

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

*Mr. Haughey  
for des. pl  
3/6*

Lisnaskea,  
Co. Fermanagh.  
28rd May, 1980.

An Taoiseach,  
Mr. Charles Haughey, T. D.,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin

*Dear Charles*

I have been asked by the parents and relatives of the girl protesters in Armagh Jail to forward this statement to you and have it brought before the notice of the Irish Government.

A similiar statement has been sent to Mr. Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for the British Government.

Yours sincerely

*Frank*

H. F. Maguire, M. P.

RECEIVED 3 JUN 1980



We the parents and relatives of the protesting girls in Armagh Prison have met in Belfast on 4th May 1980 and have agreed to support the prisoners in their protest, firstly against the beatings by male officers on 7th February 1980, now known as Black February, and the subsequent denial of access to the toilets 7th-12th February, denial of laundry and visits from concerned persons in that period, and secondly against the 23 hour lock-up for refusal to work. This latter punishment is cruel and degrading and is not alleviated by the offer of partial association which would be a locked one.

We are concerned that the dignity, spiritual rights, and self respect of the girls has been violated to a serious degree in Armagh Prison. We recognise that the means of protest available to our daughters was limited and that they were forced on to a "<sup>no wash no sleep no mail</sup>dirty protest" by a deliberate escalation of punishments which reached the final straw in physical beatings by men. This is not tolerable to Catholic people. All the members of the families of these girls have been personally insulted and injured by the cruel, inhuman and degrading attacks on their sisters and daughters.

We find the actions of the British Government and its agents deplorable but not unexpected after three years of a deteriorating regime in Armagh Prison. We support the five demands of the girls (1) voluntary work (2) free association (3) free <sup>choice of</sup> recreation and education (4) one visit, letter, parcel per week (5) restoration of full remission.

We maintain that any humane prison system would allow these. We appeal to the Irish people at home and abroad to demand decent standards of treatment.

Mr Daniel Beattie  
Mrs Ellen Beattie  
Edward Murphy  
Ellen Callaghan  
Mrs Jean O'Neill  
Miss NOREEN DARRAGH  
Catherine McFady  
Mrs Jean Markey  
Mr Don McLaughlin  
Mrs B. McLaughlin  
A. J. Lynch

Raymond Quinn  
Kathleen Quinn  
James Gibson  
Marian Gibson  
Elizabeth McCoy  
Alice Moore  
Charles McQuinn  
Daniel Lardell  
M. J. Garry  
Susan Malloy



Miss H. Lannon  
Miss O'Neill.

Mrs Margaret Breevy  
James Brownlee

Mary Brownlee

Mrs Anne G. Connor  
PATRICIA O. CONNOR

MRS Margaret Nugent  
Frederick Nugent.

Denny Mook

Mrs Alice Nolan

Mr Kevin Nolan

MR - MRS John Pettigrew

Ms Mrs M. Conville.

Angela M. Conville

Mrs Elizabeth Mc Clenaghan  
Mr James Mc Clenaghan

Margaret Mc Clenaghan.

Mrs Baidie Mc Clenaghan

Mrs Mary Mc Clenaghan

Mrs Phyllis Glenn

David J. Conville.

Edith J. Conville.

Hugh O'Keefe