



COISTE SUBMISSION TO NISRA CONSULTATION

Coiste na n-Iarchimí estimates that as many as 18,000 people from the Nationalist community alone spent time in prison as political prisoners. Each one of those prisoners had families, mothers, husbands, wives, children, who were gravely affected by the experience of house raids, arrests and long periods of forced separation.

Many families found themselves without the main breadwinners and struggled desperately to make ends meet. Many prisoners themselves were traumatised by the experience of torture, solitary confinement and long periods of imprisonment and are now suffering from posttraumatic stress, depression, etc.

Most of these prisoners and their extended families would have been disproportionately concentrated within a small number of working class urban and rural communities across the North.

As a consequence we would suggest that NISRA look at the impact of political imprisonment upon communities and to examine whether there is any correlation between for example imprisonment and other areas such as mental health, poverty, etc.

Political prisoners were for the most arrested, tried and convicted under emergency powers, what were called 'scheduled offences' and therefore it would be possible to categorise who was and who wasn't a political prisoner. These types of statistics would be readily available through a number of sources, such as the Courts Service, Prison service, etc.