WHAT DOES POLITICAL STATUS MEAN?

The five demands of the 1981 hunger strikers were:

- The right not to have to wear prison uniforms
- The right not to do prison work
- The right to free association among political prisoners
- Restoration of the right to earn remission (early release)
- The right not to do prison work

The origin of the International Symposium against Isolation

The origin of the International Symposium against Isolation was a massacre in the prisons of Turkey in December 19-22, 2000. Military forces raided 20 prisons, killing 28 prisoners. During the assault in the prisons hundreds were wounded and 6 women in Bayrampasa prison were burnt alive. Those who carried out the massacre are only now being tried, 10 years after. The resistance continued and within 7 years a total of 122 people, including those who were killed in the massacre, lost their lives in hunger strikes and during protests.

Free all the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners!

Their only “crime” was fighting for Puerto Rican Independence from U.S. colonialism! Oscar is serving 70 years for “seditionary conspiracy”. “Attempt to overthrow the government of the United States in Puerto Rico by force”. Free Avellino Gonzalez Claudia! Free Oscar Lopez Rivera!

Free the Move 9, unjustly imprisoned for 30 years!

The MOVE 9 are members of the revolutionary MOVE organization imprisoned since 1978 after a police assault on their headquarters in Powellton Village, Philadelphia. In 1985 the government dropped a bomb on the MOVE house on Osage Avenue in Philadelphia, killing 11 people, including 5 children. Mumia Abu Jamal denied Move against police brutality before and after his imprisonment.

The IRPSG consists of comrades from Socialist Fight, Workers Power, the Irish Political Status Committee and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal campaign and other individual anti-imperialist activists. We campaign for political status for all Irish Republican prisoners. Our packages have been supported by the Revolutionary Communist Group (Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism) and others. The IRPSG recognises that the prison authorities no longer intended to adhere to the August agreement over the treatment of Republican prisoners in Maghaberry. Conditions for prisoners there are worse now than when the struggle began last Easter. As RNU Ard Chomhairle member, Carl Reilly, observed on 21 November 2010: “Since August, prisoners and their families have continued to endure ongoing harassment and intimidation. The Prison Service has now added an oral examination which was not part of the Maghaberry Agreement. Any person who refuses to comply with this humiliating exercise is forcibly held down by riot-clad screws who prise their jaws open and insert their fingers and torches into the POWs’ mouths”.

Ashleen McKenna, with two brothers in Maghaberry, said last July: “The screws treat the POWs with a hostile nature and on a daily basis the screws have been actively violent towards the prisoners, which has resulted in severe POWs being assaulted. The prisoners are subjected to 23 hour lock downs with only two meals a day which are served in disposable containers and slid along the floor to the prisoners.”

On International Human Rights Day, December 10, the IRPSG handed in a letter to 10 Downing Street protesting the treatment of Irish political prisoners. On the same day nearly 150 political prisoners in West Bengal started an indefinite hunger strike. In New Delhi on December 24 human rights activist Dr Binayak Sen, Vice-President of the People’s Union for Civil Liberties, was sentenced to life imprisonment with Nasal ideology Narayan Sanjal and Kolkata-based businessman Piush Guha. Islamabad has made Muslims the target of a terrorist state. His “crimes” were painting, camping and possession of a few radical DVDs. On December 9 thousands of Georgians went on strike for their human rights. It was the biggest prisoner protest in the history of the US. They demanded not to be treated like slaves and animals. For over 29 years Mumia Abu Jamal has been on death row in the US because he was and still is a powerful political opponent of the racist imperialist US state.

Join the IRPSG in campaigning for political status for all Irish POWs. Free all anti-imperialist political prisoners internationally—Beir Bui!
Free all anti-imperialist political prisoners internationally

Palestinians in Israel

The Palestinian prisoners have staged dozens of hunger strikes since the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in 1967. Abu Sabit, the first Palestinian prisoner to die, was on his 14 days of hunger strike at the Asqalon prison in 1970. Prisoners Rasmim Hatta, Mahla Azzam and Alaa Jafari were released for release, yet remain in custody. Photograph: Getty/Shane T McCoy/AFP

Hundred of prisoners in Patna's Beur Central Jail in Bihar on Friday staged pro tests and extended their support to activist Binyak Sen, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Chhattisgarh court last week. According to officials of the high security jail, the prisoners aired their protest by staging a relay hunger strike and threatened to launch an indefinite hunger strike if justice was not done to Binayak Sen.

"They have nothing in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who doesn't want to be broken" - Bobby Sands