

# She wrote to IRA prisoners who later escaped Fingerprints taken from blind nun, 76

**A 76-YEAR-old blind nun was visited by police who took her fingerprints and a signed statement — all because she had written to prisoners who had later escaped.**

Sister Sarah Clarke, of Kentish Town, was visited by two Cambridgeshire officers two weeks ago following the escape of six IRA prisoners from White-moor Prison last year.

She explained: "I had never met the prisoners. I had written to them totally above board and with nothing surreptitious.

"When confronted by two policemen it's hard to say no to fingerprints and a statement, you feel they may think you're guilty. It was only days later that it sunk in what had happened and I was angry.

"I'm almost house-bound. How could they expect me to be up to anything?"

Sister Clarke, a mem-

by **JAN GOODEY**

ber of La Sainte Union order, contacted a solicitor friend who wrote complaining of her treatment to the Cambridgeshire Police chief. The Irish Embassy has also written on her behalf in a similar vein.

Pegeen O'Sullivan, secretary of the Camden Irish Forum, said it happened because of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

She has drawn the

incident to the attention of both Camden MPs, Frank Dobson and Glenda Jackson.

Mrs O'Sullivan said: "This is evidence of the sort of harassment many Camden citizens suffer in consequence of this legislation.

"Sister Clarke is a frail old lady, registered blind, who for years and years has done this sort of social work.

"The police didn't ring her beforehand or bring any papers with