

IRISH PRISONERS APPEAL

c/o Lambeth IBRG 245A Coldharbour Lane Brixton, London SW9

STRIP-SEARCHING IS TORTURE

The Irish Prisoners Appeal was set up in 1985 by a group of people -Irish and English- who were concerned about the treatment and general harassment meted out to Irish political prisoners held on remand in Brixton prison.

Initially, the group was particularly concerned with the strip-searching of the prisoners held on remand in Brixton during the conspiracy trial of May/June 1986. During the first 8 months Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer were subjected to an average of 25 strip-searches per month each. As the trial approached the strip-searches increased each month, until they reached the level of three per day during the trial.

Although the authorities claim that strip-searching is a security measure, we know that it is a method of humiliating and degrading women prisoners -a form of sexual harassment tantamount to torture.

Other remand conditions were also a cause for concern. Prisoners were subjected to sleep deprivation (a commonly recognised form of torture) and exercise deprivation.

Since November 1985, the IPA has been politically active in bringing this treatment to public attention in an effort to gain humane conditions for all prisoners in British jails, especially in Brixton.

STRESS FOR FAMILIES

While campaigning for an end to strip-searching, the IPA has attended to the welfare needs of these Irish prisoners and their families and friends. We provide food and parcels and write to prisoners and provide food, accommodation, transport, information and other practical and financial support to the relatives and friends.

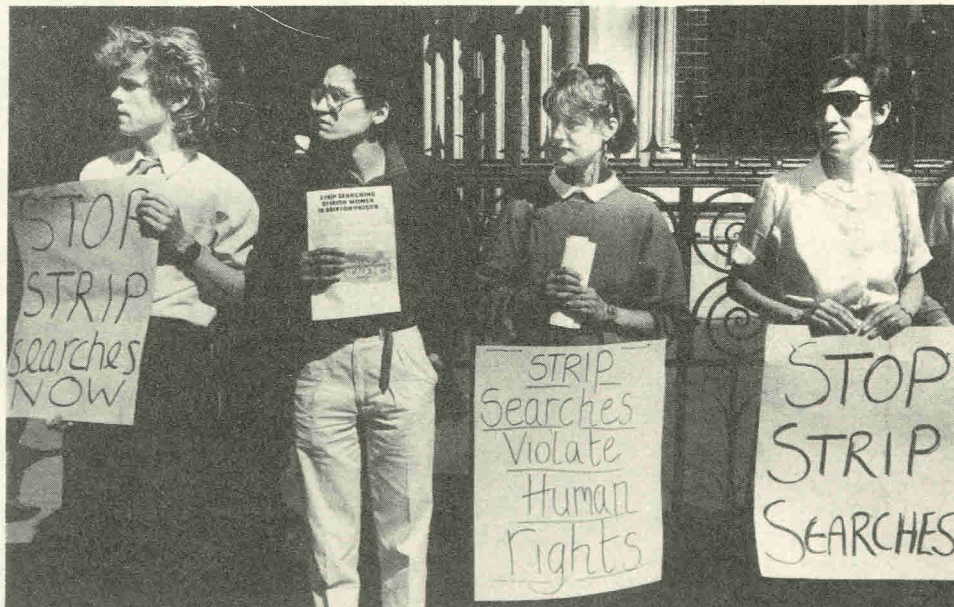
The IPA receives no funding. We rely on the donations -*your donations*- to help us provide this service.

The British government fails to take responsibility for the war in the occupied 6 counties -and to recognise, therefore, that these prisoners are political prisoners. This means that, unlike British soldiers, Irish political prisoners are often imprisoned far away from home and their own community, in England. As a result relatives and friends have the additional, immense stress of having to make long and exhausting journeys to come here for visits.

ON-GOING WORK

On-going work of the IPA includes:

- ★ Fundraising and campaigning to take Martina and Ella's case against strip-searching to the European Court of Human Rights to have strip-searching outlawed.



Joanne O'Brien (Format)

- ★ Continuing welfare and support work for Irish political prisoners in Brixton prison and their friends and relatives.
- ★ Publicising the harsh treatment of Irish prisoners in Durham womens prison H wing.
- ★ Supporting the campaign for Irish political prisoners to be transferred to prisons near their homes.
- ★ Liaising with other groups in working around prison conditions.



Photo: Geraldine Norby/Camerawork Derry

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Raise money for the IPA
2. Affiliate to the IPA
3. Invite speakers from the IPA to your groups and organisations
4. Pass a motion against strip-searching at your local Trades Union/Labour Party branch (model motions available from address below.)
5. Tell everyone you know about the work of the IPA
6. Write to your MP and local councillor asking them what they are doing about the treatment of Irish political prisoners in British jails
7. Write to the IPA for more information about the work we do.

WRITE TO THE PRISONERS

Ella and Martina were moved to Durham Prison's H-Wing on July 31st 1986. They spent most of August and September locked up 23 hours a day for refusing to sew NATO uniforms. The Governor finally gave in and provided them with alternative work.

Write to them on this victory!

Ella O'Dwyer D25135
 Martina Anderson D25134
 HM Prison Durham
 Old Elvet
 Durham DH1 3HU

For addresses of other Irish political prisoners, contact us at the address below

AFFILIATION FORM

I/we would like to affiliate to the IPA. Please send us information about what the group is doing and what else we can do to help.

NAME

ORGANISATION

ADDRESS

I/we enclose an affiliation fee of £25, £50, £100 or less according to means; amount £.....

Nat West Bank, Brixton branch, London SW9
IPA account no: 02478951, sort code 60-03-36

p&p IRISH PRISONERS APPEAL, c/o Lambeth IBRG, 245a Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8RR