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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

*McNally
for ds. xl
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 ~~were~~ limited and that they were forced on to a "^{no wash no sleep no toilet} ~~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 ^{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
Edward Murphy
Ellen Callaghan
Miss 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
Marie Gibson
Elizabeth Mc Coy
Alice Moore
Charles McQuinn
Daniel Ladd
M. J. Garry
Susan Malloy

Miss H. Lamon
Miss O'Neill.

Miss Margaret Breevy
Miss Brownlee

Mary Brownlee

Mrs Anne G. Connor
Patricia O. Connor

Mrs Margaret Nugent
Frederick Nugent

Denny Moore

Mrs Alice Nolan

Mr Kevin Nolan

Mr - Mrs John Pettigrew

Mr & Mrs M. L. Conville

Angela M. L. Conville

Mrs Elizabeth M. Clenaghan
Mr James M. Clenaghan

Margaret Mc Clenaghan.

Mrs Baidie M. Clenaghan

Mrs Mary M. L. Conville

Mrs Phyllis G. L. Conville

David L. Conville

Edith L. Conville

Hugh Doherty