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**Reference Code:** 2003/16/468

**Title:** Document by Fr Denis Faul and Fr Raymond Murray on physical and psychological torture inflicted on prisoners by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British Army, and on the case against internment in Northern Ireland.

**Creation Date(s):** October, 1972

**Level of description:** Item

**Extent and medium:** 2 pages

**Creator(s):** Department of the Taoiseach

**Access Conditions:** Open

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REPRESSION OF THE CATHOLIC MINORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.25 Methods of Brutality by Military and Special Branch R.U.C.  
December, 1971 - February, 1972.

THESE ARE THE PRINCIPAL METHODS OF TORTURE USED IN HOLLYWOOD AND GIRDWOOD BARRACKS.

1. Placing a man in "search position", single finger of each hand to the wall, legs well apart and well back, on the toes, knees bent, for prolonged periods.
2. Heavy punching to the pit of the stomach to man in "search position".
3. Kicking the legs from under a man in the "search position", so that he falls to the ground, banging his head on the wall, or radiator, or ground.
4. Beating with batons on the kidneys and on the privates while in "search position."
5. Kicking between the legs while in the "search position." This is very popular among the R.U.C. officers and they often do it for periods of half an hour or an hour.
6. Putting a man in "search position" over a very powerful electric fire or radiator.
7. Stretching a man over benches with two electric fires underneath and kicking him on the stomach.
8. Rabbit punching to the back of the neck while in "search position".
9. Bangin the head against the wall.
10. Beating the head with a baton in crescendo fashion.
11. Slapping the ears and face with open hand.
12. Twisting the arms behind the back and twisting fingers.
13. Prodding the stomach with straight fingers.
14. Chopping blows to the ribs from behind with simultaneous blows to the stomach.
15. Hand squeezing of the testicles.
16. Insertion of instruments in the anal passage.
17. Kicking on the knees and shins.
18. Tossing the prisoner from one officer to another and punching him while in the air.
19. Injections.
20. Electric cattle prod was used.
21. Electric shocks by the use of a machine.
22. Burning with matches and candles.
23. Deprivation of sleep.
24. Urinating on prisoners.
25. Psychological tortures:
  - (a) Russian roulette.
  - (b) Firing blanks.
  - (c) Beating men in darkness.
  - (d) Blindfolding.
  - (e) Assailants using stocking masks.
  - (f) Wearing surgical dress.
  - (g) Staring at white perforated wall in small cubicle.
  - (h) Use of amphetamine drugs.
  - (i) Prisoners are threatened: threats to their families, bribes offered, false confessions are used.

These tortures of prisoners clearly violate the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and their Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as well as the European Convention of Human Rights, and the Second Vatican Council Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. ANY OF THESE ACTIONS INFLICTED ON A PRISONER IS A CIVIL ASSAULT, CONSTITUTING ACTUAL OR GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM.

FATHER DENIS FAUL, DUNGANNON.  
FATHER RAYMOND MURRAY, ARMAGH.



REPRESSION OF THE CATHOLIC MINORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.20 POINTS AGAINST INTERNMENT

1. It is immoral and unjust to take away a man's basic right to liberty without a fair, just and public trial with proper means of defence and appeal available.
2. Imprisonment without trial under the northern Ireland Special Powers Act reduces a man to the level of a slave, without any legal protection. No warrant, no charge, no trial.
3. Men arrested under Special Powers can disappear for days, be brutally treated with impunity by their oppressors, can be moved from place to place of detention secretly.
4. There is no proper right of appeal against internment. The Brown Tribunal, set up by the iniquitous Stormont Ministry of Home Affairs, is regarded by the internees as a judicial farce and it imposes an oath which is an abuse of religion and a mockery of God.
5. The family income ceases when the breadwinner is interned. No compensation for the afflicted family is provided by the government although £5 a week was provided as compensation for internee's families in Aden when internment was imposed there in 1967.
6. The internees' camp in Long Kesh is constructed to break men's spirits and degrade them. Groups of 80-90 men are kept in leaking tin huts in cages 70 x 30. No facilities for exercises, hobbies or libraries. Facilities for visitors are disgraceful.
7. Medical facilities at the camp are woefully inadequate. Family doctors are prevented from coming in to see their patients by days of "red tape".
8. Psychiatric treatment is essential for men who have been tortured and imprisoned unjustly. Provision for this is practically nil. DESPAIR is caused by no date for release.
9. Libellous statements have been made against the imprisoned men and legal aid is not available for them to defend their good name.
10. Harassment of prisoners by brutal British soldiers in an organised way has been allowed on a number of occasions, recently in the transfer of prisoners from one cage to another.
11. One per cent of the adult Catholic male population of Northern Ireland, that is 900 men, has been imprisoned without trial. It is clear the intention is not primarily to "dispose of unwanted members of the public" (Brig. Kitson), but to terrorise the Catholic community into accepting whatever political solution Stormont wants to impose on them.
12. Three per cent (2,700) of the adult Catholic male population have been arrested under the Special Powers Act, held incommunicado for 48 hours, interrogated often with brutality, intimidation used on them and their families: humble homes wrecked by the Army.
13. The Special Powers Act, Northern Ireland, means that in an area with the population of Birmingham England or Pittsburgh, U.S.A., two thirds of the population has the permanent right to treat brutally and imprison without trial the other third, the poorer and less privileged section of the community. It has never been used to intern Unionists.
14. The Unionist section of the community has used internment against the Catholic section of the community six times in 50 years, in every decade, in the 1920's, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and in the 1970's.
15. Some men at present in Long Kesh have been interned three or four times in their lives. Their children saw relatively little of them as they grew up.
16. A number of the internees have lost ten and twelve years of their lives imprisoned without trial. No adequate reasons have been or are given.
17. Attempts to use the internees as hostages in forcing a political settlement on the Catholic section are further injustices to be rejected.
18. Release of the internees should be unconditional, all should be released and given legal aid to seek compensation for wrongful arrests, brutality and detention.
19. The Special Powers Act must be abolished as a first step towards community peace.
20. The semi-permanent suspension of the Habeus Corpus Act in Northern Ireland constitutes a serious threat to countries which share the traditions of the Common Law of which Habeus Corpus is the foundation stone. They should speak to England about it.

ISSUED BY FR. DENIS FAUL, DUNGANNON.