THE most savage terrorism of all, that of the British army, is on the loose in Northern Ireland. All pretence that Northern Ireland is a democracy has been cast aside.

Men have been imprisoned without charge or trial. Many will be held for years without trial. The few who have been released tell of torture practised by the British army and the Northern Ireland police. Streets are a source of more people have been killed, most of whom are non-combatants. A third of the population. Already, thousands of people are streaming in terror out of Belfast into primitive refugee camps in Southern Ireland.

The British government has been forced to admit that it has to introduce internment without trial — in order to "clear out the murder-minded". A £10,000 price has been put on the head of Petty qualification of the "abolition of the death penalty".

The British government has stated that internment is not to be used in Northern Ireland. However, this is not the case. Internment without trial has been brought into operation in Northern Ireland. The House of Commons, they gave the army permission to intern. When British troops were moved into Northern Ireland in 1969, the stated intention was to "keep the peace". For several weeks, the troops appeared to do just that. They held regular conferences with the various Citizens Defence Commissions, and were openly hostile to the Protestants extremists. Gradually, however, as the British government continued to support the reactionary junta at Stormont, the troops became increasingly hostile to the oppressed minority.

ABANDONED

For more than a year now, the pretence of "keeping the peace" has been abandoned and the troops have cooperated with the RUC, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Regiment, who have been operating in the tightly manned B Specials. On 5/5 July last year, the troops moved into the Falls Road area of Belfast, breaking down doors, beating up the inmates of the houses, and arresting police officers on trumped-up charges. The same happened in the halflight estate. Indiscriminate beatings began the order of the day. On 12th June, for instance, troops from the Royal Greenjackets raided a pub in Verner Street, Belfast, and arrested 24 youths. They were taken to Castlereagh police station and systematically beaten up. Mr. Philip Hastings, one of the men arrested, told the Irish Press: "I never before thought I'd have the police bang me into hospital." There were so many beatings and scarrings going on that I didn't remember anything that happened. But they took this guy who sung Faith of Our Fathers out for a while and dragged him back like a sack of potatoes. I never saw so much blood. His head and clothes were covered with it."

The following Thursday a young Bedouin in Derry was seized by an army snatch squad. When they had finished with him, he had a deep laceration, five inches thick, down his back, and heavy bruising. Today, there is not even a pretence at impartiality. When a gang of UVF men went into action recently in Belfast, troops lined the streets cheering them on and singing the Sash, the battle hymn of the Orange Order.

What has been the reaction of British liberalism and the British Labour Party to this flagrant breach of the 'traditional civil liberties' for which, laughably, the United Kingdom is meant to stand? Unanimously, the British press has approved the decision to intern. Little or nothing has been allowed in their pages to disturb the solidarity between the press and the British troops.

The facts about internment have not been sought. In the run instances where journalists have discovered something of the truth about the internment camps, the editors have consigned their reports to the waste paper basket.

The reaction of the Labour Party had been in direct violation of everything for which the labour movement stands.

Mr. Harold Wilson is in the Scillies, apparently out of contact with the worst breach of civil liberties in the UK for a hundred years.

The call must go out in every section of the labour movement, to Labour MPs, Labour constituency parties, trade union branch es and especially to the TUC which meets in Blackpool in three weeks' time:

STOP INTERMENT! BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND! RALLY SPEAKERS' CORNER, 2pm SUNDAY 15 AUGUST

But Harold Wilson, James Callaghan and all the editors in the world cannot stop the resistance. In Northern Ireland, the resistance rules in the beleaguered areas.

From five o'clock in the morning, the streets are full of people determined to ensure that the 'satch squaddie' will not surprise them again. 2000 men have demonstrated in Derry. Barricades are being erected as fast as the army can pull them down.

In Dungannon, a passive demonstration has been called to unite the socialist and republican movements and to declare solidarity with the resistance in the North.

The Dublin branch of the workers' union has called an all-out strike in protest against internment. The Labour Party in Co Down has called for a general strike.

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Republicans and socialists in urgent need of funds

THE latest phase of Tory terror has been directed to a large extent against the political groups operating in Northern Ireland. It is only the socialist and republican groups that can organise resistance and stand up to these attacks, propitiate the lies and propaganda of the press.

There has been a unified call from civil rights bodies, socialist and republican organisations, for civil resistance to internment and to the brutality of the troops. They have called on people to street playing, moist, rain, and taxes. They have opposed any political negotiations, until the last political prisoner is released.

To organise a campaign of this kind, the People’s Democracy, Mid-Ulster Independent Socialists, and the Derry Young Socialists, are in immediate need of funds. Money is needed for public meetings, transport, publicity material, telephone bills, etc. Send donations to:

Derry Young Socialists & Mid-Ulster Socialists, Province House, Derry. Pet. Rowan, Union Bank, University Road. Belfast S.

Troops - THE UGLY TERROR

BETWEEN 4.30 and 6 in the morning of 10 August British troops broke down doors of several hundred people in Northern Ireland. They broke down doors, pulled the men of the household out of bed, and without leaving them time to dress, hauled them off to hastily-organised and unco-ordinated internment.

In cases where they did not find the men specifically named, they took away any family member or members of the household as hostages. At the house of Niall Valley, a People’s Democracy member in Armagh, the troops met with immediate and effective resistance from the women.

While they engaged the troops, Niall Valley escaped through the back door. The troops promptly sent a signal to the nearest British police post, and the people of the village were rounded up. In the house of this member of the DPP, the police acted entirely on the advice of the Special Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who saw internment as an opportunity to ‘pay off old scores’.

RAMPADE

In the cities, the police had to develop a rampaging the support of the organised political groups and parties. Most of the people arrested were members of the People’s Democratic Party, the main body of the Republican movement.

In Belfast, the troops went through the rampage throughout the nationalist areas, breaking down doors, and interned any people who resisted.

Many of the Belfast interned were taken to Girdwood barracks of which I can tell you what happened there, we have to rely on the evidence of those few people who got out of the mistake for someone else, who are still being watched and followed, and whose names, for obvious reasons, cannot be revealed.

One of them says: ‘At one stage I was told: “Well, if you won’t talk, perhaps you’ll enjoy flying.” ’ I was bound and taken up in a helicopter. I was told we were several hundred feet above the sea and I was going to be thrown out.

BAREFOOT

I was interned out of the plane. I fell about four feet onto the concrete floor of the internment camp, which was being stripped and forced to “rout” the gaolhouse of police and troops into playing with them with batons, Oderen, and had to run barefoot over cut grass and mud.

Testimony to these stories are the bleeding and cut feet of some of the men who have been released.

John White from Derry has already told the press of the experiences of the interned from Derry. They were fed on scraps from the soldiers’ meals 12 hours a day.

Their sleep was constantly interfered with, by soldiers bunging over the roofs of their tin cubicles. They were questioned again and again and even offered bribes of information about the IRA.

The workers have had no information about their work, no An appeal from Bernadette Devlin

Many readers of Socialist Worker can only have a vague idea of what internment means. Possibly a few are even prepared to accept the argument that nothing else can be done in the extreme circumstances of Northern Ireland. After all, soldiers have been killed, bombings have taken place, property destroyed.

But the Faulkner/Heathclift alliance are not concerned with the lives of soldiers. They lose more sleep over the loss of property. Soldiers can be replaced at less cost to the system.

The question of internment can not be separated from the campaign and the banning of all marches. Their decision—which means accepting that Northern Ireland was unorganised and that system could not be supported or power, their power, and that of the other classes they represent,

The consequences of internment and opted to maintain their position.

They are the terrorists, the hypocrites, the militarists. Let them not forget, however, that WE are the people.

We cannot be intimidated and will resist this last act of repression as we have resisted all others in the past. We cannot do it on our own.

Our only friends are our fellow working class in Britain. You must come to our aid. Organise, educate, act. And if for no other reason than our sake, bring the government down.

It is not your government, it is not your army, it is your class which is under attack in Northern Ireland.