

## Linoleum

### "Sonny's Lettah"

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From Brixton Prison, Jebb Avenue London S.W. 2 Ingran  
Dear mama  
Good day  
I hope that when these few lines reach you they may  
Find you in the best of health  
I doun know how to tell ya dis  
For I did mek a solemn promise  
To tek care a lickle Jim  
An try mi bes fi look out fi him

Mama, I really did try mi bes  
But none a di less  
Sorry fi tell ya seh, poor lickle Jim get arres  
It was de miggie a di rush hour  
Hevrybody jus a hustle and a bustle  
To go home fi dem evenin shower  
Mi an Jim stan up waitin pon a bus  
Not causin no fuss

When all of a sudden a police van pull up  
Out jump tree policemen  
De whole a dem carryin baton  
Dem walk straight up to me and Jim  
One a dem hold on to Jim  
Seh dem tekin him in  
Jim tell him fi leggo a him  
For him nah do nutt'n  
And 'im nah t'ief, not even a but'n  
Jim start to wriggle  
De police start to giggle

Mama, mek I tell you wa dem do to Jim?  
Mek I tell you wa dem do to 'im?

Dem thump him him in him belly and it turn to jelly  
Dem lick 'im pon 'im back and 'im rib get pop  
Dem thump him pon him head but it tough like lead  
Dem kick 'im in 'im seed and it started to bleed

Mama, I jus couldn't stan up deh, nah do nuttin'

So mi jook one in him eye and him started fi cry  
Me thump him pon him mout and him started fi shout  
Me kick him pon him shin so him started fi spin  
Me hit him pon him chin an him drop pon a bin  
- an crash, an dead

More policeman come dung  
Dem beat me to the grung  
Dem charge Jim fi sus  
Dem charge mi fi murdah

Mama, doan fret  
Doan get depress an downhearted  
Be of good courage-acap

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