

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

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<b>Title:</b>	Statement signed by over 350 priests demanding the end of torture and brutality being inflicted on persons interned in Northern Ireland.
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WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW.....

We, the undersigned priests, are convinced that brutality, physical and mental torture and psychological pressures have been inflicted on men arrested under the Special Powers Act on the ninth of August and subsequently. We believe that these barbarities are still being inflicted on innocent people - convicted of no crime - at the Palace Military Barracks, Hollywood, under the protection of law by the Special Branch of the R.U.C.

We base our conviction on substantial medical evidence, on the testimony of priests who saw the injuries, and on the statements of men whose truthfulness is already known to us through our pastoral work. We note, too, that the authorities have failed to explain where the twelve missing men were from the eleventh to the seventeenth of August; where Lian Shannon was from October ninth to seventeenth; or where Lian Rogers was from October eleventh to seventeenth.

The second Vatican Council (Church in the World, 27) condemns:

"All violations of integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, physical and mental torture, undue psychological pressures..... All these and the like are criminal; they poison civilization; and they debase the perpetrators more than the victims and militate against the honour of the Creator."

We, therefore, demand that brutality and torture by the forces of the law be stopped immediately. We call for a public, impartial, judicial tribunal to expose the full truth of what has been done to people arrested since August ninth under the Special Powers Act, and to ensure the punishment of those responsible and redress for the victims. We condemn the holding of prisoners incommunicado from their relatives for indefinite periods. We want an immediate end to imprisonment without trial, which is immoral and unjust.

SIGNED: By more than 350 priests as per attached list.

DATE: November 1st 1971: Feast of all Saints.

Copies of this statement have been sent to the Westminster Members of Parliament, Howard Smith and General Tuzo; the English and Irish national papers; The BBC, ITN and RTE; Mr. Jack Lynch, Dr. P.J. Hillery, Mr. Lian Cosgrave and Mr. Brendan Corish; Mr. Graham Shillington and the Police Authority; selected European and American leaders and papers; Secretary General of United Nations and International Red Cross.

Enquiries to Rev. Denis Faul, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Phone: Dungannon 2668.

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 WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER.