



**Irish Republican
Prisoners Support Group**
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**Political Status for All Irish
Republican prisoners!
Free all anti-Imperialist
political prisoners!**

We demand the immediate implementation August 2010 Agreement on Maghaberry prison and an end to the constant use of strip searching to humiliate prisoners contrary to international law. One prisoner received 31 strip searches and 1,135 rub down searches in a six month period. The use of the BOSS chair as is accepted even in the Texas jails would immediately end this.

Because of legislation introduced by British government following the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) Republican prisoners are denied the right to organise themselves on their own landings, Easter lilies (the commemorative symbol of the 1916 uprising that saw the birth of the modern Irish nation) are banned in the prison whilst the Poppy, the symbol of British Imperialism, is sported by Loyalists and (Loyalist) screws alike. Prisoners are locked in their cells for alternately 21/23 hours per day, Irish language and cultural items including handicrafts made relating to hunger strikes are routinely confiscated or destroyed by prison officers.

Marian Price remains in jail despite her deteriorating health. Unbelievably the British government are lying that they have lost her Royal Pardon, which proves she was released under that and so had no licence under the GFA. to be taken away. It is clear that a woman in such a state could only pose a “significant threat” politically. And clearly that is the true reason for her incarceration. She was allowed only a few hours to her sister’s Dolours wake on 27 January. Dolours’ massive funeral was attended by prominent republican figures including Colin Duffy, Paul Maskey, Danny Morrison and Hugh Feeney, showing that “they have not gone away”: They = opposition to British Imperialism.

Martin Corey had his licence revoked in April, 2010, (although he refused to sign the GFA) on the basis of “closed material”. On July 9, Justice Treacy ruled that Martin Corey’s human rights had been breached and he should be released immediately on unconditional bail. This was overruled by Secretary of State, Shaun Woodward. In January 2013 his judicial review, was refused because a “special advocate had had access to the material and instructed the judges as to the acceptability or otherwise of the contents”. So not only were the defence team denied access to this closed material but even the judge could not see it, some say because this evidence does

not exist. Like Marian Price and Stephen Murney the reason for his internment is purely political; he rejects the GFA. Martin will have his appeal in the Supreme Court in London heard in relation to the denial of Justice Treacy’s ruling to release him.

Éirígi activist **Stephen Murney** was arrested on 28 November and charged with ‘collecting and distributing information likely to be of use to terrorists’ and ‘possession of articles likely to be of use to terrorists’. Amongst the ‘evidence’ produced for these offences are that he had a large number of photographs of police in his computer. But all leftists have these publicly available photographs of police at historic events and recent pickets and demos. But far more serious are the political implications of the charges of what might be ‘of use to terrorists’. First the spurious; “two ball-bearing airguns, berets, trousers and jumpers”; the ‘BB guns’ aren’t actually guns of course and the uniform was from a flute band.

But as Éirígi leader Breandán Mac Cionnaith points out:

The third charge also is directly related to Stephen’s work as a party member. His solicitor has been informed that among the items which the PSNI claim may be “likely to be of use to terrorists” are éirígi posters, leaflets and literature of which many thousands of copies have been distributed throughout communities across the north, along with stencils which party members make use of. These spurious charges that have been laid against Stephen Murney are charges which could be pressed against any political activist, any human rights activist, or any photo-journalist, in the Six Counties.

**Free Irish, Basque, Palestinian, Kurdish,
Naxalite and all anti-Imperialist POWs!**



Public meeting

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square

19.00 Thurs 28th February 2013

Free all Irish, Basque, Palestinian, Kurdish, Tamil, Naxalite and all anti-Imperialist political prisoners!

Political Status for all Irish Republican Prisoners!

Implement the August 2010 Agreement!

Free Marian Price, Martin Corey, and Stephen Murney!

Meeting sponsored by the Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group and Brent Labour Representation Committee

The following is an extract from an article written by Stephen Murney, Maghaberry – the reality of strip-searching, 04/02/13. It reveals the brutality of the Loyalist screws endured by all republican prisoners.

...Two of the screws stand guard at the cell door - one is standing directly in front of me, two stand each side of me, one stands behind me and another stands in the corner and 'observes' the strip-search.

The screw standing in front of me grabs me by the face with both his hands while, simultaneously, the two screws each side of me grab my arms and stretch them outright forcing me to stand in a crucifix position. Both my wrists are forcibly twisted and bent backwards, causing extreme pain and discomfort.

I am forced onto my knees. As the screw in front pushes my face into the ground, the screw behind me then pulls both my legs from under me. I am now being held on the ground still in a crucifix position by four screws. I am forcibly held down with my face pushed into the ground. Both my legs are being held by two screws.

My arms are still outstretched with both my wrists twisted and bent in an almost impossible position. While I am held in this position my jumper is forcefully pulled off and thrown into the corner, my shoes and socks are the pulled off, next my jeans are very forcefully yanked down in a manner, which clearly, is only used to inflict pain on the prisoner. Lastly my underwear is pulled down.

I am now lying on the floor of the cell completely naked, humiliated and degraded. My clothes are lying

Speakers

Diarmuid Mac Dubhghlais: Ard-Cisteoir, Republican Sinn Féin

Egoitz Ibaibarriaga: Basque POWs
Graham Durham: LRC London Organiser

Isabel Counihan- Sanchez: Counihan-Sanchez Homeless Campaign

Speaker from Frontline Socialist Party, Sri Lanka, on Tamil POWs

Michael Holden: Chair of IRPSG
Chair: Gerry Downing IRPSG

in the corner of the cell. My face is throbbing, my wrists are aching and, while I am lying there naked, those responsible stand towering above me.

The riot squad then begin to leave the cell one at a time. I am still lying on the ground naked yet they demand that I do not look at them or get up off the ground until they leave the cell. One wonders what they fear from a solitary, naked and defenceless prisoner.

...Degradation and humiliation of prisoners is rife by the prison authorities in Maghaberry. Controlled movement remains in place. At times only one prisoner is allowed onto the landing at a time. If you need to go to the shower, several members of the riot squad escort you to the shower room. It's the same if you need to go to the laundry room or back to your cell.

There are other forms of vindictiveness such as depriving prisoners of sleep. Throughout the night and early hours the screws open the flap in the cell door and shine a torch in your face before slamming the flap shut. They also regularly bang and kick cell doors during the night making it impossible to sleep.

Prison struggles by Republicans have long been a feature of life within British prisons, from Tom Clarke to Bobby Sands and his comrades in Long Kesh, from the Republican women prisoners who suffered strip searches in Armagh and Maghaberry goals, to the men who suffer the same torture in Maghaberry today.

Stephen Murney, Republican Prisoner, Roe 4, Maghaberry.

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Organisation: Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group

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