

# MAGHABERRY PRISON PROTEST

Remember the 1981 hunger strikes!  
*Cuimhnigh ar stailceoirí ocras 1981!*  
Republican Prisoners again criminalised  
by British government

Support their Five Demands  
*Tacaigh leis na cúig éileamh*  
Right to Free Association  
End to Controlled Movement  
Right to full-time education  
Separate visiting facility  
Right to organise their own landings



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# *Faoi Ghlas ag Gallabhi!* Conditions endured by Republican POWs in Maghaberry Jail

THE Stormont Agreement of 1998, signed by the British Government and the Provisionals, removed political status from Republican prisoners in the jails in the British-Occupied Six Counties.

Since then the British have pursued a policy of criminalisation and conditions have deteriorated so much so that on June 19, 2006 the POWs escalated their campaign to win back POW status.

They are refusing to eat their meals in their cells and are only taking food, purchased in the tuck shop, during unlock. As a result their health is suffering.

## **Presently the men in Maghaberry jail are:**

- locked into their cells for between 21 and 23 hours per day;
- strip-searched constantly, one prisoner received 1,135 rubdown searches and 31 strip searches in a six month period;
- made to chose between daily exercise and education. The right of the prisoners to organise their own education, ie handcraft, Irish language and history classes, etc is denied them. Hankies made by the POWs were either destroyed or confiscated by prison staff;
- restricted in their movement within the landings. Controlled movement ensures that no more than three prisoners are permitted out of their cells at any one time on any one landing and each prisoner is accompanied by two members of prison staff;
- subjected to either a closed visit or no visit if the drugs dog sits beside a visitor as he/she is being searched on entering the prison. No Republican POW has ever been found in possession of drugs.
- denied proper medical care. Access to a doctor is only once a week.
- subjected to loss of remission though this practice was banned by the European Court of Human Rights in 2002.
- often denied compassionate parole. POWs have been offered restricted parole in some cases. On returning from parole they are placed in solitary confinement for 48 hours.
- Visitors have been at the receiving end of loyalist threats when visiting the Republican POWs.

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