

David Ford, Justice Minister
Department of Justice, Block B
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast, Northern Ireland
BT4 3SG

Shaun Woodward, Secretary of State
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House, Stormont Estate
Belfast, Northern Ireland
BT4 3SH

Paul Goggins, Minister of State
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House, Stormont Estate
Belfast, Northern Ireland
BT4 3SH

Monica McWilliams, Human Rights Commissioner
NIHRC
Temple Court, 39 North Street
Belfast, Northern Ireland
BT1 1NA

May 12, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express outrage over the continuing reports from Maghaberry Prison of gravely worsening human rights abuses to the Republican prisoners at Roe House.

As of this writing I am aware that there are no working toilets or sinks in the cells of the republican prisoners, following their protests against the violent assaults by prison guards against Harry Fitzsimmons and Turloch McAllister.

A representative of the Irish Freedom Committee spoke with the family of Harry Fitzsimmons, who has related first-hand that he was trampled, stamped upon, and violently beaten by prison guards before being dragged into isolation and had his clothing cut off his body, before being handcuffed and shackled to a bed. In a phone call to his daughter just before being placed in isolation, Harry could barely breathe or talk. His family has not heard from him since and were denied subsequent visits or phone calls. Most distressingly, his family and his solicitor have been told by Maghaberry prison officials that they will not be allowed to speak to Harry until his prison term is finished, three years from now.

I am also aware that prisoners at Roe House are complaining of no access to fresh water, limited if any access to fresh air, no electricity or hot water, destruction and theft of their personal belongings, mail being held up going in and out of the prison, no access to regular family visits

or phone calls, poor quality of food that has made several of the men ill, and repeated attempts by screws to have the men humiliated and strip searched in order to see family on visits. This is in addition to the violent assaults that have taken place in recent days.

I demand an explanation as to how these continued abuses can carry on day after day in a prison under jurisdiction of the British government in Ireland.

The favor of a response is requested.

Sincerely,