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Chronology of Events in connection with the
London Bomb Explosions of 8th March, 1973
and subsequent events

- 8/3/73 'Border Poll' held in Northern Ireland.
- 11.20 a.m. Ten people detained at Ealing Police Station having been prevented from boarding a London bound plane at Heathrow airport.
- 1.56 p.m. A bomb warning was telephoned to the 'London Times' Office.
- 2.44 p.m. A bomb exploded at Great Scotland Yard-London
- 2.50 p.m. A bomb exploded at The Old Bailey - London. One man later died from injuries received and 243 people were injured.
- Two other car bombs were defused one at Dean Stanley Street, Westminster and the other at the Ministry of Agriculture and Army recruiting office, Great Scotland Place, Whitehall.
- 11/3/73 Carol Mather, Tory MP, tabled a motion in the House of Commons calling for the restoration of capital punishment for "all murder in pursuit of another crime".
- 12/3/73 Roisin McNearney (18), William McLarnon (19), Robert Walsh (24), Gerard Kelly (19), Martin J. Brady (22), Paul J. Holmes (25) William J. Armstrong, Hugh Feeney (21) Marion M. Price, and Dolours Price (22), were charged under Section 3a of the Explosion Substances Act of 1883 of unlawfully and maliciously conspiring together to cause by explosive substances explosions in the U.K. of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property.
- 13/3/73 The ten accused pleaded not guilty of the charge when they appeared in Bow Street Magistrates Court. All were remanded in custody for a week.
- 15/3/73 Roisin McNearney, Marion and Dolours Price were transferred to the all-male Brixton goal from Holloway female prison.

- 25/3/73 The Belfast Ten Defence Committee was set up in London. The committee is composed of representatives of Irish political associations in Britain, together with representatives of left-wing and student organisations.
- 27/3/73 Mrs. Bernadette McAliskey MP and Miss Vanessa Redgrave offered to stand bail for the "Belfast Ten". Bail was refused and they were remanded in custody for a further week.
- 27/3/73 Mrs. McAliskey, claimed in the British House of Commons that the ten accused had been denied their civil rights. In a parliamentary question she asked "Under what security regulations were the ten persons detained at Ealing Police station denied access to lawyers, priests and visitors, and kept for four days in conditions, in which, save for a blanket, all ten of them were stark naked?"
- 3/4/73)
14/4/73)
24/4/73)
3/5/73)
- Remanded on all these dates at Lambeth Court.
- 2/5/73 Application for bail by Mr. Bernard Simons a defence solicitor was refused.
- 9/5/73 Mr. Bernard Simons, defence solicitor, stated that Belfast solicitor Paddy McGrory was denied private visits to his clients. A police spokesman said that Northern Ireland lawyers were not allowed practice in England.
- 21/5/73 Committal Proceedings against the ten accused began at Lambeth Court. Reporting restrictions were enforced.
- 4/6/73 The 'ten' were committed for trial at Winchester Crown Court
- 8/8/73 Fr. Brady wrote to the Board of Visitors of H. M. Prisons regarding the conditions under which the accused were held in prison.
- 10/8/73 Five of the 'ten' imprisoned at Brixton goal were disciplined because of an incident at the goal on the 4th August.

- 16/8/73 Gerard Kelly married Isobel Quinn in Brixton Catholic Church.
- 9/9/73 The trial opened in Winchester Crown Court, ~~of~~ William McLarnon, alone, pleaded guilty to the charges.
- 5/10/73 A Police Inspector told the court that six of the ten accused had been picked out at identification parades.
- 15/10/73 The Defence case opened
- 24/10/73 Dolours Price said at her trial that ~~she~~ supported the aims and principles of the IRA.
- 15/11/73 Eight of the nine who pleaded innocent were found guilty. Roisin McNearney was acquitted on all three charges.
- 15/11/73 Eight of the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment plus twenty years; McLarnon was sentenced to 15 years.
- 15/11/73 | The Provisional IRA issued a statement saying - "In due course, retribution will be exacted from the people who inflicted such callous punishment on Belfast youth in London today".
- The prisoners began their hunger strike in support of their demand to be returned to Northern Ireland to serve their sentences.
- 16/11/73 Relatives of the prisoners claimed that they have been 'sentenced to death' by the UDA.
- 21/11/73 William McLarnon and Martin Brady were reported to have ended their hunger strike.
- 24/11/73 The Price sisters were transferred to Brixton jail.
- 27/11/73 Two other prisoners were reported to be taking food again.
- 27/11/73 Relatives of the prisoners went on a 24-hour hunger strike outside the Home Office in London.
- 28/11/73 It was reported in the Irish Times that two of the hunger strikers were being forcibly fed.
- End of November. It was reported that another hunger striker was taking food.
- 3/12/73 Mr. . McManus MP asked Mr. Robert Carr in the House of Commons whether the applications of the prisoners to be returned to

Northern Ireland was being considered.

5/12/73

Marion & Dolores Price was force-fed for the first time.

6/12/73

The application of the prisoners was refused.

12/12/73

The Irish News quoted a letter from Marion Price to her Father in which she said she would not give in until her demands were met.

19/12/73

The Daily Telegraph reported that Merlyn Rees on a recent visit to Dublin had found the Winchester Nine the most controversial topic of discussion.

1/1/74 *

Bishop Daly urged return of hunger strikers to Northern Ireland.

10/1/74

Mrs. Bernadette McAliskey MP said after an hour-long visit to the Price sisters that she was 'shocked' by their conditions.

10/1/74

Mrs. K. Feeney, mother of Hugh Feeney said that she intended applying to the British Home Office for permission for an independent doctor to examine her son.

18/1/74

Lord Longford visited Gerard Kelly in Wormwood scrubs prison.

21/1/74

Relatives of the hunger strikers met Mr. Merlyn Rees.

29/1/74

On a UTV programme Mr. F. Pym, said that there was no question of transferring the Price sisters from English jails to Northern Ireland.

31/1/74

The Ulster Defence Association called for an end to the forcible feeding of the hunger strikers.

3/2/74

In a letter to Mrs. Jill Knight Conservative, MP Lord Colville, Minister for State at the Home Office said that the Price sisters were in good health.