

INNATE

NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS

All the news that will fit on two sides!

Belfast,
13 September 1991

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Civil liberties of various kinds continue to be under ongoing attack in Northern Ireland. Yet the health of civil liberties is vital, primarily for the sake of justice to the individuals and groups affected - but also because this area is a touchstone for the wellbeing of the whole society. Here we print brief details about two groups, one established for a decade, the other more recent, dealing respectively with State and non-State infringements of citizen's rights; the Committee on the Administration of Justice, and Families Against Intimidation and Terror -

CAJ

The Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), founded in 1981 is an independent organisation which monitors civil liberties issues, provides information to the public and campaigns for change in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland. The Committee works to ensure that the Government upholds and respects the international human rights standards which it has committed itself to.

Membership is drawn from all sections of the community and includes lawyers, students, community workers, trade unionists, unemployed people and academics. CAJ publishes a monthly newsletter 'Just News', maintains a resource library and newspaper clipping service, organises meetings, conferences and seminars, publishes pamphlets and briefings, campaigns locally and internationally and provides up-to-date comment on proposed legislation. Through its work the Committee hopes to contribute to the creation of a civil liberties consciousness in Northern Ireland. Contact; CAJ, 45/47 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG, phone Belfast (0232) 232394.

FAIT

Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT) is a human and civil rights organization. It is opposed to all forms of violence in N. Ireland, but has been set up specifically to look at paramilitary abuses of human rights, which we estimate account for 90% of human rights in the North.

FAIT is made up of individuals and groups throughout N. Ireland and the Republic. Although it is only a year old, it is already supporting families and individuals, who have, or are suffering paramilitary violence or intimidation. More than 20 years of unrest in N. Ireland, has given rise to various extremist paramilitary groups, who have proved to be the most dominant blight on our community.

During this period, paramilitaries, Nationalist and Loyalist, have committed brutal human rights abuses against our community. Victims abducted by ruthless death squads, subjected to sadistic prolonged torture, often eventually murdered and dumped on country roadsides. Over 1700 people bear the scars of vicious assaults, often with baseball bats, ironbars, concrete blocks. Claiming to do all this in the name of The People, they have over the last 20 years murdered over 2000 men, women and children.

Contact; FAIT, 72 High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE, phone Belfast (0232) 237297.

THE OTHER TALKS

This is an experiment in consensus politics to which all political parties and opinions are invited; taking place on Saturday 26th October from 9.30 - 5.00 in the Mandela Hall, Queen's University Students Union, Belfast. Organised by the New Ireland Group. Free admittance; there will be a creche, and food for sale. Further details from; Belfast 711795, or Belfast 629136, or write to Rhubarb Cottage, 36 Ballysillan Road, Belfast 14.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COURSE

A one year University of Ulster certificated course in Community Relations commences in the Ulster Peoples College in October; it is designed for people involved or interested in community development and community relations work with various different modules. Course fees are £120 (unwaged £60; a limited number of bursaries). Application forms from; Denise Price, Dept of Adult and Continuing Education, UU at Jordanstown, Shore Road, Newtownabbey BT37 0QB. Or further details from Johnston Price, phone Belfast 665161 / 381368.

NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE QUILT

A Peace Quilt is being put together by women in Northern Ireland, the idea is being coordinated by Women Together. Individual women and women's groups of all kinds are invited to participate in this project showing the common desire for peace and to express love and friendship. Further details from; Pat Campbell, Women Together, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE, phone 662753.

'PRAYING PEACE AND DOING JUSTICE'

This is a series of 10 lectures and discussions organised by Pax Christi in Dublin beginning on Thursday 10th October and running weekly; themes include peace spirituality, Christian nonviolence, social encyclicals, unemployment, neutrality etc. Further information from; Pax Christi, 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, phone 965293. Pax Christi is also sponsoring a monthly mass for all those working for peace, justice and the integrity of creation - details from the same address.

MORE EMERGENCY LAWS

Concern was expressed by the Peace People over the passing of new emergency legislation which will expand the powers of stop and search by the RUC and the security forces. It is hoped that the implementation of the legislation is done with humanity and fairness and with due regard to the civil liberties of the ordinary person who is usually already under stress with everyday life in Northern Ireland. Peace People, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE, phone Belfast 663465.

SANCTUARY AT NEWRY AND AFTER

The Newry Cathedral saga, which lasted from the 17th - 27th August was a time of trial for a number of people especially the two youths who took sanctuary there, their families and their supporters, to the clergy and the security forces. The Provisional IRA had tried and sentenced the two boys to exile, firstly for a crime it was later revealed that they did not commit and then for the general crime of "anti-social" behaviour. Notwithstanding all the attendant rumours and side-issues that were rife during the 10 days it was a relief when the boys emerged safe to another hiding place from which they will continue to protest their innocence. The final pity is that, with the emphasis at the press conference on the behaviour of the local clergy, the PIRA, who are the real agents of terror and intimidation, were allowed to get off the hook. The optimistic result was that it demonstrated again that the ordinary people are beginning to stand up to the men of violence and protest against the foul deeds. Long may it continue. - Eileen Bell, Peace People, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE.

IFOR NONVIOLENCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROJECT

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (with which INNATE is linked) is setting up a nonviolence education and training project with a full-time worker to be based at the IFOR office in Alkmaar, Netherlands. Applications for the post were closing on 15th September. Among the items on the enormous job brief is; developing the international network of trainers in active nonviolence, identifying training needs, and gathering and disseminating information. Further details from IFOR, Spoorstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar, Netherlands, or from INNATE.

WRI TRIENNIAL

330 participants from 40 countries attended the War Resisters International Triennial conference in Belgium at the turn of July/August. Theme groups worked on a wide variety of different concerns in the development of nonviolence. Further information from; WRI, 55 Dawes Street, London SE17 1EL, England. INNATE (which is a WRI affiliate) also has information on WRI.

INNATE - BELFAST NETWORKING

The first autumn meeting for the Belfast networking group of INNATE, the nonviolence network, is on Monday 7th October at 8 pm in Fradheim, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast 9. All interested welcome; further details from Belfast 647106.

-----NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS is produced by the Belfast networking group of INNATE (an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education), 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, phone Belfast 647106. Short items for next issue welcome - by 1/12/91.