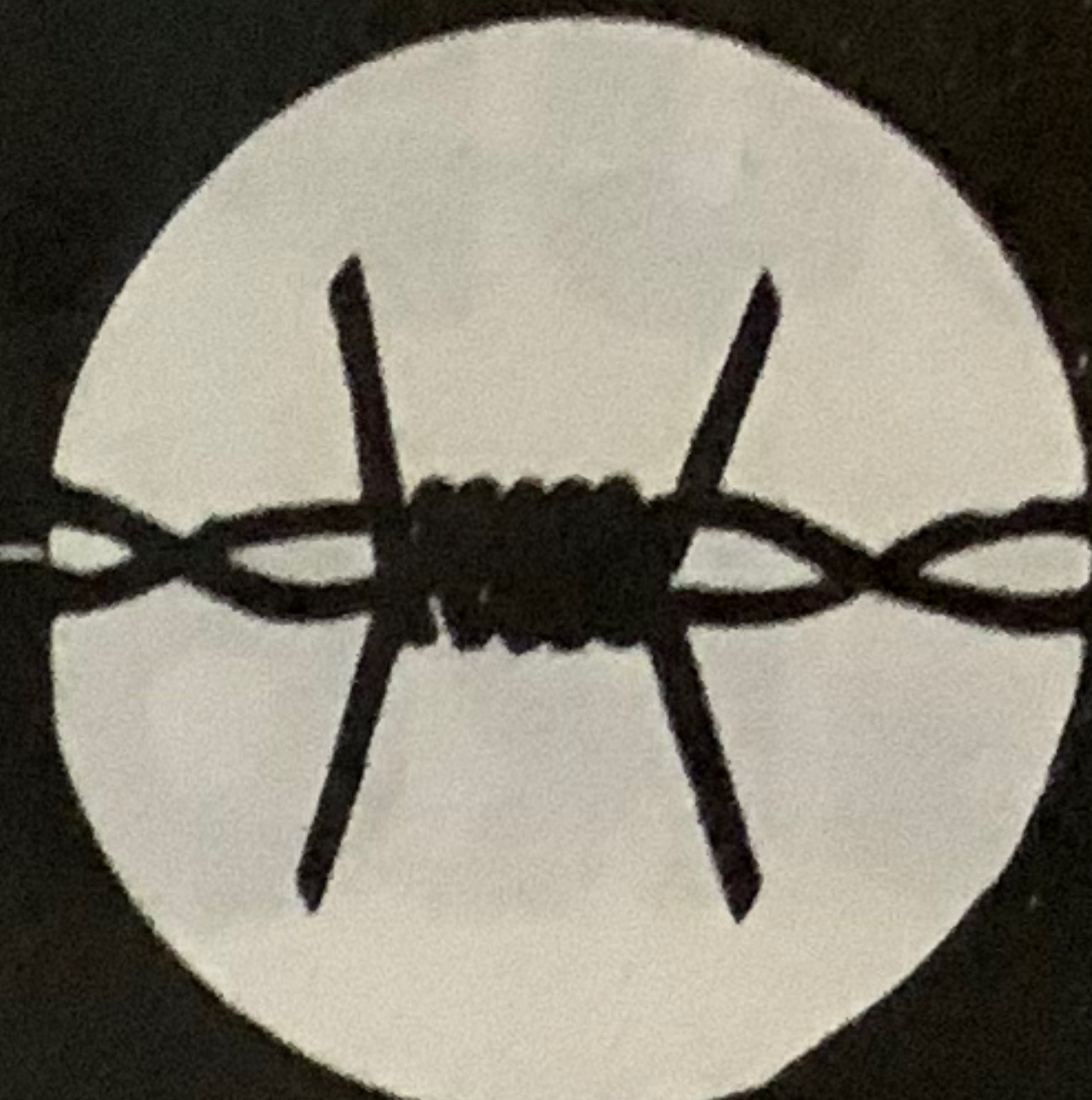


Drumcondra/Whitehall



ARMAGH/H-BLOCK NEWS

Please contribute to the H-Block Armagh Prisoners Campaign Funds
September 19th 1981

Vol. 1. No. 5

19 ARRESTS CAMPAIGN WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED!

The arrest of nineteen people in the last week on charges arising from the demonstration to the British Embassy in Ballsbridge on July 18th, show again the real colours of the present government in the south.

These arrests, including at least two members or former members of the National Committee of the Armagh/H-Block Campaign and people from Co. Monaghan, constitute a serious attack on the campaign in support of the prisoners and should be opposed.

It is clear that this has been the stand of the Dublin Government all along. Their strategy (wether Fianna Fail or the Coalition) has been to make misleading phrases to imply that they disapproved of the British government's position, while maintaining a constant pressure on the activists of the campaign through Special Branch harrassment and arrests. All the while they have been awaiting their opportunity to 'crack down' on the legitimate activities of the Armagh/H Block campaign at a time when the hunger strike is not every

day on the front pages.

These arrests are unjust. They arose out of a demonstration that was unjustly and undemocratically stopped from peacefully attaining its objective - to march past, protest at and deliver a letter of protest to the British Embassy in Ballsbridge. The fact that this march was forceably stopped and prevented from attaining its objective was the FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF THE VIOLENCE THAT TOOK PLACE ON THAT DAY. It is now well established (and even recognised by sections of the police themselves) that the marchers were stopped and deliberately trapped in a 'funnel' situation from which it was impossible to escape. This coupled with the issues at stake on that day made it ABSOLUTELY INEVITABLE that there would be a spontaneous outburst which would lead to violence. In all the newspaper coverage of the event afterwards, there was no hard evidence to show that there was a 'planned conspiracy' to cause violence by a section

of the crowd and anyone who was on the scene would have known that this was not the case.

So what are the people arrested being arrested for? It is well established that there were hundreds of cases of serious assaults on unarmed and defenceless marchers, pressmen and cameramen by police, yet there is no question that these crimes are going to be brought before the courts. So it is clear that these arrests are an attempt to intimidate and repress the activists of the campaign in an effort stop its work.

We call on people to oppose these arrests, to see clearly what the real cause of the violence on July 18th was, and to continue to support the justice of the prisoner's cause.

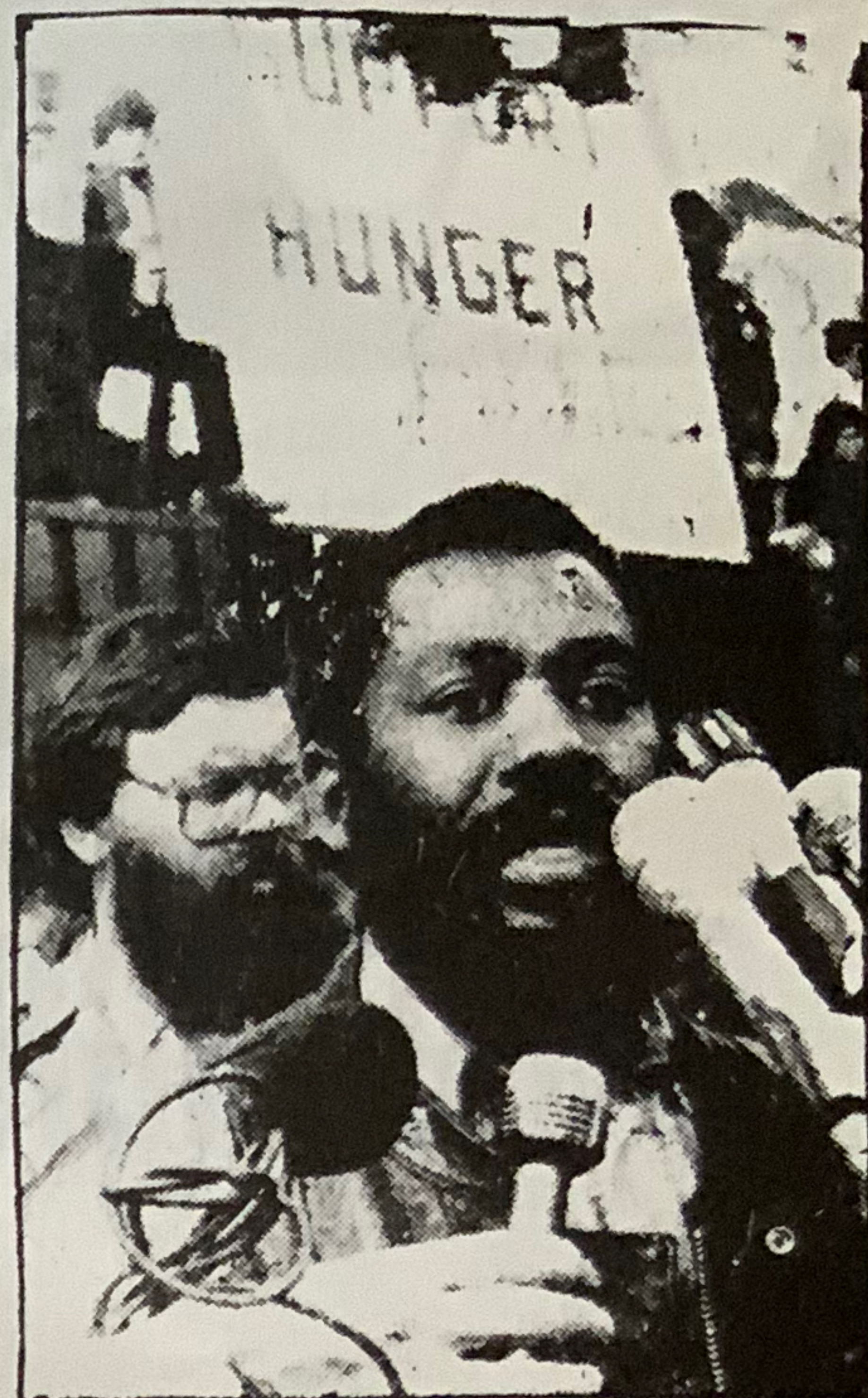
THE CAMPAIGN WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR COWERED BY THESE ARRESTS!

SUPPORT IN BRITIAN GROWS



● The march, at Springfield Road corner

November 15 demonstration against the British government's persecution of Irish prisoners.



■ LLOYD HAYES
former British soldier in the North



Street meeting held in Camden, London, on May 23 in support of the Irish political prisoners on hunger strike.

During the weekend of the tenth anniversary of Internment (August 9th) a group of over 300 people "Troops out movement" supporters from Britain visited the six counties. "Troops Out Movement" or "TOM" have been coming to Ireland annually since its foundation over ten years ago.

TROOPS OUT

The "Troops Out Movement" is made up of different Left wing and progressive groupings and individuals, which also includes a large section of ex-soldiers against the war. They are a broad front united in campaigning

for a complete British Political and military withdrawal from the north. Over the last 5 years they have been prominent in organising support for the H-Block and Armagh Political prisoners.

One of the speakers who addressed the large crowd at the "anniversary of Internment" march in Belfast was a former British Soldier, Lloyd Hayes, who served in Derry during Bloody Sunday, summed up the attitude of "TOM" when he stated that it wasn't up to the British to determine which way our country was run. He went on to say "What we've seen so far is a situation where

Britain has dictated for so many years. This can't go on for much longer So we say Victory to the Hunger Strikers! Victory to the people of Ireland"

DERRY MEETING

In Derry City a public discussion was organised during which the Troops out people were given an opportunity to speak. Activists from London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Edinburgh and other major British towns related the different experiences they had in communicating with and organising for the British withdrawal

HUNGER STRIKE NEWS

LIAM McCLOSKEY

(Aged 25) from Derry, joined the hunger strike on August 3rd. (49 days). Serving 10 years for conspiring to disarm members of the security forces, hijacking and possession.

PAT SHEEHAN

(Aged 23) from Belfast, joined the hunger strike on August 10th. (42 days) Sentenced March 1979 to 15 years for warehouse bombing in Belfast.

JACKIE McMULLAN

(Aged 25) from Belfast, joined the hunger strike on August 17th. (35 days) Sentenced December 1976. Serving life for possession and attempted killing of RUC man in Lisburn.

BERNARD FOX

(Aged 30) from Belfast joined the hunger strike on August 24th. (28 days)

Days (in brackets) refer to Sunday, Sept. 20th.

Sentenced 1977. Serving 12 years on explosives charges.

HUGH CARVILLE

(Aged 25) from Green-castle, Co. Down, joined the hunger strike on August 31st. (21 days). Sentenced 1978 after 18 months on remand. Serving 14 years for possession and incendiary attacks.

JOHN PICKERING

(Aged 25) from Belfast, joined the hunger strike on September 7th. (14 days). Sentenced to 26 years for killing a UDR man and other IRA operations.

GERARD HODGINS

(Aged 21) from Belfast, joined the hunger strike on September 14th. (7 days). Sentenced to 14 years, after 6 months on remand, for possession in November 1977.

MASS PROTESTS

The level of protests in support of the prisoners, increased with the commencement of the Hunger strike, has dramatically raised since the deaths of the ten Hunger Strikers. Black Flag vigils, pickets outside prominent buildings and prisons where Irish political prisoners are held, and mass marches are being frequently organised to mobilise action against the British governments policy on the H-Blocks. In one case 600 black balloons were let off by supporters in London during the recent wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Di. This of course was ignored by the media who are afraid to widely publicise that sections of

the British working class are becoming angered over the Thatchers government refusal to negotiate a settlement with prisoners. Ext-

BRITISH ESTABLISHMENT WORRIED

Extensive media coverage has been given to the condemnation of the Conservative governments handling of the prison protest which has come from the leader of the labour controlled Greater London Council (GLC). On radio and in newspaper interviews he has slammed the British government and has spoken out in favour of the five demands. This has worried the establishment so much that they began a series of attacks on Livingstone's political statements this Tory rag has resorted to personal slanderous attacks on the G.L.C. leader. These attacks must not only be seen as slurs on Livingstones character, but also as attacks on the support for the political prisoners by working people in London, which Livingstone represents and indeed on the growing working class support throughout the rest of Britain. Clearly the British ruling class having failed to defeat mass support for the 5 demands in Ireland, are frightened by the interest being shown by the British working people in favour of the Hunger strikers. Realising the consequences this will have on their continued involvement in Ireland, they try by any means to isolate support for the prisoners demands.

among their people. All of the speakers stated that one of the hardest battles they had up against them was the half-truths and the blatant lies of the establishment media. They pointed out that since the beginning of the present Hunger Strikes in the H-Blocks that they have been increasingly winning this battle. More people in Britain have acquired a deeper awareness in political events in Ireland through their interest in the political prisoners struggle. Because of this awareness thousands of people have come out in marches in solidarity with the Hunger Strikers.

300 MARCH AGAINST MILITARY ATTACHE

Brigadier Gerard Peter Robertson, British Military Attaché in Dublin, was the target of a march through Dun Laoghaire to his residence in Glenageary on Saturday last.

The march organised by the Dun Laoghaire, Ballybrack H-Block/ Armagh Action Groups, attended by over 300 Hundred people, was organised to mobilize public support for his immediate expulsion. The presence of a top British soldier in Dublin should be viewed in the light of the record of that army in the North.

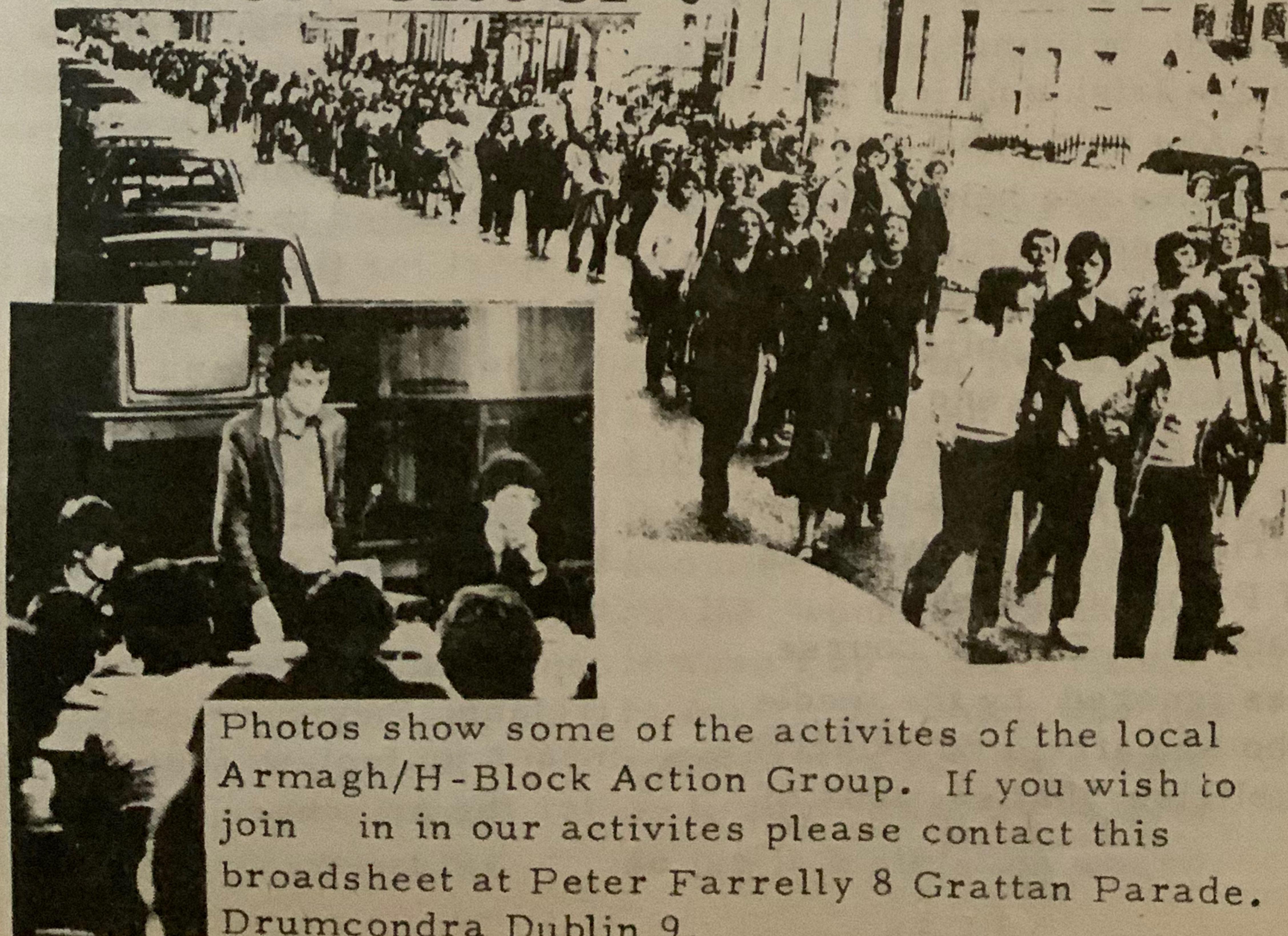
Its presence, its repressive role and the consequential resistance to that repression which now manifests itself most clearly in the H-Blocks s Hunger strike. There can be no justification for the presence of a high ranking soldier moving with diplom-



atic immunity around the 26 counties. The demonstration outside his residence was addressed by Tony O'Hara (brother of dead hunger

striker Patsy) who called for continuing effort on behalf of the Hunger strikers. Also addressing the meeting were Joe Stagg, Paddy Bolger both members of the National Committee, and Sean Flynn Belfast City Council.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL ACTION GROUP!



Photos show some of the activities of the local Armagh/H-Block Action Group. If you wish to join in in our activities please contact this broadsheet at Peter Farrelly 8 Grattan Parade, Drumcondra Dublin 9.

This newsheet is produced by the Drumcondra/Whitehall Action Group. We are a non-party-political group campaigning to secure the five demands of the H-Block and Armagh prisoners. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a counter to the deceptive and lying propaganda being organised by the state on the H-Block issue. It is also produced to answer the questions that many people have on the issue. We encourage people to contribute to the bulletin, both financially, and by sending in comments, questions and contributing articles cartoons etc. All contributions should be sent to - Peter Farelly, 8 Grattan Parade, Drumcondra, Dub. 9.