


Maze Prison
Lisburn
Co/Antrim
6-11-96

SECRETARY

Northern Ireland
Womens Coalition Party

Dear Madam

I wish to bring to your party and representatives attention a continual orchestrated harassment and abuse of Loyalist Prisoners, both physically, and sexually, plus the additional mental anxiety suffered by our prisoners by certain prison officers on visit search duty within the Maze Prison.

Prisoners from  have had to endure a continuous and deliberate groping of private parts of the body, provocative physical and verbal abuse, from rogue officers intent on creating a violent reaction from Loyalist Prisoners. Endless requests to Senior Staff and prison governors have failed to stop the unsavoury practices of these officers. The repetitive cycle of abuse transpires every 2-3 week period, after prison governors have assured prison spokesperson that the problems would be alleviated.

Prison Authorities are now powerless, and incapable of resolving the potential explosive situation that now exist within the above mentioned wings, which house U.V.F. Prisoners, also bearing in mind that good working relationships already exist in all areas of the prison with the exception of the search areas.

My suspicions and concerns are aroused by information received, that certain prison officers members of the Prison Officers Association, attached to the Instant Reaction Force, who man the visit search area, have created a prison style Mafia, determined to provoke Loyalist Prisoners (or prisoners of whatever persuasion) into disruptive protests with Block prison Officers, which will inevitably result in violent disorder and mayhem on Loyalist wings. They consequentially perceive themselves as trouble-shooters in the aftermath of the disorder that they themselves manufactured.

We have already gone down this road once before, 19 months ago, we do not relish the thought once again of being manipulated into the same position as March 95. We also recognise the fact that to ensure jobs, and maintain the high level of Staff within the Maze Prison, that the tactics employed by these people holds no bounds.

I wish your party to question the N.I.O. and Prison Authorities about Loyalist Prisoners concerns, to ensure we do not culminate to the events of March 95. Our fears are genuine, we do not wish to be influenced, or manipulated back into the undesirable situation of 19 months ago, and condemned wrongly for the circumstances that were created for us.

