

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

P-CHECKS: Section 1 of the Emergency Provisions Act (EPA) states that you must identify yourself — name, address, where you are coming from and going to (a general reply to this particular question is sufficient).

You are under no legal obligation to give your date of birth (or to answer any other questions apart from the above).

BODY SEARCHES: The British army and RUC have the right to search you. Women should only be searched by female members of the British army or RUC. Children under the age of eleven should be searched in the presence of parents or guardians.

SCREENING: Under Section 14 of the EPA, the British army/UDR/RUC may arrest you and hold you for no longer than four hours.

SCREENING IS ILLEGAL YOU MUST BE QUESTIONED ABOUT A SPECIFIC OFFENCE

Give your name and address and nothing else. Should they fail to question you about a specific offence while held under this section you should sue them when released.

HOUSE SEARCHES: If the RUC enter your home, ask them under which Section they are doing so. Under Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the EPA, they can enter your home without a warrant in search

of people. They are not permitted to search in places where people are incapable of hiding (e.g. drawers, letters, etc). Section 15 enables them to enter, unwarranted, to search for explosives and transmitters.

Before they begin their search you should claim the right to search each member of the raiding party and to accompany them while they are carrying out their search. **HOUSE ARREST IS ILLEGAL**

You should make a list of damage caused during the raid. Request that they sign your damages form and include the provision that it is subject to any further findings. A complaint should be lodged with the RUC.

SECTION 11 (EPA): This section permits them to arrest you for a period of **three days**. You can be fingerprinted and photographed. After 48 hours in custody you are entitled to see a solicitor.

SECTION 12 (PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT): This section of the PTA enables the RUC to arrest anyone and to hold them for a period up to **seven days**. After 48 hours in custody you are entitled to see a solicitor and an independent medical examiner. They will only permit you to see a solicitor if you request it and give them the name of the solicitor you wish to see. Therefore, everyone should know the name of at least one solicitor.

REMEMBER

When arrested, give your name, address, where you're coming from and going to (in general terms) **and nothing else. Remain silent at all times. Do not sign anything no matter how trivial it may seem.**

You are not obliged to be photographed or fingerprinted except when arrested under Section 11, PTA.

Always have the name, address and telephone number of a competent solicitor.

In order to arrest you, the British army need only identify themselves. The RUC must state under which Section and Act they are arresting you. If the RUC ask you to accompany them, do not go with them — you are not obliged to unless arrested.

A census taken by the British army is illegal. Refuse to answer any questions.

If you are harassed or threatened by the British army/UDR/RUC, contact your local Sinn Fein office or any Sinn Fein member as soon as possible.

**Issued by West Belfast
Sinn Fein Youth Department**

RESISTANCE



**WHERE THERE IS OPPRESSION
THERE IS RESISTANCE**