

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

**Reference Code:** 2002/8/494

**Title:** Dáil Questions, with reply, put to Taoiseach Jack Lynch, regarding allegations of torture and excessive violence used by security forces in Northern Ireland, and the Irish government response to this.

**Creation Date(s):** 9 November, 1971

**Level of description:** Item

**Extent and medium:** 1 page

**Creator(s):** Department of the Taoiseach

**Access Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Questions Nos. 1 to 3.

DÁIL QUESTIONS addressed to the Taoiseach for  
answer on Tuesday, 9th November, 1971.

QUESTION NO. 1:

To ask the Taoiseach if he has seen newspaper accounts and received (a) a documented report from a barrister and (b) a statement from Catholic clergy, regarding alleged torture of prisoners in Palace Street Barracks, Belfast, and elsewhere in the six counties carried out under the direction of a British Army officer (name supplied)<sup>x</sup> against whom similar allegations were made when he was serving in Kenya; and what action at international level he proposes to take in the matter.

- J. O'Connell.

*x Brigadier Kitson*

QUESTION NO. 2:

To ask the Taoiseach if he is aware that British soldiers in Northern Ireland are using violence against innocent people when searching their houses; and what action he intends to take in the matter.

- Gerry L'Estrange.

QUESTION NO. 3:

To ask the Taoiseach if his attention has been drawn to newspaper photographs<sup>+</sup> (details supplied) of a man<sup>o</sup> (name supplied) whose wife was shot dead by British troops recently; if he is aware that this man was brutally assaulted by British soldiers; and what action, if any, he intends taking in the matter.

- Gerry L'Estrange.

*+ Lond Independent  
4/11/1971*

*o Mr James Meehan*

R E F L Y:

With your permission, a Cheann Comhairle, I propose to take Questions Nos. 1, 2 and 3 together.

I have seen newspaper accounts and received reports privately about allegations of torture and of inhuman and degrading treatment in Northern Ireland. As indicated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Dáil Éireann on the 21st October, we were collecting evidence on this subject even before the introduction of internment. Information continues to come in and is being closely examined with a view to considering whether recourse may be had to the European Commission on Human Rights.

Note for information.

In the event of supplementaries on individual cases, James Meehan etc., D/Foreign Affairs suggest reply on the lines of "This is one more instance which adds to the general picture that is being created by the evidence available to date."

Attached for information are minutes of 2/11/71 and 4/11/71 from D/Foreign Affairs and other relevant documents.