

# Ulster Defence Association

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## PRESS STATEMENT FROM "H" BLOCK, LONG KESH

We, the Loyalist prisoners on the "Clean" Blanket Protest have decided that we have no other choice but to step-up our Protest and go on Hunger Strike. We are faced with this decision because we feel that Loyalist politicians conveniently forget that there are not just Republicans in the H Blocks. During the 2½ years we have been on the Blanket we have kept a very low profile, and have been completely ignored. The politicians have been claiming that there will be a Loyalist peoples' "Backlash", but we are part of past loyalist backlashes and the same politicians are ignoring us. So we say to anyone listening to ~~us~~ those "statements" on the H Blocks by these politicians - "Do not take any notice, because if you end up in prison you will be forgotten men - just like us". We wish to remind those same politicians and the general public that we too have been held under the SPECIAL Powers Act, and sentenced by SPECIAL courts, so we firmly believe that we are entitled to SPECIAL category status. We therefore appeal to the Loyalist population to support us in the following demands:-

1. COMPLETE SEGREGATION FROM ALL REPUBLICANS
2. THE RIGHT TO WEAR OUR OWN CLOTHES
3. THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE OUR OWN RECREATION AND EDUCATION
4. RESTORATION OF ALL REMISSION LOST DURING PROTEST ACTION
5. ONE VISIT, ONE PARCEL, AND UNLIMITED LETTERS PER WEEK.

We are beginning our Hunger Strike on the 12th December, 1980. Six Loyalists will be taking part and we are determined to see this through to the very end. If the end means death - so be it.

Signed : P.R.O. Loyalist Prisoners on the Clean Protest.