabane on 7 Oct for assaulting a man who was "helping them with their inquiries."

Mrs Sheila Lawrence is fighting to free her son Peter who is serving a life sentence for assisting a dead his commanding officer while on duty with his regiment in the Six Counties. Mrs Lawrence said that the Army was to blame as they had sent her son on duty while he was blind drunk.

Major Peter Scott and Sgt G Simms of the Royal Tank Regiment and Sgt G Radford of 16/5 Lancers appeared in court at Armagh on 13 th October charged variously with stealing four chairs worth £50, a mirror, coffee table a lamp and a number of pictures. They were released on bail.

"International Tribunal"

The PAC has issued the following statement on the proposal by certain people to hold a tribunal on "Britain's war crimes against the Irish people". We have considered the proposed tribunal and have decided that we shall not give it our support for two main reasons,
1) the concept of the tribunal
2) the politics of those supporting it.

The concept of the tribunal.

i) We regard the tribunal as a diversion. It is in fact an example of a phenomenon in English politics with regard to Ireland, what has been called "the politics of the last atrocity". The tribunal is nothing more than a stunt which will contribute nothing to the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland.

ii) As presently conceived the tribunal is nothing more than an imitation of the traditional bourgeois "justice" freely handed out to Irish and English working class people and which has filled the jails of both countries. It adheres strictly to the adversary system of British law and has no analytical or investigative function.

iii) The British ruling classes have a long history of recourse to "inquiries" and "tribunals" to stifle discussion on major issues. Perhaps the prime example is the Nuremburg Trials set up by the "allies" so as to turn a political issue into a moral one. At Nuremburg a couple of hundred individuals from conquered imperialist powers were "tried" by the conquering imperialists for the kind of things which the conquerors themselves had been responsible for doing, including genocide and the massive bombing of civilian targets. By the "rules" of the court no reference could be made to Dresden, Hiroshima. The so-called principle of individual responsibility supposedly established by Nuremburg is a dubious one which can readily be supported by

those unwilling to condemn the system of imperialist exploitation which is the real issue. Amnesty, for example, vaguely opposed to individual Brits killing civilians, they are not opposed to the presence of Brit troops in Ireland or to them killing members of the IRA.

iv) The use of moral /ethical terms has no place in a revolutionary struggle. Of course imperialism and colonialism leads to atrocities but the point is not the cataloguing of these per se, but to ask how can imperialism be brought to an end. We feel that the implication behind the tribunal is that British "crimes" are the cause of the struggle of the Irish people. We totally disagree with this. These "crimes" are the result of the attempt of Brit imperialism to crush that struggle. We reject totally the implication that if such brutalities had not occurred there would be basically nothing wrong with British rule in Ireland. This ignores the right of the Irish people to nationhood and self-determination.

vi) An obscene parade of the sufferings of individual Irish people for the entertainment of the British left is a horrible prospect which has more in common with appeals for species of wild animals in danger of extinction than it has to do with a revolutionary struggle and with political analysis.

2) The people supporting it.

Left wing groups with no record of support for the Republican movement or of any anti-imperialist organisation are behind the tribunal along with some individuals who have also got no history of concern in the struggle for Irish freedom. Two rival groups, the SWP and the IMG, pædominate. Neither gives any support to any Irish organisation in England or Ireland. In August Sinn Fein organised a march on the anniversary of internment in support of political status. No branches of IMG supported it and there was only one SWP banner present. The coverage given to Ireland in Socialist Worker is laughable and the paper recently refused to print part of Noel Jenkinsons last letter from prison in an In Memoriam notice because it called for support for the Republican movement. Socialist Challenge recently heavily censored a report on a meeting on Ireland when it cut out references to censorship of news on Irish political prisoners by left wing papers. Neither organisation has

ever committed any of their resources to campaigns about the treatment of prisoners in England or Ireland yet now they propose to exploit this issue through the tribunal. These organisations and certain individuals named as those who will constitute the "jury" have had eight years to put the centrality of Ireland before their members and they have conspicuously failed to do so. They now propose to sit as judge and jury in the heartland of imperialism passing judgment on a situation for which they themselves must bear responsibility for their inactivity and pretend, like the German people after the war, that they did not know what was being done in their name. It is the Irish people themselves who will pass judgment on British imperialism and included in their judgment will be all those so-called "revolutionaries" of the British left who contributed nothing to their fight for freedom but passive criticism, opportunistic exploitation, belated and inadequate interpretations of the Irish situation and never for one moment considered supporting those who are fighting and dying for Irish liberty.

To present the Irish people who have over 800 years waged a never ending fight against British rule as "victims" in need of the support of pathetic liberals and incompetent lefties is yet another example of that enslavement by inferiorisation and simplification to which Marx referred when he said: "A nation which enslaves another forges its own chains."



Prison Struggle. This excellent account of conditions in jails in N Ireland is now available from:
Republican Press Centre,
170A Falls Road, Belfast.
price 60 p

The PAC News
If you want to help the prisoners then sell the prisoners paper, the PAC News. Extra copies are available from the PAC.

