



**UNIONISTS** were initially happy that something was at last been done to tackle the violence and oppose the IRA. Many Protestant businesses were being targeted and destroyed by the IRA.

However, they soon became very **concerned** when the violence increased and internment was clearly failing.

**LOYALISTS**  
Loyalist violence **increased** rapidly due to the failure of internment and increase in republican violence. They targeted soft targets like **McGurks** bar, where **15** died in a bomb attack

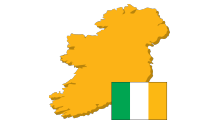


**NATIONALISTS**  
Deeply angry at Unionist government, British army and British Government.

Internment seemed highly discriminatory and had no Protestants arrested until 1973.

Very few of those arrested had any connection with the IRA. Many were civil rights activists.

**NICRA** marches protested against internment. One March was attacked by the British army using **CS gas** at **MAGILLIGAN** near Derry.



**REPUBLICANS**  
Support for the **PIRA** increased rapidly.

British soldiers were regarded as tool of unionism and increasingly targeted

Internment was the **ability to arrest and imprison people without trial based on the suspicion that they are guilty.**

It was introduced on **9th August 1971** as a response to the increasing violence in Northern Ireland

It was the idea of new Prime Minister of Northern Ireland - **BRIAN FAULKNER**

## WHY DID HE INTRODUCE INTERNMENT?

- He had taken over from James Chichester Clark and he was **under pressure** as he had promised his Unionist party **results in dealing with the increasing violence** and civil rights which was spiralling out of control.
- internment was an old successful tactic in the 1950's.. it **had worked in the IRA Border campaign in the 1950s** ...
- Faulkner hoped that it would **remove the key leaders, help locate weapons and intelligence and restore peace.**

However, could it work again in the 1970's the way it had done in the 1950's?

## Background



## INTERNMENT 1971

## Actions

Internment introduction was called **OPERATION DEMETRIUS** (The ancient God of fishing)

It was ordered by **Brian Faulkner** and agreed by a **very reluctant British government and British army leadership**

They were not as convinced that it would work but were willing to let Faulkner try

On 9th August **military snatch squads** raided the homes of **suspected 'terrorists'** and **arrested** them.

They were out into detention camps like **Long Kesh** and held for questioning. There was **no trial**. The authorities hoped to remove the key paramilitary leaders and therefore reduce the violence in one move.

## Reactions

## Effects

### BLOODY SUNDAY

One anti internment march was in Derry in Jan 1972.

14 protestors were shot dead by the British army plunging Northern Ireland into the worst year of the Troubles 1972 when 492 people died.

### Support for PIRA rocketed.

Violence spiralled out of control following internment. Nearly **150** lost their lives in 1971. This would increase significantly in **1972 (the bloodiest year of the Troubles)**

**Five times** as many died in 1971 than previously.



Internment was a **HUGE failure**

It was based on **outdated intelligence** and very few of the **452 men** arrested were actively involved in the PIRA. Many were in the older Official IRA

It also seemed very one sided. **Not one Protestant/loyalist was interned until 1973** (despite many of the killings being carried out by loyalists)

Nationalists urged a **RENT AND RATES STRIKE**

The British army now appeared to be **helping a Unionist government** to stay in power. To Nationalists their role had become what the RUC / B Specials had been. This deeply angered Nationalists. Soldiers in particular were heavily **targeted** at this time and many died.