



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

Rt.Hon.Humphrey Atkins
Secretary of State for N.Ireland
Stormont.

Dear Humphrey,

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 British Government. A similiar statement has been sent to the Irish Government.

Yours sincerely

M.F. Maguire, M.P.



Statement addressed to the Rt Hon. Humphrey Atkins MP, Secretary of State, N. Ireland.

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~~ ^{were} limited and that they were forced on to a ^{no wash no sleep-out} "city 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 ~~druel~~, 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 ^{choice of} 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
Miss Ellen Callaghan
Mrs. Jean O'Neill
Miss NOREEN DARRAGH
Mrs Jean Markey
Katherine McFay
Maria Gibson
James Gibbon
Mr Dan McLaughley
Mrs N. McLaughley
Maureen Farrell.

Raymond Quin
Kathleen Quinn
Mrs. Alice Moore
Shank McGeer
Valerie Batsman
Elizabeth Mc Coy
M. J. Mc Garry
Daniel Farrell
A. J. Keenan
Susan Molloy
Mary Mc Lannan

Mrs Margaret Brey
Mrs Anne O'Connor
Patricia O'Connor
James Browne
Mary Brownlee
Mrs Mary Bateson
Mrs Margaret Nugent
Frederick Nugent
Danny Mook
Mrs Alice Nolan
Mr Kevin Nolan

Mr & Mrs John Pettigrew.
Mrs Peter M. Connell
Angela M. Connell
Mrs Elizabeth M. Clenaghan
Mr James M. Clenaghan
Margaret M. Clenaghan
Mrs Sadie M. Clenaghan

Mrs Mary M. Gony
Phyllis Glenn
David O'Connell
Evelyn O'Connell
Hughie Wakely