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The Hughes family of Bellaghy have now joined the
many families who have suffered bereavement or
injury in Northern Ireland. To all of them,
I extend my deepest sympathy.

The latest death in the H-Blocks demands with even
greater urgency than ever, a solution which will
bring the present terrible situation to an end.

No Irish Government can be indifferent to the
prospect of these deaths continuing.

Even before the first hunger strike at the H-Blocks
began, and since the present hunger strike was
proposed, I have constantly made known to the British
Government the deep concern and anxiety felt by the
Irish Government at the developing and highly
dangerous situation as we saw it and emphasising the
need to find a humanitarian solution to this problem.

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I have again conveyed that concern and anxiety to

the British Government. I have also conveyed my

view to the European Commission of Human Rights

that their involvement could contribute to a solution.

A solution must be found but it can only be found

if all those involved decide in the name of

humanity that it must be.

The tragic events of recent weeks have confirmed

once more that Northern Ireland as at present .

constituted is no longer a viable political entity.

A new political arrangement is the only possible

way forward to peace. A political solution

acceptable to all is the only means of bringing

this grim cycle of violence, destruction and death

to an end.

I appeal to Irish people in every part of this island

by their behaviour in these difficult days to

uphold the honour and dignity of Ireland and to

let no-one for whatever motive use this tragic

situation to cause further suffering and damage to

our good name in the eyes of the world.