

**CHRISTMAS IN
NORTHERN IRELAND**



WILL YOU REMEMBER ?

We have been taught to believe that Christmas is a time of giving, of celebrating, of sharing, and of being with those we love. In Northern Ireland, however, families are torn apart, soldiers patrol the streets of the ghetto areas, and tension fills the air. Men and women are taken from their homes at any hour, and incarcerated without trial or evidence. Christmas knows no respite from harassment.

In Armagh Prison, right now, many young women are imprisoned and tortured daily for their political beliefs. Brenda Cassin, Rosaleen Watson, Ann Walsh -- they are all living in an inhumane environment.

Brenda Cassin's husband, Leo, is serving a five-year term in Long Kesh for possession of Republican papers. Her brother-in-law, Adrian, was arrested recently and faces a life sentence. Brenda has had to place her two children in homes. In a smuggled letter to the press concerning her arrest, she said, "some of the things they accused me of doing happened when I was eight months pregnant ... what made the accusation even more ludicrous was the fact that in my sixth month of pregnancy and thereafter I was so ill that I couldn't even do my own shopping or housework."

Rosaleen Watson's two brothers are in Long Kesh. A social worker, she was arrested without suggestion of criminal or subversive activities.

Ann Walsh, a hairdresser, has a brother interned since February. At the age of eighteen she had endured all the variety of treatments' designed to break the morale and commitment of dissentors in Northern Ireland. She has suffered some damage to her central nervous system, probably as a result of being subjected to 'noise treatment' during interrogation. Along with the 'noise treatment', many beatings, which included blows to her head have produced sensory problems evidenced in periodically blurred vision and temporary loss of hearing.

What we are witnessing are cases of deliberate family destruction in areas where peaceful civil disobedience has been the greatest.

At present there are over 1,600 men and women jailed in Northern Ireland for their political beliefs. The International Committee of the Red Cross recently described conditions at Long Kesh as "filthy and dilapidated," and reported, "increased psychological strain among internees." William Whitelaw, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, responded to the Red Cross's criticisms by stating, "It is often difficult to keep pace with maintenance and repairs because of willful damage and total lack of cooperation on the part of detainees."

Remember, Christmas is a time of giving and sharing. Give to those who need it most now -- the oppressed people of Northern Ireland.

CIVIL
*Northern
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RIGHTS
Association
2 Marquis Street,
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November 23, 1973

Dear Friends:

We know that all who will receive this letter, are aware of the long standing denial of civil rights in Northern Ireland, which is being made much worse by the efforts of the British Government to end the present violence by military means, instead of by a just settlement.

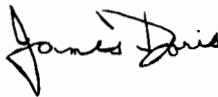
Since the days of 1968, when our movement received maximum publicity we have constantly campaigned for full civil rights for all citizens, in a non violent, non sectarian, and non party political manner. Despite widespread differences in opinion on long term solutions, for the problems of this area, there is widespread agreement among democrats that the establishment of democracy is essential to allow for the end of violence, community reconciliation, and the development of normal politics.

During the last few years, it has been very difficult to raise funds abroad for the non violent struggle. We raise funds for three purposes: 1) to run the organization, with an office, a newspaper, 2 telephones, a car, and two full time workers. This centre acts as an organizer, a publicity centre, and a place where the problems of ordinary people can be immediately tackled. 2) A fund for the innocent victims of the present situation, from which a grant is paid out twice a year. This fund is empty, and we have 250 families waiting to receive a cheque. 3) A fund to carry through a case to the United Nations Commission of Human Rights. Britain was one of nine countries which had a case against it accepted in September. Although the Association for Legal Justice, and the British based National Council for Civil Liberties are co-sponsors with us, NICRA has been, and will continue to be responsible for the funding.

A full description of the work we are doing can be given by the NAIF, our representative in the United States.

The suffering here by ordinary people has been immense, and nobody has suffered more than the women and children. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated, and used to combat injustice, in a non violent manner or for the relief of distress.

Yours sincerely,



James Doris
Chairman

THIS CHRISTMAS WILL YOU REMEMBER:

- * 1,600 political prisoners
- * women and children interned
- * British army harassment and repression
- * sectarian murders
- * Emergency Provisions Act
- * complete lack of Civil Rights

"Ireland as distinct from her people, is nothing to me; and the man who is bubbling over with love and enthusiasm for Ireland,' and can yet pass unmoved through our streets and witness all the wrong and the suffering, the shame and the degradation brought upon the people of Ireland -- aye, brought by Irishmen upon Irishmen and women, without burning to end it, is in my opinion, a fraud and a liar in his heart, no matter how he loves that combination of chemical elements he is pleased to call 'Ireland'." (James Connolly)

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ANY DONATION YOU MAKE WILL BE SENT TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION WHICH IS NON-VIOLENT, NON-SECTARIAN, AND IS MILITANTLY PURSUING THE STRUGGLE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.