

DUBLIN COMMUNITIES AGAINST RACISM!



Since December, the issue of immigration has come to the fore in the Free State. What started as genuine concerns in working class communities about the need for consultation and information about the asylum seekers and refugees being housed in the community, has now become an issue opportunistically hijacked by far right agitators and criminal elements with their own nefarious interests.

The Free State has refused calls for community consultation in an effort to divide and conquer the working class on this issue and are deliberately using the far right to destabilise communities in order to maintain their grip on power in the 26 counties. A working class community that is distracted by refugees and migrants is one that won't raise issue with the capitalist rise in

cost of living or the deliberate housing shortage presided over by those in Leinster House.

Those in power want to see our communities fighting among themselves instead of uniting against our real enemies. In a response to this development, and to demonstrate the anti racist and anti fascist tradition in our communities, a collation of Republicans, Socialists, Community Activists and Trade Unionists have come together to establish Dublin Communities Against Racism (DCAR).

DCAR has come about in response to the genuine concerns of communities in working class areas to demand full consultation and information about the housing of refugees and asylum seekers and more importantly, to demand resources and housing for the communities

involved so genuine integration can be achieved instead of the divide and conquer tactic that is currently being used by the Free State administration and far right agitators. More importantly, DCAR has moved to hold protests against those who have created the cost of living and housing crisis in Ireland, the Free State establishment, in an effort to channel the anger of the community in a revolutionary direction, driving a wedge between the far right and the community and focusing on the real enemies of the working class, not the asylum seekers, refugees or the centres and buildings that are providing them shelter.

In late January, DCAR held a protest at Leinster House to oppose the policies of the Free State and bring the demand for consultation and resources to the streets. From the

beginning the protest made clear that refugees and migrants are welcome in Ireland, with banners on display to this effect. In a statement the organisers set out their position:

"On January 28th 2023 concerned about a rise in anti-refugee protests across the country, long-standing community and political activists in Dublin gathered at Leinster House under the banner of 'Dublin Communities Against Racism' to condemn the policies of the present and previous governments that have brought about conflict and division in our communities and exposed them to the poisonous influence of far-right agitators, who have nothing to offer the working class but misery.

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In particular we condemn—

- the abject failure of the present and previous governments to provide adequate housing for the people of Ireland due to an ideological affinity with private property that only serves developers and landlords, including foreign vulture funds. The fact alone of 166,000 vacant homes fully demonstrates this

- the total failure of this and previous governments to provide a fit-for-purpose health system. At the same time we acknowledge the dedicated efforts of health care workers, including many immigrants, who work under extremely difficult conditions

- the ongoing neglect of the poorest, marginalised communities; the lack of services, particularly youth and health care services, including mental health and drug rehabilitation services, the failure to address educational disadvantage, and the failure to address ever-worsening income equality.

It is these failures which provided fertile ground for the unseemly "protests" in communities over recent weeks, for which we hold the government fully responsible.

We unequivocally state that refugees are welcome in Ireland; but that does not mean support for Irish government policy on the issue. It is impossible, for example, to overlook the difference in treatment by the government of refugees from Ukraine compared to those seeking International Protection, which has served to foster a mindset of good refugees and bad refugees and underpin racist thinking. The recent decision to house Ukrainian refugees and not those from other parts of the world amplified this discrimination, bringing great shame to the country, and we condemn it.

We further condemn the failure to abolish the inhumane direct-provision system, designed to allow those in the loop to make a fortune out of refugees. And one has to question the degree of responsibility of the government in declaring that

Ireland could take any number of Ukrainian refugees in however short a timeframe (while providing benefits unmatched in most EU countries) without any thought or planning given to accommodation, education, healthcare, etc. This was, intended or not, a gift to the far right and has led to a backlash against all refugees, particularly those seeking International Protection, who communities have generally accepted for decades.



Whatever about the rash promises the government made to the EU, and their struggle to fulfil them, as community activists we reiterate and reconfirm the long-standing principle of community development that communities must be consulted about plans for their areas. We note that proper consultation would have served to defuse a great deal of the opposition that has arisen in communities to the housing of refugees. We reject the characterisation by the government of community consultation as "a right of veto" and emphatically affirm that communities must be properly resourced to accommodate and provide services where significant additional numbers are to be housed.

We call on people to reject the propaganda of the far right that there is no housing crisis in Ireland, no health crisis and no cost-of-living crisis but simply an immigration crisis. This lie only serves to whitewash the failures of the establishment, and is designed to do so. Similarly, we have noted the targeting of Sinn Féin and left-wing parties while little is said about Fianna Fáil

and Fine Gael, who have governed the state since it was established. Again, in the traditional role of fascists, this is to help maintain the status quo; and there can be no doubt the far right is being funded to do this. We would particularly caution all who consider themselves patriots to steer well clear of the far-right parties, as you could well end up discovering that you are working for foreign state or non-state actors. We would remind eve-

ryone that the far right is not only anti-immigrant but anti-women and anti-LGBT and viciously opposed to working-class organisations, like trade unions, while supportive of a socio-economic system under which the rich get richer while the needs of the people remain unmet.

In recent weeks, in response to the targeting of refugees, the call "take it to the government" has arisen in communities. We are acting on this and urge all decent people who are struggling to pay bills, angry about the lack of housing, angry about the health system, and so forth, to join us in future actions in holding those directly responsible for the problems to account. We should not be diverted from fighting for a better Ireland for all."

Anti Imperialist Action Ireland is proud to have played a role in the formation of DCAR and in providing a working class alternative to the lies of the Free State Administration and the Far Right. We will continue to play a role in this initiative that aims to ensure that the far right and fascist organisations do not get

a foothold in working class communities. We believe that broad anti racist initiatives such as DCAR are important in the fight against the rise of far right ideas and for challenging the lies of racists and bigots at a local level while also listening and taking on board the genuine concerns of the community.

However in the final analysis, we continue to believe that it is only through militant anti-fascism, through the direct physical confrontation with any attempt of fascists to take to the streets or organise in our communities, that fascism can be defeated. It is for this reason that AIA believes that now is the time for the building and developing of the militant Anti Fascist United Front across all 32 counties of Ireland, so as fascists can be challenged and smashed wherever and whenever they appear.

For over 30 years in Ireland, this role has been played by Anti Fascist Action Ireland, who, as an independent, non party political, militant anti fascist vehicle, are the only organisation capable of bringing together the various strands of Republicanism, Socialism and other progressives to form the basis of the Anti Fascist United Front. In the fight against fascism AIA is committed to working to strengthen Anti Fascist Unity through strengthening our links with AFA and DCAR and working to bring others onboard.

Now is the time for unity not division. Petty differences must be put to one side by the anti-fascist community and we must stand together against our common enemies of the political establishment across the 32 counties and the fascist boot boys that do their bidding. We take this opportunity to call on all Republicans, Socialists, militant trade unionists and other progressives to support Anti Fascist Action Ireland and initiatives such as Dublin Communities Against Racism so as together we can collectively take a stand and stem the fascist tide.

Anti-Fascist Journal

Revolutionary Irish Republicanism is Anti-Fascist in its ideology. Since the early 1930s, it has always been Republicans that have led the fight to keep fascists off the streets. It has been the Republican movement that has prevented fascists from gaining a foothold in Ireland, outside of Loyalist communities.

As we go to print this month, there has been a notable rise in anti-immigration protests in the 26-county state and particularly in Dublin. Communities angry at the cost of living, the housing crisis and decades of neglect are taking to the streets. However, those taking to the streets are directing their anger in the wrong direction. While working class communities are rightly angry at the lack of consultation and resources in areas where asylum seekers and refugees are being housed, they are directing their anger at those very asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers instead of those in power, creating conditions for fascist and far right agitators to take to the streets of working class communities in a way that hasn't happened since the Blueshirts in the 1930s.

Republicans once again need to be to the fore in the fight against fascism. We must listen to the concerns of our communities on consultation and resources, and we must find ways to channel the anger at the housing and cost of living crisis against those in Leinster House and Stormont. In doing so, we can demonstrate to the working class that Republicanism is the engine for change and in doing so, isolate and remove fascist and far right agitators from our community before they have gained any standing.

To label all those on anti-immigration protests racist is to dismiss genuine concerns and drive people of our class into the hands of the fascists. Instead, the racist character of the demonstrations and the real nature of the fascist and far right agitators must be exposed and the protests currently on the streets must be directed at those in power. This will take genuine community work to ensure our class understand

the role of the far right in Ireland and in our communities.

Hand in glove with the community work against racism, their must continue to be militant anti-fascism on the streets to beat the fascists off them every time they attempt to organise. Revolutionary violence is the only method to stop fascism. While our communities must be listened to and engaged with, in the final analysis fascist agitators can only be dealt with in one way. Successfully building militant anti-fascism now primarily relies on building working class and republican cooperation on this issue to develop a militant anti-fascist United Front across the 32 counties that is committed to stamping out the emerging fascist movement in Ireland in its infancy.

As in the 1930s, Irish Socialist Republicans are committed to playing a full and leading role in this struggle, and will work to build the maximum possible Anti-Fascist unity. Towards this end, we encourage all Republican organisations to support the work of Anti Fascist Action, the militant Anti-Fascist organisation that has been keeping fascists off the streets of Ireland since 1991.

The fight is far from lost, but the time for waging it is now, unrelentingly in defence of our Country, our Communities and our Class. Now is the time to put petty differences aside and unite together to face fascism down, and smash it. Let the words of Irish Citizen Army and Irish Republican Army Volunteer Frank Ryan be our inspiration and our road map in the fight against fascism, *'As long as we have fists and boots and guns if necessary, there will be no free speech for traitors.'*

**If you want to get involved
with the paper or submit a
piece for consideration,
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A WORKING CLASS RESPONSE TO FASCISM

Some questions that should be posed to the fascists attempting to take advantage of concerns in working class communities.

What solutions have you ever offered the working class in relation to the artificially created housing crisis, soaring energy prices, the capitalist rise in cost of living, the lack of jobs, training and education opportunities, the deliberate destruction of our health and public services, the decades of deliberate neglect and marginalisation by the state, the partition and occupation of our country by foreign imperialist powers (the real foreign threat), the changing of the balance of power from the golden circle to the people?

You call yourselves patriots. What role have you played in the ongoing struggle for National Liberation in our country? You know, the one where real patriots have sacrificed their lives and their liberty for the freedom of Ireland and the working class?

We know what your leaders have done. Justin Barrett and James Reynolds were in Fine Gael, the Blueshirts, the anti-Republican party that has been in the pocket of British Imperialism since 1922. Some patriots. And Hermann Kelly was being educated in a university well known for links with MI5, before becoming the lap-dog of Nigel Farage and the most aggressive form of British imperialism and chauvinism. Maybe we misunderstood. When you call yourselves 'patriots' is it British patriots you mean? Again, no friends of the working class.

As British patriots, is that why Free State fascist organisations are consistently developing closer and closer links with loyalist death squads

and the British far right? The same death squads that kill innocent Irish citizens on behalf of British imperialism and the same British far-right that ran campaigns of hate against Irish immigrants under the banner 'No blacks, no dogs, no Irish!' Are you being directed by MI5 to develop these links and act in alliance against Irish National Liberation? Justin and Hermann certainly have form.

Understanding that the Irish people, due to 850 years of ongoing oppression, have a long history of emigration, where our people have suffered racism, violence and exploitation; Why protest against centres housing vulnerable asylum seekers fleeing war-torn and destitute countries, seeking international protection, instead of against those who are really creating the problems, namely the Free State administration, British, European and US Imperialism, NATO, the capitalist class and in particular landlords? Is it because you are in fact in alliance with these same powers and view yourselves very much as part of their club?

No answers? We thought so.

Fascists have nothing to offer the working class. They are pro-establishment, pro-imperialist, pro-landlord and have no base in our communities. We won't let them get one now.

The Irish people have always been proudly anti-imperialist and anti-fascist. Let us be proud of that tradition and not allow our fighting spirit to be hijacked by far-right lies online or the fascist boot boys serving the agenda of those in power.

Full consultation with the community when asylum seekers and refugees are to be housed in an area is a must! No more lies. Information takes away fear and consultation, information and communication will lead to genuine integra-

tion. Resourcing is needed in all communities where asylum seekers and refugees are to be housed. Housing for all, training and education opportunities, funding for schools, sports clubs, healthcare and other community services are a must and are a legitimate set of demands from working class communities.

Working class communities have genuine concerns. Anger at the cost of living, the housing crisis, the collapse of our healthcare system and being ignored by those in power for generations have led to anger coming to boiling point. But that anger must be channeled in the right way. Our communities won't be fixed by targeting vulnerable asylum seekers, refugees or migrants and that only serves the agenda of those in power as a distraction from the real issues.

The working class need a united front to fight against our exploitation by those in power. The anger and protests need to be directed at those in Leinster House, and Stormont, against the multinationals and international imperialism. Against the landlords, the energy companies, the fascists and the far right agitators. Building such a movement is the task for all of us who believe in an Ireland owned and controlled by the people, in the Republic proclaimed in 1916.

And remember, if anyone is calling for protests against asylum seekers or scapegoating refugees or migrants, they are serving the interests of those in power and should be isolated and unwelcome in our communities. Let's focus on our real enemies and not allow ourselves to be divided and conquered by those in power!

For a United Working Class – Ireland for the People – All of the People!

ANTI IMPERIALIST ACTION REMEMBERS IRA VOLUNTEER SEAMUS LILIS

Continue the fight against the Counter Revolutionaries
1923 - 2023

Republicans from across the country gathered at Dunleckney graveyard in Co. Carlow on Saturday last to remember Carlow IRA Volunteer Séamus Lillis who was executed by the counter revolutionary Free State 100 years ago this month.

Volunteer Seamus Lillis from Chapel Street in Muine Bheag, Co. Carlow, was a proud Volunteer of the Carlow IRA Active Service Unit.

Séamus was executed at 8am on 15th January 1923, by orders of the Pro Brit Free State in the Military Barracks in Carlow.

Séamus had been condemned to death

in Dublin on the 12th of December having been charged with having in his possession a rifle and taking part in an attack on the Free State, for this brave act Séamus was brought from Dublin to Carlow and to the coal yard of the Military Barracks and brutally executed.

Following the ceremony, Anti Imperialist Action held a minutes silence for our recently departed comrade Éamon McGrath, a highly thought of community and political agitator whose voice and songs had inspired and brought joy to many across Ireland and Scotland.



REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST REPUBLICANS MARCH IN DERRY



Revolutionary Socialist Republicans took part in this years Bloody Sunday march in Derry.

On the 30th January 1972 peaceful civil rights protestors defying British rule in Ireland organised and marched against internment in Ireland. 14 Irish citizens were murdered by the British army's parachute regiment.

Revolutionary Socialist Republicans carried banners which "*We Serve Neither King nor Kaiser but Ireland*" which was well received by on lookers who clapped at the Revolutionary Socialist Republican message.

A banner commemorating the Irish Republicans executed by Counter Revolutionaries in 1922-23 was also carried along with a banner from the Anti Internment Campaign.

History has shown that as long as Britain occupies Ireland innocent people will die.

British rule must always be resisted and the all Ireland Republic of 1916 defended.

**No more Bloody Sundays!
End British Rule in Ireland!**



SOCIALIST REPUBLICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

REVOLUTIONARY INTENT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation/social inclusion is a vital cog in the development of an equal and progressive society, the engagement of those within the various communities is only the first step in the process of development. But why Community Participation and not just electoralism or local authority governance?

Community Participation/Social Inclusion is the first step to ensuring, recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants at community/estate/village and town level – including the people as the decision makers. This increases the possibility of the acceptance of decisions and community commitment to outcomes as local knowledge from diverse groups, shapes and creates inclusive, effective solutions, we do need electoral governance and professional administration of decisions and projects, but without the pre-requisite involvement of communities many projects and or ideas are without the buy-in needed for success or sustainability, the involvement of the communities must be socially inclusive in not just rhetoric and terminology but revolutionary intent, that is to say community led and not that of a party political policy driven electoral strategy for the furtherance of that parties power and dominance, as is the case within Ireland today, in both socially and politically corrupt regimes.

There are various forums and committees for community participation and social inclusion within the Public Participation Network system, the network excludes those who are sitting members of the electoral regimes and those who have stood for election within that system.

Local development councils, and town wide forums, Public Participation Networks (PPN). A flat governance structure with a co-ordinator, an admin worker, a “secretariat” and overall governance by “plenary of all groups registered every 3 months.

Each Secretariat is elected strictly through a participatory election by those groups registered and not through the regimes electoral party political system, each group having one vote only.

The vote is done on a by “Pillar” basis to en-

sure, the Pillars are Environment, Community and Voluntary, and Social Inclusion, this ensures a that no one Pillar can dominate and that all can and do make policy and actions in their given area of expertise.

Local Community Development Council (LCDC), Strategic Policy Committees (SPC). There are currently 6 Strategic Policy Committee’s in Tipperary namely: Unlike much or what is wrong especially the electoralism that is used to bolster the power of individuals and parties, being a Community/PPN rep on an SPC does not require you to be active in electoralism, but, it does enable the true community voice through active participation and can and should be used to ensure that administrations and overpaid politicians don’t squander the resources that should and must be used for the benefit of communities and the society in which we all live. Rep names can be found on the PPN websites.

1. Economic Development and Enterprise
2. Housing
3. Infrastructure (to include Roads, Transportation and Water Services)
4. Planning and Emergency Services
5. Environment and Climate Action
6. Community, Culture and Library Services

Some areas have Community Action Partnerships, or C.A.P. a multi seat forum which is aimed at multi-agency reps and communities’ representation, specifically to look at the resources needed and available for the their Area without the need for political rivalry.

So, Community Participation is understood, it is legislated for, people are employed to facilitate, to advise and to enable, and yet in the opinion of this activist the system is failing, reps aren’t coming forward to engage and grow representation, groups while registered and working away as best they can despite “covid” are unable to attend even “Zoom” meetings, and yes I too am sick of ZOOM!

Why are we not getting full engagement, why are groups who are so hard working and effective not willing to engage with other programs and

projects? For some it is often the perception of their voice would not be listened to or their opinions wouldn’t count, is it that it is the same faces and job titles at the “top table, politicians and Party members interested only in the Party way” that put people off, the age old perception of a “clique” running things at anything were a variety of groups may attend, or are people just tired and feeling unappreciated for all their efforts, or as was pointed out to me today are these forums becoming the agencies talking to one another and telling people and groups that they know best and they must lead the way, their education and their jobs giving them better incite and ability.

I can and say that at all forums I attend the community voice is loud and clear, the reps who attend are articulate and impassioned not just on the work their particular group engages in but in support of the other community groups and organisations, but that voice, that passion must come from even more reps, the nature of volunteerism in Ireland is strong, Tidy Towns, Age Friendly, The Lions Club, Autism Awareness and the other myriad groups who volunteered in Covid Vaccine centres are proof of that, so if you have time, (Not much, just a little), If you are impassioned about something, if you would like to engage in community participation and social inclusion, if you feel that only through revolutionary intent and active participation can change be facilitated and grown, join a group, be an active revolutionary in your community, speak out, engage and enable the development of your community, your group and be an active community rep/advocate in a positive revolutionary sense! To find out what groups are in your area, check out your local PPN.

As communities we can shape our society, we can look for the resources and services needed, we can speak out for those for whom speaking out is difficult if not actually impossible, community participation is just that, participation, there is a lot of support, there is the chance to make the changes needed.

CLASS STRUGGLE

NEURODIVERGENT AND

The following article aims to demonstrate the need for class unity and provide the revolutionary alternative to identity politics.

Throughout the entirety of the Free State's existence particular groups have been oppressed in a special manner by the free state administration. Often the oppression of marginalised groups results in revolutionary intent building amongst those facing oppression, however it often lacks any leadership and as a result becomes an identity issue, which in turn sees separate groups of marginalised people campaign against their own oppression in numbers the Free State administration can usually ignore without any fuss while been silent on other issues, which means the Free State can ignore them too. What is key for Socialist Republicans to highlight is that while we all face unique issues depending on many factors, the oppression we face comes from a common enemy, the ruling classes. We are primarily oppressed as we are the working class, whether we be neurodivergent, neurotypical, LGBTQ+ or straight and cis our oppression always stems from the ruling class and this is a class issue not an identity one.

As a neurodivergent person I am all too aware of the oppression marginalized groups face. I also see as working class person the oppression we face and it is one in the same in every aspect.

Today in the Free State parents of children referred for Autism and ADHD assessments can expect a long waiting list to the detriment of the child often waiting on a diagnosis in order to receive educational supports, in many cases the waiting list is over a year. However for the bourgeois classes who can afford to pay there is the option of appointments within weeks usually costing over 1000 euro. This is a clear example of how neurodivergent people are oppressed but only if they are working class and can't afford to pay.

For working class adults who have been recommended for autism or ADHD assessments they can practically forget about it, there is no public assessment teams so only

those who can pay again at a cost of well over 1000 euro, they are usually even more expensive than children's assessments.

When accessing public services the result is the same, when people who meet all requirements apply for disability allowance they are left months waiting on a decision without any income in many cases and are often denied it despite producing all necessary paperwork. Many neurodivergent people I know have had to apply over 3 times which can take nearly a year. When it comes to working class people accessing welfare payments it is the same, queues designed to shame those collecting payments, in many cases long waits on a decision and no back payment unless the applicant specifically requests it, which applicants are never told. In both cases the Free State actively seeks to humiliate those receiving any support and deny access to services whenever possible and in both cases the services are really the bare minimum and not enough to get by on.

In the education system it is the same again, without a diagnosis neurodivergents have no hope of accessing supports and even with diagnosis supports can be hard to get with schools under resourced. Most public schools have no sensory rooms, do not have enough SNAs for everyone who needs one or enough additional/exam aids and applications for exam supports are often rejected in the state exams even for those who received them for every other exam.

There is of course a much better alternative for those who have the money, they can choose whatever private school they want so that all of these struggles faced by neurodivergent can essentially be bypassed, this demonstrates these struggles can be overcome but in the profit based capitalist system only by those who can pay.

I think it is only logical that if we our oppression comes from a common enemy then in order to end it, we need to be united in our resistance. The working classes whatever their race gender sexual orientation or creed must be brought together in a broad front of progressive forces. We as

revolutionaries however cannot ask people to just blindly follow us, we must demonstrate that we are fighting one fight and continue to champion all progressive struggles.

AIA have been to the forefront of this since it's inception, active on every single progressive issue there is to be active on such as standing with Republican and international POWs, anti-eviction activism, anti-fascist activism, active in the struggle for LGBTQ liberation, students issues, community issues such as anti-social behaviour, the mental health epidemic, in solidarity with national liberation struggles and people's wars. Actively standing against British, North American and EU imperialism in Ireland. To quote a great Socialist Republican *"wherever there is an injustice you will find a Socialist Republican"*

At the time of writing this article we are seen a wave of anti-migrant, anti-refugee protests across the free state. As capitalism's crisis worsens the working class face hardship on a new scale and the free state administration has used fascists to create the perfect scapegoat, refugees for the working classes to blame.

Refugees are not the cause of any problems we face these issues such as lack of housing, healthcare and services have been prominent under every free state administration particularly at times when capitalism the world over is in crisis. Those who came here seeking asylum and are sitting in direct provision centres or other emergency accommodation are not the enemy of the working class, our enemies don't sit in emergency accommodation, you'll find them sitting in Leinster House, Banks, court houses and cop shops. It's those people who are our enemies and that is who we must be united against.

BUILDING THE ANTI-FASCIST UNITED FRONT

The key link for uniting progressive forces in Ireland today is anti-fascism.

What is anti-fascism? It is the struggle against the far-right and their influence.

Why does this struggle contain such potential for unity? Not only are the ideas, aims and actions of the fascists so abhorrent to the vast majority of Irish people, and so utterly discredited, but they serve to divide us, channeling discontent toward reactionary ends and against particular sections of the people (migrants, women, LGBT, people of colour, etc.), thus undermining our people's movement for a better Ireland.

The last couple months have seen an unfortunate rise in the influence of far-right ideas in local communities, particularly in Dublin. Ordinary people are being stirred up by fascists and thugs to oppose migrant centres. The root of this development is not a result of a sudden rise in racism. In reality this is an outgrowth of the neglect and oppression of working-class communities, in particular the housing crisis. The housing crisis has been stripped of its political-economic content and reduced to a bare numbers game - 'Ireland is full'. The media circus around the refugee/migrant issue and the Free State's failure to adequately accommodate them has given weight to this idea. Coupled with the rising cost of living, conditions have been tinder dry for an upsurge of local resistance.

The spark has now been consciously lit by the emergency measures taken for refugees from Ukraine at the behest of the European Union. While welcome for those fleeing war, such measures should have been carried out years ago given the severity of the housing crisis and applied across the board for all those in need of housing. Migrants and refugees are now being sheltered near exclusively in working class areas, such as East Wall,

Drimnagh, Tallaght and Clondalkin, while more affluent middle-class areas have been left alone. This has inevitably stirred up resentment in long-term deprived and impoverished communities, and the protests have been a misguided expression of this.

As lumpen thugs, in alliance with the far-right, grow ever more emboldened, ever more vicious towards the objects of their ire - minorities and the left - the need for organised opposition grows ever more apparent. In the early 1930s republicans, socialists and working-class activists united to oppose the rising fascist Blueshirt movement, organising thousands into this struggle across the country. Back then Cumann na nGaedheal (later Fine Gael) stirred up the Blueshirt movement in order to divide Fianna Fáil's base. Ninety years on, Fine Gael are still stirring up working class communities, now largely in order to divide, confuse and weaken Sinn Féin's base, the party which currently threatens to take over the reins of the Free State. Communities, which would traditionally support Sinn Féin are being turned against Sinn Féin, who are now proclaimed as traitors. Sinn Féin's move to middle-class social-democratic respectability is coming up against objective barriers. It's proven easier to drop their old principles than their old connections. Good use is being made of this contradiction. While their members and properties are attacked the leadership is paralysed, hoping to God it blows over. The leadership had hoped to ignore smaller community-based forces, both to the left and right, as part of their ascension to the status of Fianna Fáil Mark II but reality rarely allows such an apotheosis to the angels.

The rise of fascism is presently causing upheaval, yet these forces remain small, isolated, divided and disorganised, in many ways lacking the clear social basis of the Blueshirts (right-wing Catholics

backed by comprador capitalists) or even the far-right movements seizing Europe. Issues of partition, religion and national oppression in Ireland divide the far-right as much as the left. They have yet to attain a mass character, nor set down any deep roots in communities. Now is the moment to isolate and defeat them. Only a united mass anti-fascist movement in local communities can effectively achieve this.

This issue is approaching a crisis point - now either the progressive forces will give up leadership of working-class communities to the far-right and gangs or progressive working-class leadership will assert itself. Such progressive leadership will not be achieved by decrying all of the people involved in the protests as 'fascists' or 'racists'. The material roots of this movement must be grasped. The fascist minority must be exposed and isolated. We must understand the contradictory character of these protests and the different elements involved - from fascists to working-class mothers. Failure to develop an approach which grasps these differences will only play into the hands of the far-right, pushing ordinary people away from the left and into the arms of the fascists.

The task now is to develop the anti-fascist united front in local communities in order to unite the people against the scourge of racism, fascism and division. To achieve this the progressive forces need collective leadership, discussion, debate, and education. Only by this means can a genuinely united movement be developed, as opposed to simply a loose banner over a superficial unity. A positive programme for the way forward must be developed among the masses of ordinary people, through collective struggle and discussion. This cannot be another electoral front to channel popular struggle into constitutionalism, ultimately breeding despondency and defeat. The anti-fascist people's

movement must develop mass resistance and struggle, growing deep roots in local communities and uniting the working class on an anti-fascist basis, the only sure bulwark against the growth of fascism. The concerns which have led some elements to racist ideas and fascist leadership must be tackled through community resistance against the real roots of the crisis. Anti-fascism will be the political basis of unity, but only a concrete programme for struggle, energetically put into practice, will develop and sustain this unity. Put a stop to the struggle against ordinary migrants by taking up the struggle against the vultures holding our communities to ransom. Unity with migrants in this fight must be actively worked for, common struggle against the common enemy being the surest means to defeat fascism and overcome racism.

Let this crisis spur on republicans, socialists and working-class activists to raise the progressive movement to a higher level. Across Europe the left has failed to stop the rise of the far-right and they have now entered the mainstream. Let the overturning of the chariot in front be a warning for the chariot behind. We have a unique opportunity to defeat the fascist movement in its infancy, as the Irish people have so effectively achieved time and time again. Its development was hindered by the strong republican movement of earlier decades, which had deep roots in working class communities and could quickly overcome such influences. Such a united movement is the only remedy for our present troubles. Let us build the anti-fascist united front in every community in the country, the only means of running the fascists out of our communities and forging the movement for a free Ireland.

WHO IS IRELAND'S ENEMY?



Amid foreign war and domestic crisis Ireland yet again is confronted with the question of "Who is Ireland's Enemy?" This question, crucial to understanding our nation's future, was originally posed by Volunteer Brian O'Higgins in his 1914 poem of the same name. It challenges us republicans, as agents of change, to identify what forces must be confronted and struggled against in order to achieve national liberation. In order to formulate solutions to their problems, we must be able to accurately point out to the ordinary people of this country which processes and bodies design their oppression. Unless the faces of the real enemies of Ireland are revealed to the people by republicans over and over again, past history and recent events have shown that countless scapegoats and red herrings will be successfully posited in their place. Let us briefly take up the task of this question once again.

Scores of young Irishmen are currently at war in the trenches. Coaxed by the recruitment campaign drummed up by pro-war hysteria, these volunteers signed up to fight and die in Ukraine and Donbass. Some of these men reportedly are only teenagers who joined after finishing Secondary School. By some method they were convinced by the narrative of Britain/NATO and its subservient Free State political class that their enemy was in Russia. So strong was their belief in the narrative that Ireland is attached to the struggle of "The West" against Russia, that they were willing to bravely give up their lives and blood for NATO's war effort. While the British military manufactures Javelin missiles in the Occupied 6 Counties, Irish mothers are expected to provide another resource for the war; young blood. This system has been alive and well since the days of John Redmond and the First World War. Just like the modern Free Staters, Redmond sung sweet lullabies which lured Irish boys into the hands of the British Army. Thousands were sacrificially slaughtered in

order to prove how loyal the quislings were to their masters.

Who is Ireland's enemy? Are they in Russia, Donetsk, or Luhansk? Certainly not. Instead of cheering on as our youth march off to a faraway land with NATO to stave off another imperialist, we must instead point to the invasion which has been happening at home for over 800 years. As James Connolly wrote, "If you are itching for a rifle, itching to fight, have a country of your own; better to fight for our own country than for the robber empire. If ever you shoulder a rifle, let it be for Ireland." Ireland's enemy is not to be found in all the fields of Ukraine, but in the British military bases illegally occupying our country. After all, it was not a Russian soldier who last week British Courts gave not a day in prison for the cold blooded murder of an Irish civilian. It was not Russian intelligence who armed Loyalist death squads to torture and disappear our people. It was not Russians who partitioned our country, killed and hunted down our heroes, erased our native language, and deprived us of our sovereign right to Ireland's natural resources. To any independent view of Irish history, The identity of our enemy is obvious.

The attempts to erase our native history and culture have resulted in a new generation of Irish children learning resentment for the enemies of our enemy at any given time from our news and, particularly, social media. Irish children are being learning to reserve their hatred for faraway enemies of NATO such as Korea or Iran. This is in spite of the fact that we ourselves were once considered an enemy of NATO, as are our brothers and sisters in other anti-imperialist struggles such as in Palestine, who "the West" insist are terrorists. Why must Ireland listen to the British and Yankee imperialists when it comes to who is a "terrorist"? Genuine organs of resistance in Palestine or anti-imperialists such as the New People's Army in

the Philippines are needlessly designated as terrorists in this country while the thugs of the British military are welcomed as friends. Our true enemies, the military occupiers in the 6 Counties and the semi-colonial elites of the Free State obscure the facts, making us play a game of smoke and mirrors with foreign powers instead of holding them and their illegitimate claim over Ireland accountable.

Yesterday a tremendous crowd of Irish men and women marched through Dublin against the presence of refugees in Ireland. Under slogans such as "Get them out", "House the Irish, not the world" or "There is no housing crisis, there is a mass immigration crisis" far-right lunatics such as the "National" Party and "Irish" Freedom Party twisted the genuine concerns of deprived communities such as East Wall and Ballymun in order to gain political traction for themselves. These areas have suffered greatly under the austerity of successive capitalist Free State administrations. The traitorous political elite have, in their effort to model the Irish economy as a haven for British investment, starved Ballymun and East Wall of infrastructure and funding for years. In an act of excessive negligence they have inhumanely crammed hundreds of refugees into warehouses and hotels like sardines in these strained communities with zero consultation. The fascists were able to exploit the resentment that this situation has created, placing the blame on the refugees of no property and spreading theories about the "government" favouring foreign homeless over the Irish homeless.

Who is Ireland's enemy? Are they in direct provision centres with no home and little property? Again, certainly not. We Irish these people well. As much as both the far-right and Free State would like to forget, our history is in no way identifiable with the rest of the "West". We too suffer from the scourge of imperialism...

...and have at many times been forced to flee abroad.

Wherever we went we were hunted by the followers of the bigoted British and Yankee concept of "patriotism" which the far-right seek to artificially replace Ireland's tradition of anti-colonial patriotism with. It is no surprise that unpatriotic groups set up by British imperialist Nigel Farage and Loyalist donor Justin Barrett cannot be trusted to identify our true enemy. Despite whatever scapegoats these crooks throw up in the eyes of rightfully restless communities, the truth does not change. Our true enemies are the West Brits who sat in Leinster House depriving these communities, plundering the Irish working class, and creating a housing crisis while over 200,000 vacant homes lie empty, a number far outnumbering all of our Irish homeless and refugees put together many times over.

Do not be fooled by the new look the deceptive O'Duffyite fascists have adopted to trick these communities. Just like their blueshirt predecessors the far-right have always been rabidly anti-republican. The "National Party"

would much rather flirt with the chauvinist and extremely pro-imperialist British Neo-Nazis they call their allies than sympathise with any republican organisation which has fought for Irish freedom in the last century. As previously pointed out the ex-Fine Gael man Justin Barrett donated £50,000 to UDA-linked Loyalist Jim Dowson. Like Loyalist bars in Belfast they would gladly fly confederate and apartheid flags. It is no wonder that, devoid of any friends among republicans, the National Party plays toy-town with their American branch, inviting Yankee "druids" over to perform ridiculous snake oil "ceremonies". Perhaps their website calls the word "plastic paddy" a slur because it hits a little close to home. As for the Irish "Freedom" Party, they are an alien project started and funded by Nigel Farage who ironically complain about foreign influence. These bigots have no patriotic bones in their bodies, and only serve to mislead.

In conclusion no matter what fairy-tales the British imperialists, Free Staters, and turncoats flood Irish minds with, the basic contradiction of British colonialism in Ireland can never be

erased. Despite all the distractions, the Irish people are always deeply imbued with a basic anti-imperialist consciousness inherited from their conditions, and eventually they will always return to anti-imperialist struggle against Ireland's true enemies. These are not the faraway boogeymen NATO begs us to hurl ourselves against. Nor, as James Connolly pointed out, are they the starving foreigners fleeing the horrors of imperialism. "Let no Irishman throw a stone at the foreigner; he may hit his own clansman." Who is Ireland's enemy? It is British imperialism and its servants. It is the European and American imperialists who join on the plunder. It is the British terrorist military occupying our country. It is the Free Stater counter-revolutionaries who since the original betrayal of Michael Collins have sold out half our country and abandoned the other half.

These are Ireland's enemies, and these are the enemies which Ireland's children have fought against in the continued and unbroken campaign of republican resistance from which we trace our roots.

HOUSING ACTIVIST CONVICTED FOR ACT OF RESISTANCE

An activist with the Revolutionary Housing League was convicted by the Free State courts at the end of January as part of their political campaign to criminalise housing activism. The activist was involved with the campaign to liberate a property in the Liberties from its forcible and unnecessary vacancy at the hands of Dublin City Council. The activist, a migrant, has been harassed and assaulted by state forces for the crime of wanting to see this building opened for use by the local community and for setting up a camp in a public park nearby to carry on the protest and offer shelter to himself and other homeless people.

The lies told by the Gardaí were demonstrably proven by the defence, including a phoney weapons charge (which was revealed to be a tent peg) and claims of syringes being found at the camp (a lie for which no evidence was offered). DCC offi-

cials, after harassing the activists and residents of School Street for months, gave testimony to ensure they were punished. The one piece of evidence, a video allegedly showing the activist committing criminal damage, was thrown out yet still the infamously reactionary Blueshirt judge John Hughes showed little concern for reality, being only interested in convicting a migrant housing activist. The weapons charge, about as solid as a tent without pegs, was thrown out, but the activist was still charged with criminal damage, trespassing and burglary! The Gardaí had admitted it was politically motivated yet still the burglary charge stuck.

This was not justice, it was a political attack on resistance to the housing crisis. This ought to be of interest to us all. We must defend the right to protest as we will need recourse to it more and more as the crisis worsens.



Judge John Hughes

THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



It was James Connolly who once said, *'As a patriot I hate the class which thrives upon the exploitation of its fellow-countrymen and women, which seizes upon the means of life and withholds them from the poor until their hunger compels them to sell their pittance. I hate this class more than the foreigner. Therefore I am a Socialist - anxious to purge our national household of its social dishonour.'*

But in Ireland today, there is a rising movement that has proven to be oblivious to Connolly's message. Among such people, simple messages, drip-fed to them by reactionary elements has galvanised significant numbers of people to come onto the streets in a crude campaign against foreign nationals that have been placed, as refugees, into their communities.

Protests had first blown up and steadily progressed when the old ESB building in Dublin's East Wall was turned into a Direct Provision Centre. A sizeable number of people were being inserted into a working class community without any consultation from the Free State administration.

Much of the anger however, was seriously misdirected, and crowds gathered outside the ESB building, as though the intimidation of the migrants there would somehow solve the issue.

These protests contained a mix of viewpoints, different people raising different concerns. Among these were anti-social groups that sought scapegoats without putting any effort into identifying the real problems. But lurking in the shadows, reactionary elements saw openings and many emerged trying to ride the wave and encourage popular ignorance. Talking darkly of 'unvetted males' as though foreign national men were somehow more dangerous than Irish, gained traction as did the common demand to 'house the Irish first'.

Feigning concern for Irish women and children, the fascist Irish Freedom Party (IFP) and the more overtly fascist National Party (NP), attempted to further pollute the water of the maelstrom that was building. Myths that were created to instil fear were passed around with dizzying rapidity before reality could get its boots on. The hectoring of the fascist 'citizen

journalists', that use their mobile phone's record function to live stream rumour, myth and half-thought out dross at strangers with a view to further antagonise the situation.

But the rise of such protests had further effects and a group calling itself East Wall Here For All emerged, itself made up of people from the area, some of whom from families that have lived in East Wall for generations.

Paddy O'Dea, a member of the group said, *'Really it was borne out of, the protests obviously started in early December, and obviously a lot of people, including myself, were appalled and upset by the protests.'* O'Dea went on, *'My immediate reaction was 'this isn't the East Wall I know'. I've been living in the area for nearly three years now. It was really borne out of a feeling of 'how do we do something that is constructive, but also doesn't further entrench the different sides?'*

O'Dea stated that his group would now focus on helping people to integrate into the wider community. Fine

aspirations, but this would not be enough. The racist message did not swim against the mainstream narrative of the Free State, but was carried along by it and no capitalist government can pass up the opportunity to re-direct mass anger away from themselves and down the cul-de-sac of racist complaint.

In an attempt to push back against what was going on in the area then, a protest was called at the footbridge next to Fairview Park on Wednesday 18th January. Such protests do not solve or indeed expose the problems that the far-fight seek to exploit, but they do provide an outlet for those in society that wish to express their revulsion at the attempts to intimidate strangers. The protest drew an impressive number of beeps from passing cars and allowed many locals to declare their opposition to what was going on in their communities.

The anti-immigration protests grew legs however, and in the face of the administrations continued ham-fisted approach to dealing with working-class communities, unrest spread. Although frequently...

Cont. from pg 11

....rebuked by protesters themselves, the far-right, now increasingly joined by criminal elements continued to spread racist myths, the most popular involving 'foreign rapists', and 'foreign paedophiles.' Thinly fabricated falsehoods about such predators were fed into social media where they spread like wild-fire.

This has spawned the phenomenon whereby vicious little thugs have begun posting videos of themselves beating up lone foreigners claiming that they are paedophiles. Naturally this disgusting tactic doesn't work when the victim is female as happened when a female Indian student was attacked with eggs in Phibsboro and had her hair pulled.

In one instance of a young woman who had been assaulted, her entire case was put in jeopardy as false stories that she had been attacked by a migrant were circulated online. However, the Irish Examiner, on 31 January reported, 'Gardaí believe a white Irish male was involved in an alleged sexual assault on a woman in north Dublin – and not migrants, as has been repeatedly claimed by right-wing agitators. The claims that male refugees or black men carried out the attack have fuelled and heightened anti-refugee protests in Finglas in recent days. The alleged incident occurred in the early hours of last Friday, after the woman was dropped off on Cappagh Road in Finglas.'

In the aftermath of the rumours surrounding the attack, a large number of local women, along with some children, entered Finglas Garda Station demanding answers. Convinced by the allegations that

refugee men are "rapists", posing an extreme danger to local women and children, they repeatedly claimed migrants were involved in Friday's alleged attack. When it was correctly pointed out that the rapist in question was actually white and Irish, those that had spread the false stories dug in deeper, calling the media, the Gardaí and indeed the Actual Victim herself, liars.



Protest outside Finglas Garda station

This is a common fascist tactic. In discussing anti-Semitism in France, Jean-Paul Sartre points that fascists are not unaware of the of what they claim to believe, pointing out that, 'They know that their remarks are frivolous, open to challenge. But they are amusing themselves, for it is their adversary who is obliged to use words responsibly, since he believes in words... They even like to play with discourse for, by giving ridiculous reasons; they discredit the seriousness of their interlocutors. They delight in acting in bad faith, since they seek not to persuade by sound argument but to intimidate and disconcert. If you press them too closely, they will abruptly fall silent, loftily indicating by some phrase that the time for argument is past. It is not that they are afraid of being convinced. They fear only to appear ridiculous or to prejudice by their embarrassment their hope of winning over some third person to their side.'

Naturally, many of the so-called patriots would have been fighting age males when foreign troops were occupying their country and endangering Irish people. The fact that these bore, and still bear, firearms seems to be a factor.

Seán Doyle of the Revolutionary Workers' Union Council explains however, 'We have been somewhat conditioned not to expect fair treatment or return for our labour nor complain or object, but worse still we accept the standards and low value this free state views of ourselves, without question almost compliant subservience and political dependents setting the scene for dog eat dog for inadequate service and supply. Their only way to avoid challenge, their ace, is division. Division is difficult to avoid when it has been set like a trap to get people to quarrel about basic entitlement, usually based on need or locality or creed or colour, because they are using a tried and tested play the world over... What is standing in our way, the biggest obstacle is now our mind-set, conditioned over years to respect laws and conventional methods that have hamstrung and tongue tied us as a society. While we witness human values decline and worse still while we fail to tackle this decline we are complicit in normalising deaths on our streets and mental health travesty, children deprived of a childhood, leading to early depression. We need to view the cause of this as the ultimate in criminality. Our guide and goal is justice and equality. Any laws or institutional governance that is preventing or upholding this social deprivation must be dismantled piece by piece.'

And so the fact remains, that those that continue to protest, have more in common with the incomers rather than the Free State government and the people the government serves. A glance at the far-right elements that increasingly flit around such protests, like bloated carrion flies, does not inspire confidence that these want to save, or indeed have any genuine goodwill towards women and children. Rather, all are concerned about foreigners that have done nothing but come to this country to build a life for themselves and their families.

But there are other, more working class based community activists in the areas hit by these protests.

Some of these within East Wall released a statement declaring, 'We condemn unreservedly the actions of Minister Roderic O'Gorman and his department for their failure to engage with our community or to even provide accurate information. Similarly, we condemn unreservedly those who have cynically used our community concerns to promote racism and a far-right political agenda, either through social media or by their physical presence. We believe the actions of neither have served the best interests of our community, existing residents or the newly arrived immigrants.'

The statement continued, 'Having spoken to many residents, it is clear to us that there is real anger towards Government policies, the ongoing failures in addressing housing & homelessness issues, the health service, the impact of the economic crisis, etc. None of these issues can be addressed by the current protests.'



Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Integration

As always, the fascists have emerged to find advantage from the mass anger of those abandoned by the state, attempting to re-direct unrest down ineffectual dead-ends. The call to be treated fairly is twisted into the impotent whine that the Free State administration should 'look after its own,' and to offer stale crumbs from off its frigid fingers. And still they march, oblivious to the reality that the ruling class can be depended upon to look after its own, it just isn't any of them.

BRITISH ARMY MURDERER WALKS FREE



British Terrorist David Holden

On February 2nd of this year, David Holden, the British Army terrorist who murdered Aidan McAnespie in 1988, was given a suspended sentence by a Crown Court in Belfast. He will not see a single day in prison for the cold-blooded killing of an Irish citizen. Holden expressed no remorse whatsoever for his brutal act.

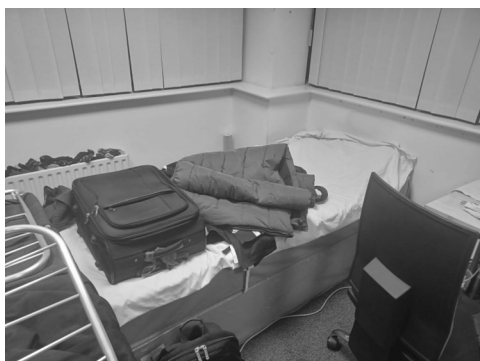
Aidan McAnespie was shot in the back by Holden at a British border checkpoint in Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone, on his way to a Gaelic grounds, on the 21st of February 1988. British imperialism immediately began a cover-up operation, claiming the shot had been fired accidentally. Holden

was "punished" by a small fine for negligence. Both McAnespie and his family had said that soldiers had threatened to kill him many times in the past.

Anti Imperialist Action assert once again that there is no British Justice in Ireland. British imperialism will never punish its terrorists in Ireland who have caused so much death and misery. Only by ending the British occupation of our six counties, breaking the connection with imperialism and establishing the All Ireland People's Republic can there be true justice for the victims of British imperialism.

SPECULATORS PROFITEER OFF OF AND VIOLENTLY EVICT MIGRANT TENANTS

It came to the attention of An Phoblacht Abú last month that nearly fifty migrants were being housed in illegal, exploitative conditions by the McGrath investment group in Clondalkin. In an office block near the Red Cow migrants were paying extortionate rents to live in tiny office rooms with nothing more than a mattress provided, alongside very limited cooking and toilet facilities. Some had lived there for over a year. Soon after they moved in the rent was trebled. For weeks they were left without hot water. In late January came the final salt in the wound.



A tenants "room" in the McGrath office block

The speculators decided to demolish the building in order to build apartments, so, with a day's notice, the tenants were ordered to leave. They claimed the fire officer had ordered this –

naturally at the moment it was of use to the landlords. A number of tenants requested additional time – at least a weekend – to find accommodation, not being satisfied with the lack of facilities in the unfinished property offered to them as an alternative for a few weeks (nor wanting to rely on the word of the McGrath thugs). Activists from the Revolutionary Housing League stood with them to struggle for their demands. Following sham negotiations the landlord sent in twenty thugs to forcibly remove the residents and their supporters. The residents had their belongings thrown outside and were left for the streets.

This exploitation and thuggery was headed up by Martin Sadlier, one of the McGraths, and at one point Pascal Donohue's driver and a Fine Gael constituency worker. He has taken advantage of this connection to graft and build up his own property portfolio. This cosy circle of property speculators have their hands on the highest levers of power in the Free State and they are past masters at exploiting ordinary people, wringing everything they can from them, and using force against them at the first sign of resistance. The McGrath own properties across Dublin, charging extortionate rents, fattening themselves on the misery of the housing crisis. These parasites push for pro-speculator policies

in the political sphere and then reap the rewards in the economic sphere.



McGrath group slumlord Martin Sadlier

This is the reality behind the idea that migrants are at the root of the housing crisis. Outside the imagination of the far-right, in reality a united struggle of the people of Ireland is needed against the handful of property developers, vulture funds and bureaucrats who propagate and profit from this crisis. It is against this handful of corrupt exploiters the Irish people should direct their anger.



ANTI-FASCIST COUNTER-DEMO IN WATERFORD

On the 14th of January 2023 a broad range of activists, political groups, and community groups from Waterford organised a counter-demonstration against an attempt by the far-right elements to spread their hateful and misleading "Ireland is Full" campaign to Waterford. Consisting of a mixed variety of groups such as Anti-Imperialist Action Ireland, Le Chéile, Unite the Community, and Waterford For All, a crowd of at least 50 counter-demonstrators organised against a small demonstration of about 5 which had been organised by notorious drug dealer and conspiracy theorist Larry Molloy.

The organisers of the far-right protest had attempted to bolster their numbers by bringing participants of the Ballymun protests down to Red Square in Waterford City, but upon seeing how vastly outnumbered and unwelcome their organisers were, these people acted on their common sense and left the scene, displaying again the consistent trend of members of the community with genuine concerns eventually seeing through the opportunistic bigotry of the

fascists. They may have been alienated by the provocative extremities of the far-right campaigners.

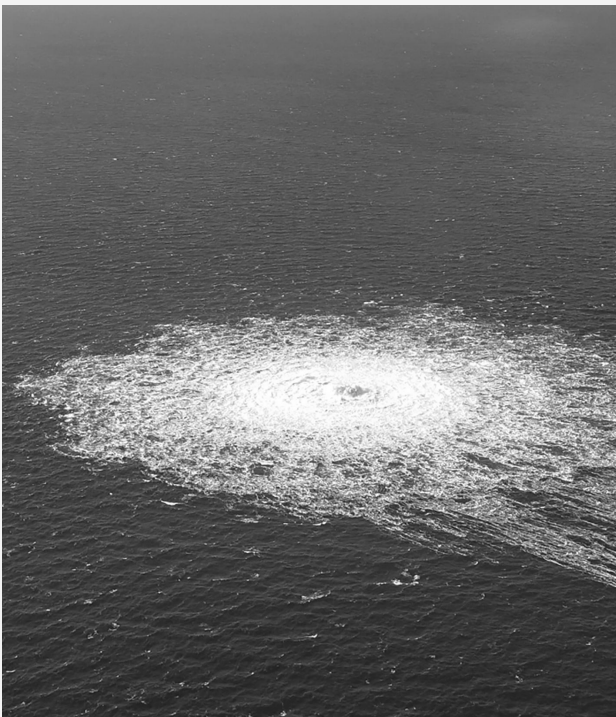
An anti-fascist demonstrator, a minor, was punched during a confrontation. One fascist, later discovered to have posed in pictures with Nazi salutes, shouted blatantly racist slogans at counter-demonstrators. Another member of the far right performed a Nazi salute supposedly as a joke. This was in tandem with nonsensical yankee-inspired slogans such as "End Chinese Social Control" and "South-East Lives Matter". Of course, these extreme "nationalist" elements present largely originated in former Fine Gael supporters and hardcore anti-republican Free Staters, displaying again their blatant lack of any patriotism. This is to be expected from organisations and personalities whose allies include Loyalists, English Neo-Nazis, and Nigel Farage.

In one spurt of ignorance a member of the far-right claimed that the tricolour was offensive to counter-demonstrators, parroting a talking point only really relevant in America or

Britain. Ironically, two tricolours flew above the anti-fascist demonstration alongside numerous republican flags demonstrating the genuine anti-fascist and anti-imperialist roots of Irish patriotism, while the backstabbing far-right only produced one.

There were some setbacks in the counter-demonstration. Throughout the 3 hour course of events certain organisers moved the counter-demonstration up and down Red Square several times, which caused some concern among Socialist Republicans who believe that fascists must be confronted directly until their retreat. Alongside that several units of the Garda were present to defend the far-right, and some organisers, undoubtedly lacking experience in anti-fascist activism, were too eager to comply with their orders. Some electoralism was also wrongly inserted into the event. However aside from this the unity of the protest was well maintained and the far-right, having seen its Dublin-based supporters give up on them, left the scene.

MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT US BOMBED NORDSTREAM PIPELINE



When a series of underwater bombings sabotaged the Nordstream Pipelines in September of last year, anti-imperialists immediately speculated that this act of terrorism was carried out by American imperialism. The USA attempted to pin the blame on Russia, but why would Russia destroy a pipeline pumping Russian gas to Germany? This would be economic self-destruction to an inconceivable degree.

This week, renowned American journalist Seymour Hersh, who also broke the story of the notorious My Lai massacre carried out by American troops in Vietnam among other American atrocities, has gathered and collated information demonstrating that the US is responsible for this attack. Hersh explains that

an elite diving team from the US Navy's Diving and Salvage Centre planted explosives in June of 2022 that exploded three months later, as part of the widely publicised NATO exercise in the Baltic Sea named BALTOPS 22.

As with the Gulf of Tonkin incident of 1964, America has shown once again its willingness to carry out false flag operations to justify its imperialist aggression, in this case going so far as to cause untold millions in damage to its German allies as well as impacting the economy of the entire EU bloc. As the inter-imperialist contradictions in the world continue to sharpen, it's ultimately the working classes who will suffer the most from the games of the great powers.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLE IN GERMANY



With the beginning of the New Year the German police announced the eviction of the small village Lützerath in the far west of Germany to make way for coal mining. This was backed by the local government and the national government. In both of these coalition governments the Green Party is in power.

The village was occupied by environmental activists to block the expansion of the Garzweiler coal mine which is one of the biggest in Europe. Beneath the village of Lützerath lies 280 million tons of coal waiting to be burned into the atmosphere by the energy giant RWE. This coal is not needed for German energy security, though it recently witnessed a massive blow due to the imposed sanctions against Russia. The major problem is that if this amount of coal is burnt Germany will fail to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement and with it the 1.5°C maximum regarding the increase of temperatures. In doing so Germany would perpetuate a climate catastrophe resulting in a further increase in suffering and displacement of people. The German state demonstrates clearly which interests it will defend by any means; it secures profits for capitalists and suffering for the people.

In response an oppositional coalition was formed from anarchists and socialist groups to liberal and petite bourgeois organisations like Fridays for Future and institutionalized environmental groups. They called for protests and the defence of the village. In one of the bigger demonstrations over 35,000 people gathered. The police force was gathered from all over the state meaning that several thousand police secured the speedy eviction. They brutalised protesters and activists, hospitalising people, having interned medical staff first. Other forms of police brutality were documented.

But what is there to learn from such developments in the biggest economy in Europe and one

of the biggest contributors to the climate collapse?

First of all it has to be mentioned that the protest and the occupation was widely understood as an anti-imperialist struggle which is not the norm in Germany, even in the far-left. The Palestinian flag was raised, and people were invited from Kurdistan, the Zapatista movement in Mexico as well as other activists from the Global South. We should welcome this development of the German resistance into a more anti-imperialist focused direction; it is bitterly needed in the imperial core of Europe.

Secondly, the Green Party MP's managed to both vote in favour of the expansion of the coal mine and the destruction of the village while, at the same time, showing up to demonstrate against the policies they implemented. It shows that opportunism is one of the features of the parliamentary section of the environmental movement.

Furthermore, activists managed to hold back a couple thousand police officers for roughly half a month; a big support demonstration numbered up to nearly 40,000 people. Nationwide occupations, blockades and demonstrations were held in support and solidarity. But despite their efforts it is not surprising that they failed. If you look at the numbers these climate protests are the strongest in Europe, so what might be the reasons? What can we learn from those struggles on the continent?

Liberal activists and groups call for non-violent forms of protest as there is still the strong narrative that only peaceful solutions are acceptable. But, as we know from Irish history, violence is justified against the oppressor, and the people defending their power structures. No good argument can stand against sabotage and destruction of those means of production which should already stand still in order to save our

planet.

These actions are necessary as they attack the profits of the company in a more severe way than simple blockading. Ideally such forms of sabotage would be carried out in an organised manner supported by workers. Unfortunately the combination between the urgency for climate action being needed in the upcoming years and the inaction of trade unions which are trapped in a social partnership makes these independent actions necessary.

A strike would be most efficient in shutting a polluting coal mine down. In Lützerath the trade union took the side of the company in order to secure more jobs. This might be a viable reason but we know that we have to transform the economy in a rapid way. This is part of the reason that environmentalism should go together with the call for the right for sustainable work. The opportunist currents in particular deny this demand its rightful place at the forefront of this struggle. Workers must be protected while the capitalists making profits through exploitation of nature and their employees should be expropriated.

We need to discuss militant climate action as, while entering reformist trade unions and changing the apparatus is important work, it takes years to be fruitful. Useless infrastructure like Shannon LNG is being built so that US capital can profit. We have to develop organised actions to block and smash such harmful developments. Republican Socialists must strategize how to combat such polluting sights with the help of the affected communities and workers. It is an essential work for our anti-imperialist struggle.

**From Lützerath to Gaza
From Ireland to Gaza**

PEOPLES' WAR UPDA

INDIA

The most advanced revolutionary struggle in the world today is raging across India, most especially in its central and eastern regions, known as the Red Corridor. These backwards regions are now standing up as the most advanced, leading the people's war for liberation. While India lingers in the mire of poverty and dependence, its corrupt fascist ruling class sells out the country to imperialism and attack the conditions and rights of the people. In recent decades the Adivasi (tribal) people have been systematically displaced in order to make way for multinational investment, particularly destructive mineral extraction. This has inevitably led to fierce resistance, led by the Communist Party of India (Maoist). The reactionary media claims that the revolutionaries do not represent the interests of the people – but in fact the revolutionaries *are* the people. As a recent statement from the Party states: *'the Maoists are not others, they are all the local inhabitants only. They are the sons and daughters of the local people. They are fighting and resisting the exploitation of corporate houses. They are not ready to vacate their forefather's lands and villages for the benefit of industrialists or big business. But, now the Indian ruling classes are decided to eradicate the local tribal people to hand over this mineral rich wide forest swathes to the corporate houses to loot it.'*

In September 2021 the Indian Home Minister assured the world that the revolutionary movement would be wiped out in 2022, yet 2023 has arrived and it continues to rage. Now they claim India will be "Maoist free" by 2024. In reality until the issues which have given rise to the struggle are resolved it will continue. The people and their party will continue to fight until they have freedom, until the People's Republic of India, already being built among the masses through democratic popular governance in the liberated areas, is victorious.

In order to defend imperialist investment and undermine the revolutionary movement soldiers and security forces have carried out countless atrocities, war crimes and violations of the people's rights. Over 650,000 of these thugs have been unleashed on the people in recent years. The People's Liberation Guerrilla Army and the local people's militias are the only means of defence, the difference between life and death, between keeping their land and losing it. Faced with the widespread support of the local people for the revolution the fascist security forces have engaged in a genocidal campaign of terror against the population, similar to that unleashed by the RIC's reserve the Blacks and Tans against the people of Ireland.

But an invasive species can never grow freely when the people stand up. In 2022 the PLGA carried out over 1,300 actions, killing over 400 members of the security forces and injuring many more. Over 300 sites of imperialist and bureaucrat-comprador capital exploitation were attacked, destroying the property with which they destroy lives and land. However these successes were not achieved without sacrifice, as 132 revolutionaries were martyred.

Last month the Central Reserve Police Force suffered a number of injuries with bomb attacks in Chhattisgarh. On 11 January in the Bastar forest of this region elite soldiers of the Indian army launched a vicious aerial raid in a failed attempt to assassinate a leading battalion commander, Madvi Hidma. A residential area was indiscriminately bombed via air strikes and shelling for several hours. The local workers and residents were forced to flee in terror for their safety. Five enemy commandos were injured during the PLGA's counter-attack and their attack was repulsed.

On the same day six fascist commandos were seriously injured during their combing operation

in the Saaranda jungle of Jharkhand. This incursion against the indigenous people of the area was heroically met by the revolutionary forces, leading to the martyrdom of a woman revolutionary, a member of the PLGA, Comrade Gangi. Likewise in this region the party called for a strike on 22 January against the terror and calling for the release of two leading revolutionaries who have been illegally detained. This led to heightened conflicts with the security forces, including a gun battle and a number of IED attacks, injuring many of the security forces. Three of the CPRF security thugs were injured in one such attack in the Sarjan Buru forest, while a COBRA Special Forces soldier was seriously injured in West Singhbhum.

The Indian government, while admitting the revolutionary movement is the greatest threat to their power and pumping enormous resources into combating it, attempt to portray the movement as weak and in decline. The imperialist media tells us nothing about this major conflict raging across the world's second most populous country. The imperialists want us to believe the age of revolution has ended and do not want to offer inspiration to the oppressed masses elsewhere. Therefore it falls to the revolutionary forces of other nations to spread awareness of this heroic struggle, one which the imperialists will be unable to hide as it grows closer to seizing power and to liberating India from imperialism, semi-feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. As the fascist character of the Indian state increases popular resistance will likewise intensify – our solidarity will go a long way to support this trend, and thereby aid the development of the struggle in Ireland. In the words of James Connolly:

'Now it only wants a native rising in India, and then would come our Irish opportunity.'

PHILIPPINES

Note: This is a monthly update on the situation of the anti-imperialist guerrillas of the New People's Army, who are currently waging an armed struggle in the islands of the Philippines. These revolutionaries have made strides in empowering the working class and peasants, women, the LGBTQ community, and national minorities in the country. Their enemy is the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a US-backed fascist army which protects destructive mining operations and furthermore defends Yank, Brit, EU, and Chinese imperialism in the Philippines. These updates serve only as reports on highlights of a certain month of action, and, as in any war, cannot reflect wholesale every encounter or action in the Philippine national democratic revolution.

All in all January 2023 has been an exceptionally active month for the NPA and has shown that the NPA's military command is willing to live up to its declaration of intensifying its armed campaign.

On the 14th of January the Leonardo Panaligan Command of the New People's Army in Central Negros confirmed that the death penalty against Roselito Basalabas, an AFP intelligence agent had been successfully carried out. Basalabas was responsible for numerous instances of betraying civilian NPA supporters to the military. He was found to have a sub-machinegun and ammunition in his house. The death sentence had been decided by the Revolutionary Court of Pumuluyo after an attempt by the NPA to work towards a peaceful solution with Basalabas which resulted in an AFP sting operation.

The Leonardo Panaligan Command also confirmed that on the 15th of January a member of the 62nd Infantry Battalion of the AFP was shot dead in retaliation for the battalion's numerous recent war crimes such as murder and rape of civilians in Guihulngan, in Central Negros. The 62nd Battalion also lost another soldier to a separate NPA sniping operation in the village of Palasan on the same day.

Also on the 15th of January, the NPA in Sorsogon launched a successful ambush against the AFP and CAFGU (Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit), resulting in the death of 1 CAFGU combatant, and the wounding of another CAFGU element and an Army corporal. The Celso-Minguez Command of the NPA reported that the action "highlights the people's grievances against the presence of armed troops camping near houses contrary to international humanitarian law."

On January 18th a battle broke out between the NPA under the Armando Sumayang Jr. Command and the 15th IB of the AFP in Sipalay City. 3 AFP soldiers were killed and 7 were wounded. The encounter was followed by a military lockdown and a forced surrender in Cauayan.

On the 19th of January a death sentence issued by the Revolutionary Court of Pumuluyo against AFP intelligence asset Raffy Esturco was carried out at 5:00pm in Moises Padilla, Central Negros. Esturco is known to have organised numerous fake encounters which have resulted in the murder of civilian allies of the NPA such as Cristina Jacolbe and her 16 year old son Everly Jacolbe.

On January 23rd a member of the so-called "Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade", Ramel Europa, a member of a paramilitary group (originally resulting from an ultra-left split from the NPA) which collaborates with and is armed by the AFP, was killed by the NPA in Central Negros on the orders of the Revolutionary Court of Pumuluyo. Having terrorised civilians and given up names to the AFP Europa was a thug and a legitimate military target.

On January 25th at 7:30 in the morning the death penalty of wealthy AFP asset Regie "Gang-gang" Dela Cruz was successfully carried out by an NPA unit in South-Central Negros. Dela Cruz was implicated in the murder of Ka Carding and Ka Clea last year, along with the kidnapping of a local farmer. Several grenades were found on his person.

On the 28th of January Armando Sumayang Jr. Command confirmed the execution of landlord and AFP intelligence asset Silius Vargas Granada. Two handguns were found in his house. He has been known to have stolen money from local villages alongside his activities as an informant.

EAMON RYAN FREE STATE ENERGY BARON!



This is the man presiding over the rising energy prices causing undue and unnecessary stress and hardship on families across the 26 counties to facilitate the soaring profits of energy companies which today is mainly imperialist Multinationals!

At the same time as Ryan is overseeing the rising energy costs he is attempting to ban domestic heating sources such as turf, that have heated family homes in Ireland for many many generations. This man is the enemy of the Working Class and is just a lap dog for the multi nationals.

As James Connolly, Commandant General of the Irish Citizen Army said, "Governments in capitalist society are but committees of the rich to manage the affairs of the capitalist class."

The natural resources of Ireland belong to the People of Ireland, and those resources should be put to need to serve the needs of the Irish People and not Imperialist Corporations!

We need to Agitate, Educate and Organise in our communities to build the fight against the enemies of the working class and build the Republic of 1916!

EAMONN MCGRATH - REVOLUTIONARY BARD

It was with great sadness that Anti Imperialist Action Ireland learned in January of the passing of our friend and comrade, Eamonn McGrath, County Wicklow. We send our deepest sympathies to his family and friends. Everyone who knew Eamonn knows he was a deeply proud partner, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

One of the most dedicated political activists of the last decade, Eamonn was one of the key water warriors resisting the introduction of a domestic water tax and domestic water meters, resistance that led to his imprisonment in Cloverhill as one of the Wicklow 2.

Deeply passionate about housing and homelessness, Eamonn was centrally involved in the occupation of Apollo House and recently was active and supportive of the Revolutionary Housing League, visiting building that had been aquisitioned when his health allowed.

In 2016 Eamonn Played a key role in the campaign to save Moore Street and was centrally involved in the occupation of 16 Moore St and the Citizens Injunction that followed the ending of the occupation.

A founding member of the Anti Eviction Flying Column, Eamonn was to the fore in resisting evictions across the country and taking the fight to the Black and Tan scum of KBC bank and other vultures.

Eamonn played a key role in the Bring it to their doors campaign, highlighting the crimes of the free state establishment and has been an active member of Anti Imperialist Action Ireland since our establishment in 2017.

Strongly Anti Fascist, Eamonn vocally opposed the far right and actively campaigned against racism and fascism on the streets.

Indeed it is hard to think of a campaign in the last 10 years that Eamonn wasn't involved in as he passionately fought for the working class.

Eamonn was a talented song writer and sang at many protests and



events over the years, getting across his political position through his lyrics.

Through his activism, and his giant heart, Eamonn made many friends and comrades across the country. His door was always open to comrades and he was always ready to help a friend in need. There are many people whose lives he touched grieving across Ireland tonight.

Slán a chara.

Eamonn McGrath, Water Warrior, Humanitarian, community activist, anti fascist, Socialist Republican.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE



JOIN ANTI IMPERIALIST ACTION

AIA is a fighting Revolutionary Socialist Republican organisation formed in 2017 to rebuild the fight against imperialism.

Organised in all four Provinces, veteran and experienced Republicans are joining with new revolutionary youth to continue the struggle for National Liberation and Socialist Revolution until Victory. You can play your part in this important work by becoming a member or active supporter

of Anti Imperialist Action Ireland. We are actively recruiting and are building a network of socialist Republicans across the country, Revolutionaries who owe their allegiance to the Working Class and the People's Republic Proclaimed in 1916 alone. All Republicans should get involved.

If you agree with our principles and our work as outlined in this paper, then you should

join Anti Imperialist Action. Help us rebuild the Revolutionary Movement by joining the Resistance!

Contact lsrmedia@protonmail.com for more information on membership or becoming an active supporter. In the words of James Connolly, 'The Fight Must Go On!'

**REPUBLICANS!
SOCIALISTS!
ANTI-RACISTS!
UNITE AGAINST
FASCISM!**

