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THIS IS AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE BLANKET MEN

Once over a century ago in 1874 a man wrote a letter. That letter was wrote on a tagged bit of paper and travelled thousands of miles before it was read. It began "Please Heed This", a voice from the tomb. The man was one of the last six Irish Political Prisoners in the Freemantle Penal Colony in Australia. Disease, dispair and terrible conditions had killed some of his comrades, that letter was his last desoprate plea for help to the rest of the World. But men in America heeded that plea, that cry from the tomb and two years later in 1876 these men were rescued by a whaling boat called Crialpa. They say history repeats its self regularly. It has here and its only fitting that the words of that letter be used again "Please heed this a voice from the tomb!" This tomb of the H-Blocks of Long Kesh has held over 350 men in horrific conditions for 4 years. Just about every horror known to the human race has been perpetrated within the walls and barred wire of this hell. WHY? The only reason is simple, to crush the hearts and minds of the men in here, to turn them into mindless puppets and to make them accept the igneminious title "Criminal". The men in here are prisoners of conscience, they suffer intolerable punishment for their benefits and ideas, they live each day in terror not knowing what the next will bring, not knowing if they will see their families and loved ones again. The damage they have suffered to their physical and mental health is incalculable, only later life will tell the tale of misery, pain, deprivation and inhumanity is endless and could never be related in this short letter. All this has reached a point where only one altervative is left. The terrible human agony of a Hunger-Strike with all its frightening consequences. Every effect has been made to avoid it. The men have tried every form of passive protest, but it has been met by savage repression and violence in the blocks. Now the situation requires the supreme protest. It can only succeed with your help. You can end this Night-Mare, and avert a tragedy. What can I do to help? You will probably say, as the saying goes "every little counts". Don't forget it was only a straw that broke the Comels back. You may think that your contribution is little but it may be that straw. Tell your friends and colleagues about this place, show them this letter and ask them to help. Ask them to tell their friends and so on, if you can, recopy this letter and send it to influencial oepole asking them for their help. Attend any anti H-Block Protests, lend your voice to the case of the Blanket or ask and relatives of Blanket Men, or get in contact with the H-Block Committee Relatives Action Committee, or any other Sinnfein Office all these will be able to give you advice as how you can provide assistance in this campaign. I hope you can help us to end this horror before someone dies. The Hunger Strike began on Monday 27th October 1980. So all help is desperately needed as death can kill a Hunger Striker sooner than expected. History repeats its self. I hope you can become one of the rescursor's who will answer this plea for help, just as others did over a century ago.

"Please heed this a voice from the tomb"

THE BLANKET MEN

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