

AN PHOBLACHT ABÚ



May 2023

Voice of the Revolutionary Socialist Republican Movement

2 Euro/1 Pound

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

HOUSING ACTIVISTS ARRESTED & CHARGED



On May 1 a number of housing activists were arrested in the process of reopening James Connolly House on Eden Quay in Dublin to provide shelter to the homeless.

International Workers Day is a day of protest around the world against capitalism and imperialism, and in Ireland, Socialist Republicans and Housing Activists were showing the way through direct action, putting it up to the state, the landlords and the housing vultures that control Ireland's housing market.

As the building was being opened, scores of Free State Police descended on the activists, drawing batons and attempting to physically intimidate the RHL. The housing activists held their ground resulting in 3 arrests. The Free State Police were on the scene quickly in order to protect the hired thugs from K-Tech who are being paid massive amounts by the British multinational, 'The Salvation Army' to provide 'security' on an empty building that should be used to house the homeless. K-Tech's thugs weren't long running out the back entrance when the RHL were at the door, only to return later under the protection of the Free State's Police. K-tech are part of the Homelessness industry.

being paid to keep the most vulnerable in society out of empty buildings that could provide much needed shelter. the company, and their workers should be pariahs in the community, and the time has come to bring the housing fight to their door.

This direct action comes a year to the day since the Revolutionary Workers Union first took control of James Connolly House, a long vacant building and turned it into a Revolutionary hub providing assistance to the homeless and highlighting the housing crisis in Ireland. This latest action comes at a time when the Free State has just announced that there are nearly 12,000 people homeless in the 26 counties yet at the same time there are more than 200,000 empty homes and buildings across the 32 counties that could be providing shelter.

The arrested activists were taken to store street Garda Station where the RHL and supporters held a visible and vocal protest against

Garda harassment and to demand the release of the RHL 3. Having been held for a number of hours the activists were taken to court to face a number of trumped-up political charges designed to sap the morale of Revolutionary Housing Activists. Such tactics will fail. The activists were freed on bail to appear again on May 30, and were undeterred as they left the courts of injustice.

The now yearlong campaign by the RHL to take back empty homes and open vacant buildings, has shown there is a viable Socialist Republican solution to the artificial housing and homelessness crisis that is being deliberately maintained to drive up the profits of landlords and the imperialist vultures that control the housing market in Ireland.

That the RHL has kept this militant housing campaign going for 12 months demonstrates that the opening of vacant buildings and empty homes is a way for working class communities to address the shortage of homes in Ireland, that can lead to a People's victory in the Housing War. It also demonstrates that the Revolutionary Housing

Actions taken by Socialist Republicans since May 2022 is inspiring a wide base to get involved militant housing resistance. Indeed this edition of An Phoblacht Abú carries reports of RHL activity not just in Dublin, but also in Wexford, Waterford and Galway as further testament to the growth of the militant housing movement.

Anti Imperialist Action Ireland and An Phoblacht Abú will continue to assist the RHL and all other housing activists and organisations that are committed to the fight against landlords and vultures. Our activists will continue to be on the front lines of the housing war until we can secure our legitimate demand of housing for the people, all of the people.

Let the spirit of May 1 inspire housing activists across Ireland to follow the lead of the RHL and Take Back the City and open all empty buildings and take back all empty homes in the 32 counties to House the Homeless.

It's Dublin leading the housing struggle today. *Where will take up the fight next?*

Irish Republican Solidarity

On International Workers Day, Socialist Republicans went into battle against the state, the landlords and the imperialist vultures in a new round of the Irish Housing War. In a defiant direct action members of the Revolutionary Housing League, with support from AIA mobilised in Dublin City Centre to take back James Connolly House.

Before the building could be fully liberated the activists were confronted by scores of Free State Police and three comrades were arrested and subsequently appeared in court on trumped up charges.

Despite the building not being liberated on this occasion, the action was still a success in that it showed that Revolutionary Socialist Republicans will stop at nothing to take back empty homes and open vacant buildings to support those in need. It further showed that due to the Guerrilla nature of the Housing War in Ireland, the RHL and its supporters have the ability to strike anywhere at anytime, even places the state thinks are off limit to the campaign.

International Workers Day in Ireland 2023 has demonstrated that Socialist Republicans are willing to take militant Revolutionary action to provide solutions to the issues faced by the working class and its allies and wont be stopped by arrests or trumped up charges.

Since March, Occupied Ireland has continued to see an increase in Republican Militancy, and as the picture continues to develop it could be possible that a new campaign against British Rule in our country is emerging. If the mainstream media is to be believed, the increasing actions suggest that there are a number of Republican Armies now capable and committed to the use of Armed Actions to advance the cause of National Liberation.

As we go to print, the English King and commander in chief of the British Military is preparing to publicly restate an illegal claim to sovereignty over Ireland at an Imperialist Pageant in London on May 6. This will be followed by a state visit to Ireland and a tour of the Country in June as Charles Windsor seeks to strengthen his imperialist influence over Ireland. Such an event must be resisted by all Irish Republicans.

There must be protests and rallies to oppose the Royal visit in each area Charlie intends to visit. We must resist this wave of events aimed at strengthening British imperialism's hold in Ireland by demonstrating that Republicans can stand together to protest the presence of the enemies of Ireland and to cooperate in the national interest to win popular support for a common Republican programme that will drive Britain out of Ireland.

In Occupied Ireland, sectarian violence from Loyalists is increasingly on the line. Recent months have seen the growing flexing of muscles by loyalist death squads, which will inevitably lead to the targeting of members of the Nationalist Community. We are now on the verge of the loyalist marching season when the threat against our communities will be at their highest. All Republicans must be on the highest alert and stand ready to defend our people and our communities.

The Revolutionary Socialist Republican movement is ready to play our part in defending communities against all enemies. An Phoblacht Abú.

If you want to get involved with the paper or submit a piece for consideration, email us at:

isrmedia@protonmail.com

WAR NEWS

'Somewhere and somehow and by somebody a beginning must be made.' - James Fintan Lalor

Due to the attempted repression of members of AIA and the editorial staff of An Phoblacht Abú, the April edition of the paper did not include the popular, war news segment. This edition carries an extended article covering the months of March and April 2023.

MARCH 2023

Late February/Early March - The mainstream media reports on two suspected Republican military operations in Derry. On March 5, Arm na Poblachta, in a statement to the Irish News, claims responsibility for planting an explosive device in the Corrody Rd area of Derry.

March 7- A number of mainstream media outlets report on a bomb at the Castleblaney Road in Keady, Armagh. The RUC establish a large cordon in the area closing 6 roads. Footage released by Republic Media online shows British Helicopters circling the area and British Army troops at the scene. It was further reported that a controlled explosion was carried out.



Security alert in Keady, Co. Armagh

March 12- The RUC and British Army carry out searches on land at the Brae Head Road area close to the Creggan, Derry. The media links the searches to the IRA, which it refers to as the New IRA. Sometime later, the RUC and British Army come under attack by Republican youth defending their community and are forced to abandon the search. That evening, following repeated attempted incursions the RUC are again confronted by Republican Youth in the Magowan Park Area and are repeatedly driven out of the community.



British Army bomb squad searching in Derry, March 12.

March 23 - The RUC report that they have discovered a Republican arms dump on land at the Seskinore Road in Tyrone. Photos released by the media show a revolver, a shotgun and a jar of ammunition. The media state that the find is linked to the IRA, again referred to as the New IRA.



Reported arms dump, Tyrone.

March 28- MI5 increase the Republican threat level from substantial to severe, stating that it is believed that a Republican Military Operation is highly likely and could occur at anytime. This change to the Republican threat level follows a marked increase in Republican military operations from November 2022, since when a military operation has taken place each month against the British forces of Occupation and in some months there have been several separate operations reported by the media.



Seagoe Hotel, Portadown, Co. Armagh.

March 30 - Mainstream media outlets report that a bomb warning was received stating devices had been left at the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown, Armagh. Reports suggest the building was evacuated and searched by the RUC. It is further reported that a British Army recruiting event was being held at the hotel at the same time.

APRIL 2023

April 2- The RUC and British Army carry out extensive searches at the Letterkenny Road area of Derry in a operation they state is linked to the activities of Republican Militants.

April 9- The RUC announces in the media that it has 'disrupted' a plan by Republicans to carry out a Military Operation during the state visit of Joe Biden to Ireland, which is set to begin on April 10, the date of the 25th Anniversary of Britain's Good Friday Treaty in Ireland. No further details are given.

April 10- In a series of dawn raids, the homes of AIA activists are targeted in Dublin and Tipperary. Phones, electronic equipment and personal belongings are siezed and damage is done in the homes of a number of Republican activists under warrants that include searches for Weapons and Ammunition, Possession of Explosives and Membership of an illegal organisation. 2 people are arrested under Section 30 of the offenses against the Free State act, with one being held for 12 hours and one for 48 hours. Both are released without charge. The raids and arrests are clearly part of a coordinated campaign targeting AIA timed to coincide with the visit of Joe Biden and the 25 Anniversary of the Good Friday Treaty.

April 10- The RUC attempts to prevent a 1916 Commemoration in Derry, targeting members and supporters of Saoradh and harrassing the local community. In defence of the community Republican Youth confront the RUC with petrol bombs in the Creggan.

The 1916 Commemoration goes ahead and Derry Republicans honour Ireland's Patriot Dead with dignity. Members of Anti Imperialist Action were in attendance. The RUC later reports that it found four viable pipe bombs in the City Cemetery where the 1916 Commemoration had taken place.



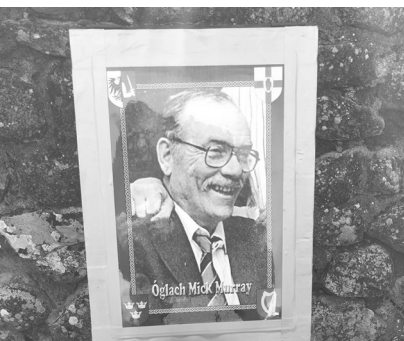
COMMEMORATIONS

Meath



Members of Anti Imperialist Action Ireland joined the Spirit of Irish Freedom Society Westmeath and Duleek Independent Republicans Meath in gathering at the graveside of Volunteer Mick Murray at his graveside in Killallon, near Navan in Co. Meath.

Vol. Mick Murray was an unrepentant Revolutionary Republican who took the war to the brits both in Ireland and in the belly of the beast in England. The principles by which he lived continue to be the driving force for Revolutionary Republicanism.



Wicklow



Members of Anti Imperialist Action Ireland held a signing of Britain's Good Friday Treaty in Ireland, a wreathlaying May 1st in Ashford, County Wicklow in honour of IRA Volunteer Ronan McLoughlin, who was killed by Free State forces on that day in 1998. Ronan was the first IRA Volunteer killed on Active Service following the

ACTIVISM ROUNDUP

OVERSEAS VOL. MONUMENT



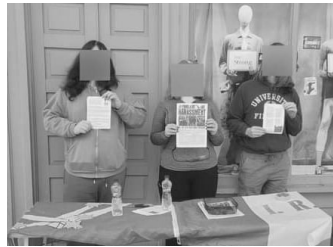
April 29, members of Volunteers Sean Flood and Eamonn Mooney, and Óige Réabhlóideach who both took part in the Glasgow Smashing the Van. Over the coming weeks AIA will relevel the plint and underpin it to prevent further damage, as well as treating and powerwashing the headstone and repainting the inscription. Well done to the comrades who took time off during the bank holiday weekend to honour our patriot dead.

A new membrane and stones were laid on the plot and there are plans for further work in the coming weeks to treat the headstone and repaint the inscription. Those buried in the plot include Vol. Patrick Ryan from Liverpool and

WATERFORD AIA STALL

AIA in Waterford held a stall yesterday protesting the ending of the eviction ban, selling copies of An Poblacht Abú and raising awareness of the plight of Palestinian political prisoner Ahmad Sa'adat.

There was a great response from the public with many sharing their disgust for the current housing situation caused by the Free State Government and chatting about Irish history, culture and language, recognising the need for revolutionary action by the people.



AIA will continue to hold stalls in Waterford and build our presence towards a mass movement of the people to throw off the shackles of British Imperialism and their lackeys in Ireland and rebuild the Republic of 1916.



WEXFORD PALESTINE STALL

On Saturday 29th, Anti Imperialist Action held a stall in Wexford town. The AIA will continue to stand Solidarity stall was held in solidarity with all Palestinian prisoners in the county town. The and continue our support for Palestinian Resistance.

AIA CORK GRAFFITI



AIA activists in Cork have been busy over April spreading the socialist republican message. Anti Imperialist Action is building a vibrant, youthful and Revolutionary presence in Cork. If you are a Republican in Cork get in touch to get involved.

ANTI-MONARCHY POSTERS IN DUBLIN

AIA activists in Dublin have been busy promoting the upcoming Neither King Nor Kaiser but Ireland protest against the coronation of Charles Windsor and his illegal claim to sovereignty over Ireland. Posters have been plastered all over the city centre and in working class areas. Revolutionary Republicans will always be to the forefront in opposing the institutions of British imperialism. Its especially important



that a stand be made now that it is announced that Charles will be visiting Ireland in June. **No Royal Visits! Abolish Monarchy!**

DERRY POSTERS

Revolutionary Republican the Irish Citizen Army that, activists in Ireland's most 'We Serve neither King nor northern city have taken Kaiser but Ireland'. to the streets to promote Anti Imperialist Action opposition to the forth- Ireland will resist the up- coming state Visit of the coming visit of Charles Windsor. We are actively Posters are going up recruiting in Derry and are across Derry displaying building across the Occu- the Socialist Republican pied 6 Counties. slogan made famous by

AIA LIMERICK GRAFFITI

AIA in Limerick has been building an active presence through spreading socialist republican propaganda through posters, graffiti, stickers and more. If you're based in Limerick, get in touch with us today.



RHL



UPDATE



RHL public meeting, Galway City.



Wexford women's refuge protest.



Gardai harassment of homeless refugees at the IPO.



Tent protest and homeless camp at the IPO.

As the Free State's campaign against the housing conditions of the Irish people goes on, likewise does the resistance against it. The Revolutionary Housing League has been active across the country organising and defending the ordinary people against the pro-corporate, pro-landlord policies of the ruling class.

Galway City has seen a rapid intensification of housing difficulties in recent years as prices rise, available lettings grow scarcer, and conditions imposed on tenants become more shameful. Meanwhile accommodation for tourists and domination by corporate interests has grown apiece. In the face of this, a public meeting, well attended and with enthusiastic engagement, was held by the RHL in Galway to build housing resistance. We commend those in Galway who refuse to accept such degradation sitting down and encourage others to do the same.

In Wexford Town a number of families were evicted from Wexford Women's Refuge and provided no adequate alternative by the council. Organised by Wexford People Helping People, they camped out overnight and protested at the council building, demanding additional time in their present accommodation. While vacant homes proliferate across Wexford town, the vulnerable families were offered to move as far afield as Kildare. This is an ongoing

struggle and we call on all in Wexford to join with the RHL in supporting the demands of the evicted women and children.

The housing crisis, caused by a handful of speculators and corporations, with the willing connivance of the Free State, is a heavy weight burdening more and more of the people in Ireland. It has become a stick against those promised care by the Free State, from women escaping abusive relationships to migrants fleeing war and persecution. The Revolutionary Housing League has been organising migrants and refugees rejected by the International Protection Office, most of whom have been provided nothing but the address of where they can register as homeless. An encampment has been established on Mount Street to struggle for their demands of recognition and adequate accommodation.

Empty flats on Fenian Street were seized by the homeless asylum seekers in late April. The very next day the Garda arrived to clear the asylum seekers out of the long vacant property without legal justification.

The struggle against the housing crisis is a united struggle, not a zero-sum game, and the migrants' refusal to accept the Free State's racist housing policy and neglect only strengthens our collective struggle. Despite constant Garda harassment they are standing their ground.

SINN FÉIN: FOR UNITY UNDER IMPERIALISM



"We know the day when you had the Irish O'Donnell's the 'Queen's O'Donnell's,' and the Irish O'Reilly's the 'Queen's O'Reilly's.' I wonder will we ever see the day when we have the Irish Republicans the 'King's Republicans.'" - Liam Mellows, 1922.

A few months ago Sinn Féin commemorated the death of the man who spoke those words and this month the Sinn Féin leadership have yet again exposed themselves as having nothing to do with his beliefs. Michelle O'Neill, aspiring chief colonial administrator of the six county occupation, is attending the English king's coronation. She

claims this is an effort to unite the Irish people, yet this is a king who still claims sovereignty over the Irish people and presides over the division of our nation. The Irish people will only know unity when the English monarch is removed from the equation and imperialist rule is eliminated!

But this is indeed an attempt at unity by Sinn Féin - an attempt to better unite with the British imperialists. Sinn Féin's ceaseless stripping away and mockery of the principles of republicanism is all a means to make themselves acceptable to the imperialist system, to better carve out a space for themselves in it, as the Free Staters who Liam Mellows opposed did a century ago.

The memory and sacrifice of so many Irish men and women who died at the behest of England's monarch are being mocked by Sinn Féin's leadership who care nothing for our traditions and our principles of national independence, but care only for their party and the wealthy interests it now represents.

Republicanism was established in and through the struggle against kings and queens, yet O'Neill claims to be a republican while supporting a king's coronation. Genuine republicans will continue to oppose the English monarchy as well as all attempts to defend and normalise this antiquated, backwards institution and all the misery and oppression it represents.

SECTARIAN INCIDENT IN LURGAN

On the 30th of April, following the defeat of Rangers by Celtic, a group of Loyalists came to the doorstep of a 21 year old Catholic single mother in Ashleigh Crescent, Lurgan. The men attempted to break into her home and force the woman and her young child out of the area, hitting the doors and windows and hurling sectarian abuse such as "Taigs Out" and "Get the Fenians Out". Thankfully they did not gain entry. Ring Camera footage released by the victim to social media caused an immediate outrage as denunciations flew against the sectarian bigotry on display.

The man leading this attack has been identified as Adrian Douglas, reported to be connected to the sectarian UVF death squad. Douglas runs a window cleaning service in Lurgan called A.D. Window Cleaning, and appears to be connected also to Democratic Unionist Party politician Carla Lockhart.

In the aftermath of this incident, the cry

from constitutional Nationalists was not to struggle against Loyalism and sectarianism, but for the PSNI to intervene. While two arrests have now been made, there was very little mention of the fact that the harassed woman and her child were made to leave the area by colonial police and are currently homeless. Bourgeois politicians on both sides of the sectarian divide are deeply invested in maintaining the fiction of British state neutrality and protection, promoting the Brits and their enforcers as benevolent overseers.

Anti Imperialist Action asserts that the RUC will never be able or willing to protect Nationalists from Loyalist thugs. That the PSNI/RUC facilitated the removal of the victim from the area, fulfilling the pogrom the thugs intended



L: Adrian Douglas, identified Loyalist thug.

is further proof. Collusion whether overt or covert is still alive and well.

Only a Revolutionary Republican alternative in affected communities can build the structures needed to defend against Loyalist attacks, and only ending the occupation of Ireland can deliver the fatal blow to sectarianism.

THE PROBLEM WITH WORKERISM

The recent anti-migrant protests in the 26 counties have exposed a great deal of confused ideas. Perhaps one of the most damaging ideas that has reared its head is workerism. Workerism idealises a certain idea of what is the working class. It's a common attitude, even among socialists and republicans, that only a certain section of the population is truly working class based on cultural and political expression. This is often tied into what area someone was born, how they dress, what their attitudes are among other aspects. In some cases, this has been used to justify reactionary ideas among certain sections of workers such as sexism, racism, homophobia and so on. For some, that working class people have certain ideas must mean they are correct, no matter how damaging those ideas may be. The workerist attitude causes a great deal of problems for organising in our communities and workplaces and needs to be criticised.

So what does it mean to be working class? Simply put, being a worker is an economic relation, the role that a person plays in the economy. Anyone who sells their labour for a living without getting significant income from ownership of property or a business is part of the working class. Much of what is often called the middle class is in fact part of the working class. Teachers for example are not paid much more than other workers, but are often perceived as being middle class due to educational opportunities and social position. This is despite teachers having the same economic interests as a factory worker or bus driver. There is also a division in some peoples minds between mental labour (e.g. working in an office) and manual labour.

Culture not economy

An issue with workerism is that class is viewed as cultural rather than economic. There are working class people who are fascists and must be driven out. Students can be working class depending on their background. There are slumlords and business owners living in predominantly working-class areas

who may have the same accent, wear similar clothes or have a similar cultural outlook as working class people but who cannot be working class. There are also people who were born into working class families who have later become wealthy and powerful, because your relationship to the capitalist economy can change. The media is particularly fond of such people which they use to try to give credibility to some of the worst people in Ireland, such as boosting the working-class credentials of Micheal Martin. This is an attempt to get working class people to identify with their exploiters.

In other words, cultural aspects are not the defining aspect of what makes someone working class. This is not to say that there are not certain trends and common attitudes among sections of workers, but that this is not the key explanation. For example, a worker who starts wearing all black and painting their nails pink, while perhaps unusual, is still working class. In some of the worst cases of workerism, people will imply that migrant workers, women workers, LGBT workers and various other minority workers are not working class because they see the working class in terms of stereotypes. This attitude is unhelpful and only helps to sow divisions.

It is undoubtedly true that people from various minority groups will have a different outlook and cultural expression, but they still form part of the working class. Socialist Republicans should support full and free cultural expression among workers in Ireland while still encouraging them to fight for their rights. Alongside not viewing people as working class due to differences in background, there is also sometimes a mistake made that certain issues that aren't purely economic are a "distraction" from working class issues. This ignores that issues such as womens rights, LGBT rights, racism, etc affect workers as well, even if they do not affect all workers as a whole in the same. Sexism affects women workers directly through harassment, sexual assault, bigotry etc and also affects male workers by encouraging back-

wards ideas that prevent them seeing women workers as comrades. These issues are reflected in all political organisations, and also in working class families and homes. The division in this case is among the workers and promoted by the ruling class, it is not caused by raising the issue in the first place.

Ruling class ideas

There is an additional problem in that as well as contempt towards those seen as middle class, there are workers who see themselves as middle class and look down upon people they see as being working class. They mock their clothes or their accents and embrace a lot of the snobbery of the ruling class and media. This kind of attitude needs to be broken down so that these workers can recognise their own class position in society and join in the fight. These ideas are borrowed from the ruling class and deliberately promoted so that workers fight amongst themselves. There is also a section of the working class who are extremely highly paid and tied to imperialism that we could call a "labour aristocracy", but this is the subject of a future article. We *cannot* ignore the divisions that exist in terms of culture and outlook, but we *can* offer a revolutionary alternative.

Overcoming these divisions among our class is a key task for socialist republicans. These outlooks undermine solidarity and make it more difficult to resist our real class enemies, the landlords, imperialists, capitalists and politicians. It is important that we listen to all sections of the working class and take their ideas onboard, but we cannot fall into the workerist trap of idealising certain sections of the working class. Certain more oppressed and impoverished workers and areas may have a more revolutionary consciousness, but this does not mean other workers can be ignored. Backwards ideas like racism impact all of Irish society and need to be combatted even as we work to unify all workers in the struggle for national liberation and socialism.

FRENCH WORKERS FIGHT BACK



Anti-Imperialist Action Ireland extend our solidarity to the French uprising against President Macrons' recent use of the authoritarian, anti-democratic article 49.3 of the French constitution. This enables Macrons regime to vote legislation in without the need for parliamentary approval.

Macron has introduced legislation to increase the pension age in France from 62 to 64 years of age. This act can be seen as a direct attack on the French working class. At the time of writing, the French people are striking and uprising in the Millions against the regime. Initially led by trade unions strikes, recent days have seen the radicalisation of the mass movement, due in part to a sense of disillusionment with Trade Union coalitions, whose conservative leadership have refused to make any demands beyond the repeal of the pension reform. The French proletariat are taking the fight to the bourgeois and the regime army in a similar way of the 2018 "Yellow Vest" uprising. However, unlike the Yellow Vest movement this recent action is rooted in challenging the work-wage relationship, living and working conditions.

The mobilisation, while also involved in traditional methods of pickets and strikes in energy, petrochemical, port, and, to a lesser extent, railway and sanitation sectors, while clearly rejecting the pension reform is also challenging neoliberal capitalism and developing an anticapitalistic character.



Revolutionary black blocs have been on the front lines directly engaging the police with stones, molotov cocktails, burning police vehicles and barricading large streets in the major cities. Protestors in Bordeaux set the Town Hall ablaze and Chief British Imperialist Charles Windsor impending trip to the city has subsequently been cancelled.



The French state army's brutality has been widespread throughout and the use of the repressive kettling crowd control measure (which is illegal in France) has been widely condemned. Chants and graffiti of "Tout le monde déteste la police" (The whole world hates the police) and "travail = mort, révolution = vie" (work = death, revolution = life) are commonplace throughout France. This uprising and blockade is clearly exposing the two tier capitalistic society, the working class and the ruling class. However, while the uprising is a major blow for the Bourgeois, the need is for self organisation of the workers movement to coordinate strikes, demonstrations, street confrontations, and riots. The struggle has attempted this with efforts such as the formation of the Réseau Pour la Grève Générale (Network for the General Strike) to offer a revolutionary alternative to the timid and conservative politics of the unions.

On March 27, German railway, bus, airport and public sector employees shut down the whole country, with expressions of solidarity directed towards. The sympathetic 'Mega-Strike' is the largest in Germany for 30

years. The action took place for 24 hours, as trains, buses, trams and airplanes will stood still. Success has been seen in some sectors as the 160,000 employees in the German Postal Service will receive wage increases of 11-16%. Inflation, which has risen 9% in the past year in Germany, has made it necessary for workers to fight back for wage increases. However, if we can learn anything from the French it is that a one-day strike will not be enough. We need the Capitalistic Leaders and Corporations to pay for their crises, not the workers.

We would also like to extend solidarity to comrades in La Ligue de la Jeunesse Révolutionnaire (League of the Revolutionary Youth) and Jeunes Révolutionnaires (Young Revolutionaries) who have been playing an integral part in the struggle on the streets, universities and workplaces. They are an inspiration to revolutionary youth everywhere.

The brave and resilient popular uprising against the current French regime should inspire the Irish people and oppressed people of all nations to take unified direct action against those in power who care not for ordinary people and are merely concerned with lining their own pockets off the blood and sweat of the Proletariat. A similar militant tactic should be taken against the end of the eviction ban by the current Free State Landlord Government. Physically blocking evictions and Landlords will be crucial. Direct action, mobilisation in large numbers, disrupting means of production and transport need to be taken to show it is the workers, not the state, who make the world run. Capitalistic Imperialism will never serve the people and we must fight it just as the French are doing. **Vive la révolution!**

JAMES CONNOLLY

On 12th May we remember Ireland's leading revolutionary, the staunch republican and socialist, James Connolly. The wealthy cried out for his execution, recognising what he represented. He was a republican, but he understood that the working class must lead the struggle for national freedom and that they must push forward to socialist revolution, to the complete abolition of oppression and exploitation. As he warned the Irish Citizen Army before the Rising:

'If we should win, hold on to your rifles, for the goal of the Volunteers may not be the same as our own. Remember, we are out not just for political freedom, but for economic freedom as well.'

With the proclamation of the Irish Republic on Easter 1916, and its defence and establishment by armed uprising, the advanced working class of Ireland boldly announced their intention to unite with the forces of Irish republicanism in the struggle for a free Ireland. James Connolly and the Irish Citizen Army pre-empted this coming unity in struggle with symbolic unity under the national flag: *'the green flag of Ireland will be solemnly hoisted over Liberty Hall as the symbol of our faith in freedom, and as a token to all the world that the working class of Dublin stands for the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of a separate and distinct nationality.'*

Although the insurrection was undermined by the treachery of the compromising middle-class leadership, such as MacNeill (whom Connolly had repeatedly criticised and warned against), a gallant strike for freedom was made and a spark was lit that resurrected the Irish nation from dependency and spiritual surrender. As Connolly had written in February 1916:

'deep in the heart of Ireland has sunk the sense of the degradation wrought upon its people... so deep and humiliating that no agency less potent than the red tide of war on Irish soil will ever enable the Irish race to recover its self

-respect, or establish its national dignity in the face of a world horrified and scandalised by what must seem to them our national apostasy.'

Likewise, awaiting execution, Tom Clarke recognised what the men and women of 1916 had achieved:

'We, all of us that have gone out tonight, believe that we have saved the soul of Ireland, that we have struck the first successful blow to freedom and that freedom is coming, but between this and freedom Ireland will go through hell. But Ireland will never lie down again.'

Unfinished revolution

One hundred and seven years later we can say with regret and remorse that Ireland has not yet passed through that hell, though we can say, with pride and eagerness, that the fight for freedom goes on nonetheless. In the century since the fire lit by 1916 has by turn erupted into a blaze and dampened to a flicker but it has not gone out. If, in the words of Patrick Pearse, *'Tone sounded the gallant reveille of democracy in Ireland'*, it was James Connolly who sounded the war-cry of the new era of the Irish revolution, whereby the leadership of the national struggle had to pass from the middle classes to the working class. This fundamental shift in Irish history took place in April 1916.

As was taking place across the world at this time the working class was awakening, rising from its knees, rattling its chains and announcing itself as the strongest and most revolutionary class in history. Terrified of the strength of this beast roused from sleep, the middle classes – the capitalists and professionals – found themselves no longer willing to thoroughly lead the struggle for national liberation and democracy. Their fear of the unbridled working class pushed them to compromise with reaction rather than risk plebeian revolution.

The Irish working class stepped onto the

stage of history in 1913 in Dublin City, revealing its immense strength in the struggle against the capitalists attempt to smash radical trade unionism. This came at a time of crisis for the Irish nation, with the threat of Home Rule engendering a reactionary Tory-Unionist alliance which decided upon partition of the Irish nation as the only means of defending their interests. Faced with this impending criminal act, the Irish capitalists decided they feared the rising working class more than they feared occupation and oppression by empire. Yet simultaneous with this dropping of the national flag emerged the force that would lead Ireland to freedom – the organised working class, and the Irish Citizen Army emerged at this time as the vehicle for their liberation.

Under Connolly's leadership they passed from a mere appendage to trade union organising to a revolutionary body which, in Connolly's words, *'pledges its members to fight for a Republican Freedom for Ireland'*. Short of leadership by those who have nothing to gain by compromise with imperialism, only further defeat and betrayal awaits the Irish people. As Connolly wrote:

'the capitalist and landlord classes in Ireland, irrespective of their political creed, are still saturated with the spirit of the conquest, and that it is only in the working class we may expect to find the true principles of action, which, developed into a theory, would furnish a real philosophy of Irish freedom.'

1916 betrayed

But the working class did not achieve leadership of the national struggle and it is plain to see. Today the ideals of 1916 have been trampled upon, derided and maligned, with near all sections of Irish public life uniting in their opposition to Irish republicanism, many while still paying hypocritical homage to its martyrs, while draping themselves in their blessed memory. Connolly spoke against such corrupt, compromising ele-

AND THE IRISH REPUBLIC

ments in his own day who feigned to uphold the Fenians of 1867: *'by every test by which parties in Ireland to-day measure political wisdom, or personal prudence, the act of these men ought to be condemned'*. Yet the actions of the Fenians, the actions of the Volunteers and Citizen Army, cannot be written away or distorted by the agents of imperialism. They can prate and sing about the martyrs of 1916 but the stark fact of their brave deed, the simple reality of their teachings, exposes such elements as con artists, whether they intentionally act as such or not. As Connolly went on: *'Everything associated with them has been stolen or corrupted, except the imperishable example of their "defiant deed." Of that neither men, devils, nor doubters can deprive us.'*

The principles of Republicanism

All patriots and republicans, all those who profess allegiance to the leaders of 1916, ought to be measured up against the ideals of 1916 – that is, a free Ireland, a sovereign Irish Republic, a complete break with imperialism, and the cherishing of all the children of the nation. There is nothing complicated in this, yet belief in such principles today is consid-

ered cause for mockery – those who hold by the necessity of a popular struggle for sovereignty and freedom, who maintain the historical law that no empire cedes power unless it is forced to, will be decried as mad, as impractical, and told that 'we're long past that'. In reality, as Connolly understood, the material concerns of the Irish people – housing, high costs, low wages, healthcare, etc. – will never be addressed while the nation remains under the thumb of imperialism – and that is as true of 2023 as it was of 1916. These concerns will NOT be addressed by prating away in Leinster House and Stormont, playing Britain's games and attending their coronations. As Connolly wrote of the compromising constitutional nationalists of his day:

'The Irish parliamentarians met the British politicians on their own chosen field of battle – and lost every move of the game. Every time the astute British politicians called for a sacrifice... that party yielded the point and sacrificed their principles. They yielded to sacrifice Ulster and divide their country, they yielded the control of taxation, they yielded control over the Post Office, Custom and Excise; in

short, they yielded everything that gives life and power to a nation...And in return they achieved – NOTHING... the politicians as a result of their forty years babbling in the wilderness at Westminster can only record their failure...'

The last twenty-five years of playing Britain's game has again brought the Irish people nothing. The collaborators with imperialism today, those who administer or hope to administer the political structures established by imperialism, north and south, have built their project upon lies – upon the lie that Britain is 'neutral' in regards to Ireland, the lie that the artificially carved up colonial settlement in the north possesses democratic legitimacy, the lie that one can barter and make deals with imperialism and use their institutions against them.

Twenty-five years on, with imperialism's grip as strong as ever, it is again becoming clear that the basic truths outlined by Wolfe Tone and Emmet, Pearse and Connolly remain the only path forward for Ireland.



THE CASE OF THE

The following piece will examine the British miscarriage of Justice that sees Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton known collectively as the Craigavon Two serving minimum sentences of 25 and 18 years in Maghaberry. It will give a brief background to the events leading up to this miscarriage of Justice followed by an examination the facts of the case which will highlight how in typical fashion the British government unable to capture IRA volunteers decided to instead go after innocent Irish civilians in order to string anyone up.



John Paul Wootton

Brendan McConville

CRAIGAVON 2

Background to this miscarriage of justice

On march 9th 2009 a member of Britain's occupying crown forces RUC constable Stephen Carroll was shot dead in Craigavon Co. Armagh Occupied Ireland. The Continuity Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for the shooting. The attack came as crown forces were already on high alert after the Real Irish Republican Army shot dead two British soldiers in an attack on Masserene barracks Co. Antrim in occupied Ireland two days earlier.

Within a day the RUC arrested John Paul Wootton, a minor at the time, and Brendan McConville. Over the next three years both men were interned in Maghaberry torture camp before they were convicted of the killing by a British judge in a non-jury Diplock Court. Before their trial had even began British media had all but convicted the Craigavon Two in the court of public opinion just as they did in the cases of the Guilford Four and Birmingham Six.

Examination of case facts

The Diplock Court based it's conviction on a number of pieces of so called evidence. The following is the occupations "evidence" against the Craigavon two. DNA evidence collected from a coat in John Paul Wootton's car. Testimony of an eyewitness known as witness M. An Ak-47 used in the shooting with a fingerprint on it and an MIS tracking device that had been placed on John Paul Wootton's car. As this piece will demonstrate this evidence does not stand up to simple scrutiny.

Witness M only came forward in February 2010, he was in an intoxicated manner when he testified he saw Brendan McConville, from a distance of about 16 yards, by an electricity

box wearing a green knee length army coat. witness M however was near sighted and astigmatic which would have made it medically impossible for him to See what he claims he saw in such weather conditions. His partner who was with him on the night refused to corroborate his testimony saying it was a lie and witness Z the father of witness M stated his son was a Walter Mitty character. He was also proven to be receiving weekly income from the PSNI/RUC despite not been officially employed there and a number of other financial benefits, further suggesting that Witness M is a British agent of some sort.



The DNA evidence collected from the coat in John Paul Wootton's car had traces of something that was impossible to prove as gunpowder. The coat was dry not wet as it would have been if worn the night before at the shooting as it was a very wet night and was a brown leather Jacket not a green military trenchcoat as witness M had claimed.

The fingerprint on the rifle did not match Brendan McConville or John Paul Wootton's fingerprints. John Paul Wootton's car never went near the area in which the rifle was found.

Furthermore the tracking device on John Paul Wootton's car did not place him at the scene of the shooting and when placing him driving along what was a normal route for

him shortly after the shooting the device indicated that he did not stop anywhere near the home of Brendan McConville as claimed by the prosecution. It is also no coincidence that the data from the device was wiped whilst in the hands of the British Army. Something that would have to have been done intentionally.

Since Dennis McFadden was outed as an MIS agent it has also emerged that he sabotaged legal appeals made by the Craigavon Two.

Conclusion

It is plain to see Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton did not take part in what was an act of resistance British crown forces in Ireland that night. There is zero evidence linking either man to the shooting. This was a conviction by British judge Paul Girvan who fully aware that both men were innocent and that British intelligence and the RUC had worked in tangent to frame two innocent Irish Republicans and send them to Jail.

The Craigavon two today could be anyone who finds themselves in opposition to the occupation of Ireland tomorrow. March 2023 marked 14 years in Gaol for Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton. We must continue to campaign for the release of the Craigavon two and all Republican prisoners however we know that while Ireland remains occupied there will be more men and women languishing in British and free state Gaols.

Only through national liberation can we unsure there are no more miscarriages of Justice in Ireland. Free the POWs!

MAY: MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Socialist Republicans, Anti-imperialists, Traditional Republicans, we all believe in a United Ireland, we all want a society based on justice freedom and equality, we all agitate and resist in our own ways, yet we have many common activities and priorities. Today I focus on one, Mental Health.

Throughout this island the issue of mental health and the myriad forms it takes is high on the political agenda, but for some that agenda is one of lip service and photo opportunity and not an integrated or well-resourced program of mitigating services, not so for Irish Republicans of all hues and agendas!

Suicide is a devastating act that affects not just the immediate family and friends of the person who has completed suicide, but a community altering event. For decades the term committed suicide used by the religious institutions and the powerful demonise those whose despondency ended in death by suicide, even today there are those who see suicide as a weakness or cowards' way out, never bothering to try and understand the complex reasons behind suicidal ideation or despondency.

The ever-increasing cuts to mental health services, already under-resourced within a meagre health budget, is a despicable betrayal of some of the most vulnerable in society, those suffering mental health issues whether transitory or long term must be considered no less valued than any other member of society. That the capitalist sees them as a drain on resources and or profits or that religious see it as some sort of failure of faith must become a thing of the past.

The terminology around suicide has changed for many, within communities there are groups and charities who everyday fight against the stigmatisation of those who attempt or complete suicide, yet it is still those who wield the power that must be convinced of the need for long term resourcing for despondency and mental health in general, the constant need to remind the corporate media of the real sensitivity of the issue and how it is reported an ongoing bat-

tle.

There are many examples of Irish Republicans leading the way in the volunteer arena of Social Inclusion and Community Participation when it comes to Mental Health, without naming individuals or their respective political groupings we can look at two.

Co. Tipperary

Tipperary has seen a loss of services not matched by other counties within the Free State, its hospital and outreach programs decimated with the third highest numbers for completed suicide in the 26 County's, despite this a republican is leading the charge against the withdrawal of mental health services in South Tipperary, he has also established and runs a meals assistance service with others to provide hot meals for the most vulnerable in society, outreach and support to the homeless and others in need, quietly and effectively this Republican goes about the day as an activist engaged in the very supports and services as a volunteer for which the "State" is ultimately responsible, but how is this a fight for mental health services and awareness, how does this activism engage in the fight against suicidal ideation and or despondency?

The fact is that just fighting back is the first and hardest step, being the go to person when it comes to defending and fighting for an individual or community is something in which all republicans have a role to play.

Derry City

The suicide rate in the 6 Counties is double that of any area within the British Regime, this too is a matter of resources and the deliberate cuts to services made by those in power, the British occupier is not solely to

blame for these cuts. In Derry City, Republicans have developed a new volunteer community group to look at and prevent suicide in the City, they patrol the river system engaging individuals and groups along the way in an effort to alleviate despondency and suicidal ideation. This is no easy task, the numbers and logistics involved are complex and the issue one fraught with stress, and yet the numbers of those volunteering grows, again this is social inclusion and community participation on a scale that will ultimately make a difference to the lives of those they encounter and the communities they are from, the Pandemic and the lockdown used to stem the increase in infection, long term health issues and death has been a factor in the increase in despondency, yet these volunteers have already made a difference to many.

Two examples of Irish Republicans from different groups playing a significant role in the alleviation of mental health issues, using different methods, and different forms of social activism, as republicans they may not always agree on the finer points of various policies and activities but their determination to help the most in need or at risk in society is equal, these republicans have engaged in various other community activities, Anti-drugs, anti-imperialism campaigns, anti-internment etc, but it is the awareness and fight against Mental Health that demonstrates an understanding that despite all that has gone before, despite the ruling by fooling of others and despite the continued attack on anything Republican or anti-establishment that Irish Republicans continue to fight for their communities in a range of ways that makes an actual difference along with the fight back against the imperialist occupation of our Country.



THE CARNIVAL CONTINUES

St Patrick's Day arrived and saw Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar sitting with US President Joe Biden in the White House. Grinning like a child on children's TV meeting some failed actor in an unconvincing bear suit, Varadkar allowed himself to imagine being the leader of a real country during the shamrock presentation. His bowl of shamrocks however, was destroyed immediately afterwards in that performative integrity whereby presidents may profit from the spoils of imperial plunder but not accept presents.

Sitting next to the President, his name perhaps written on the back of Biden's hand in case he should forget who the 'empty jacket' that he was indulging actually was, Biden waxed lyrical about the Irish tragedy, talking endlessly about his Irish family in idealised terms, one eye on the equally idealist Irish-American communities in the US. In suitably obsequious tones that bore no substance, Varadkar enthused, 'President Biden, in your life story of service and patriotism, of family, of courage in the face of tragedy, and, above all, unswerving faith in the future.'

Varadkar mouthed his bland clichés, stating his government's aspirations through historical revisionism. 'Our dream of an independent country and statehood secured 100 years ago would not have been possible, I believe, without the support of the United States and the solidarity of so many Irish Americans down the generations who

helped us to achieve our national self-determination.' Singing from the imperialist hymn-sheet Varadkar went on. 'Around the world, the flames of freedom burns brightly despite the efforts of those who would extinguish it.' Going on, 'And when we defend freedom abroad, we also protect our own freedom at home.'

However, Varadkar, during an event in Washington on the eve of the St Patrick's Day celebrations, forgot his lowly and diminutive status and made a joke in reference to Bill Clinton's preying upon Whitehouse intern Monica Lewinsky. Reminiscing about his time as a US House of Representatives intern in 2000, the last year of Clinton's presidency, Varadkar spoke of it being 'a time when some parents would have had cause for concern about what would happen to interns in Washington.' Naturally, a spokesman for Varadkar stepped forward to apologise for the telling of inconvenient truths, stating that, 'He made an ill-judged off-the-cuff remark which he regrets.' No-one cared, but this overshadowed his choreographed meeting with Biden.

"A modern state"

The subservient RTÉ Media et al presented a different narrative; one in which Southern Ireland, in spite of its mutilation, should be considered a real and modern state just like any other in Europe. This is in line with the historical revisionism sponsored by the 26 County entity known by Irish republicans as

the Free State. As Karl Marx said, *'Keep people from their history, and they are easily controlled.'*

The Free Staters owe some of their supposed legitimacy to a form of reactionary nationalism that they had imposed upon the territory that they control. With aspirations to take part in imperialist adventures, they are too weak to strike out at external forces and so concentrate on the interior. When Ireland's revolutionaries struggled to end their country's oppression, the Free Staters continuously talked of peace declaring how 'Violence is wrong'. However, it was with the prospect of joining NATO, that exclusive imperialist club, that the Viagra suddenly kicked in, the call mutating into, 'We must do something,' when the discussion was about bloody foreign adventure.

DUP dinosaurs

This position met with approval in Washington and senior US figures urged visiting Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) figures to restore the power-sharing executive in the Occupied Six Counties in the wake of the unveiling of the Windsor Framework that was designed to address unionist concerns over post-Brexit trade. Hillary Clinton increased the pressure on the DUP, when she suggested that those that opposed the Windsor Framework should resign to allow others to revive Stormont. In the face of further criticisms from Senate majority leader, Chuck Schumer, DUP leader Sir Jef-



Jeffrey Donaldson of the DUP with Biden, Ulster University, April.

Jeffrey Donaldson could only muster a petulant response. 'I would urge the senator to read some history books. Maybe he'll learn a little bit more about what really happens and the reality of the situation.' Not only does Donaldson retain his own opinions, but also his own facts.

The DUP, frequently viewed as the political wing of the Old Testament, has a reputation for lacking compromise and for unreasonable stubbornness. The Protestant supremacism of Unionism cannot conceive of their taking a subservient oppositional role, and, as one of several parties of the same unionist constituency, the Protestant supremacist DUP, like all supremacists, can accept nothing short of domination. The prospect of their relegation to junior partner to the traditional enemy sends them into a tailspin whereby they fall into their default position of 'just say no' to all change that does not render them dominant.

The Protocol and imperialism

Under the current arrangement of the Northern Ireland Protocol, goods are stopped at posts in the Six Counties on arrival and can only be moved into the Republic once they are checked. Under the Windsor Framework, goods will be split into two lanes; goods destined for the Occupied Six go into the Green Lane while goods destined for the EU and the Free State go into the Red Lane, where checks are carried out.

The Windsor Framework was the result of a significant degree of EU flexibility. In response, Varadkar said that the agreement

'has the potential to restore very good relations between Ireland and the UK and to restore the relations between Ireland and the UK and to restore the relations and institutions of the Good Friday agreement.' This, he claimed would open a new chapter in EU-UK relations.

On both sides of the British border in Ireland, reality is crushed down into pulp in the service of imperialism. The Six Counties, violently dragged away from the rest of the country, and stitched Frankenstein-like to a foreign state where people feel no affinity for the bizarre society that such imperial machinations have warped and corrupted, the reality remains that Britain mutilated another country for its own ends and the Free Staters bowed down in supplication denying the abusive nature of its continued relationship. Naturally then, they are nothing more than running dogs, seeking to lick honey from the frigid fingers of the monarchy that has sought to have its foot upon the neck of the continuously rising republic since Tone first dared to dream. The cognitive dissonance of the ideology underpinning the Free State ruling class has further trickled down to the increasingly 'respectable' Provisional movement that had in times recent fought a revolutionary war for liberation.

Constitutional Nationalism

In an interview with Jacobin magazine, Sinn Fein leader Mary-Lou MacDonald said, *'The last thing I would want is to stitch those two reactionary, dysfunctional entities together.*

I mean, looking back now, on the centenary of the civil war, it's remarkable how accurate James Connolly was when he predicted that partition would lead to "a carnival of reaction." North of the border we ended up with a single-party state, a Protestant parliament for Protestant people, and decades of oppression. But as you have written about, the oppression didn't only happen north of the border. For too many, let's say it out loud, Home Rule meant Rome Rule, and women and the poor in particular suffered the consequences of that. The last thing that we want is to repeat these mistakes.'

The Sinn Fein leadership then, know the true reality of the situation, but cite realpolitik as the justification for falling far short of its initial founding aims. Since its unilateral disarmament on the orders of the British government, the Sinn Fein leadership have descended so far into the mire that they have displaced the SDLP as the Six Counties' constitutional nationalists. With the upcoming coronation of Britain's new monarch, an invite was extended to (and accepted by) Sinn Fein representatives Alex Maskey and Michele O'Neil, while Jeffrey Donaldson was apparently snubbed. The Unionists, in spite of their bluster and tantrums, perpetually fuming over betrayals, real and imagined, are ultimately obedient pets, their irrational viewpoints ever-driving them into the empire's embrace, of which they are a product.

What is left of the Sinn Fein leadership is being slowly groomed into becoming a part of this project. Those that want peace should naturally take away the reasons for conflict and the causes of this should not be put in charge of any supposed remedies.

All that is possible then, when one reaches an accommodation with imperialism is the Carnival of Reaction. As the Koreans, the Vietnamese, the Yemenis and Connolly himself would tell us, a country that is contorted and twisted by an external imperialist power, will not play any honourable role upon the world until the thorn is removed.

Down the last decades, Connolly's question still echoes, *'How can you build socialism, when you don't have a country to build it in?'*

PEATLANDS: FROM T

The peatlands on the island of Ireland shaped the culture and the landscape as long as we know them to exist. Bogs cover 17% of the Irish Free State. This area is mainly located in the midlands and on the Western coast. Especially since I moved to Galway I encountered the deep emotional connection between people and their land, but how was it shaped and how will the transformation be?

In the nineteenth-century, pre and post famine, turf was a pure subsistence good, with most of the production being used domestically or highly localized. This is the main reason that the amount produced was determined by the demography of the country, meaning the number of households in rural Ireland. Turf was the widely accessible energy source. Coal imports put an economic pressure on turf production. In 1926 the Irish Free State turf production declined by 49% compared to 1845, but almost the same decline can be observed in the number of households decreasing by 37% in the same period.

Dominant domestic fuel

In the 1930s and 40s turf was the dominant domestic fuel and almost the only available fuel on the domestic market. In the 1950s with cheap coal and oil imports turf slowly retreated from the Irish energy market. The resilience of turf as a dominant part for domestic consumption is striking; even though the overall production declined so did the number of households in rural areas.

A crucial distinction has to be made between the usage of peat to produce energy and electricity for industrial use and the

burning of turf for home-use.

At the beginning of the 1930s no industrial use was made out of turf fuel. But because of supply shortages especially during the WWII the Irish Free State made efforts to industrialize the turf cutting process and create a large scale. In 1934 the Turf Development Board was established to start this, later renamed into Bord na Móna, a state-owned company in control of almost all commercial turf-cutting. It managed to improve the exploitation of bogs for industrial use and achieved that peat-fired power stations proved economically sustainable.

With the industrial extraction of turf the exploitation intensified. This is obvious as in 1979 around 56% of the bogs were still 'unmodified'. Recent assessments show that nearly all peatland have been affected by turf cutting, grazing or fire; only 10%-28% are deemed suitable for conservation. Those numbers show the extreme impact of the industrial extraction of turf. In 1995 the peat production peaked with almost 8.0Mt, but then declined rapidly. But in rural and low income areas turf remains a viable source for domestic use especially during global energy crisis when prices go up as turf tends to have a relative low price as it is not traded on international energy markets and it remains culturally significant.

Free State failings

Colonial dependencies and opening of the Irish energy market led to a high dependency on imports, especially natural gas; 91% of its primary energy needs was non-domestically produced. This overdependence combined with a long reluctance to use re-

newable, indigenous energy sources explains the continuation of the industrial use of peat fuel despite its devastating impacts on the climate. This is one of the major failings of the Irish Free State in recent years and it is perpetuated with projects like Shannon LNG, being the foundation for gas imports from North America. Shannon LNG will be operational until 2050 as one of the largest fracked gas terminals in Europe. This development project epitomizes the contradictions in Irish energy policy. The terminal would lock Ireland into three decades of processing and consuming fracked shale gas, despite its ban on fracking.

In contrast to such implementations the state portrays the decline of turf production by Bord na Móna as a success to combat climate change. This narrative disguises that the main reason is the declining profitability rather than the effort to thrive towards decarbonisation, especially because the closing of the bogs will have little effect on curbing carbon emissions as the damaged peatlands will continue emitting greenhouse gases. The complexity of peatlands and cutaways has only been started to be understood. The after-use of cutaways is a crucial topic and should be well researched involving also the communities at stake.

Scientific evidence showed the negative impact also of domestic turf cutting as it undermines conservation attempts and reverses the positive impact on carbon regulation of the bogs. Turf cutters and the wider Irish public do not necessarily see a contradiction between small scale turf cutting and the conservation of bogs. The activity is also a communal toil bonding people to each oth-

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er and the land. This contradiction between scientific research and the knowledge and interest of the turf cutting communities laid the foundation of a conflict on how to preserve the Irish peatlands.

Bureaucratic solutions

Under the pressure of the EU the Irish government increased its effort for conservation. The first 53 SAC's were designated solely on scientific grounds and once selected the objection had to be on scientific grounds. Consequently, those turf-cutting and indigenous communities were frustrated with the science-first, top-down, non-communicative manner those policies were implemented. This resulted in several protests of turf-cutting communities and continued occurrences of illegal turf cutting in protected peatlands. A main actor representing turf-cutting communities was the Turf Cutters and Contractors Association (TCCA), a grassroots movement.

At first the TCCA also engaged with institutions established by the Free State on the promise to be heard, influence policies and ultimately the decision that small-scale turf-cutting could be continued. But in the *National Peatland Strategy* of 2011 the government continued with its regulations and the privilege towards the scientific discourse. The TCCA responded that the real decisions will be taken by the Minister and a 'Scientific Committee' and that it would not lend its credibility to such an undemocratic process.

The claims by the TCCA were proofed by the implementation of the *European Communities (Regulations 2011)* into law criminal-

izing turf-cutting and making it impossible to de-classify and relocate SAC's. The Irish Free State showed no genuine interest in committed negotiations with rural communities.

This process shows the inequality in which actors are held accountable for destruction the caused. The industrialised and commercial use of the bogs funded by the Free State made this degree of exploitation possible. Domestic turf-cutting, even though it has an undeniably bad impact on nature, only accounts for a significantly smaller amount of damage. The government refused to take action to conserve the peatlands until it was no longer profitable for large-scale extraction, after which it moved to criminalize turf-cutting households upholding a century old tradition. The neglect towards low income communities and Irish traditions by the Irish Free State becomes obvious.

Shackled by imperialism

Since the 1990s the governments failed to achieve an energy transition towards indigenous and renewable energy systems. On the foundation of the liberalisation of the energy market during the Celtic Tiger Era, neoliberal 'green energy' development projects have been put forward; thus improving the energy mix slightly. In 2017 it was reported that the increase in the investments into the Irish energy market were justified out of the desire to profit from the promised 18% rise in demand of electricity due to the construction of data centres by transnational corporations. For example, only Apple's proposed data centre in Athen-

ry will consume as much energy as Bray leading to an uneven distribution of how energy-infrastructure will be built. It will fail to deliver cheap energy to rural communities on whose water and land the windfarms are built on.

It shows a similarity to turf-cutting where also autonomy over the means of energy production are denied. The difference is that the justification is not solely driven by neoliberal narratives, but also by environmental concerns. But how can you expect the transition of a cheap fuel which is also culturally integrated like peat towards more sustainable sources which are built not to support the community at stake but rather serve the interest of foreign capital.

The energy transition must be socio-economically viable otherwise it is doomed to fail. But if a change could be achieved towards community-owned renewable energy systems providing also rural areas with cheap green energy, low-income populations and the leftovers of the bogs could be protected. But until the ownership over the means of energy production is privatized favouring capital over humans and non-humans, poor communities and the planet will suffer.

PHILIPPINES

26th of February - 1 soldier of the 62nd Infantry Battalion is killed during an offensive by the New People's Army in Canlaon City, Central Negros.

28th of February - In response to human rights violations two teams of the New People's Army in West Caramines Sur carry out co-ordinated punishment attacks against the 81st Infantry of the CAFGU with rifles and a grenade launcher.

6th of March - The New People's Army in Canlaon City, Central Negros harasses the 62nd Infantry Battalion, killing 1 soldier and wounding another.

15th of March - The New People's Army in Vallehermoso, Central Negros launches grenades at the a unit of the 62nd Infantry Battalion killing 2 and wounding 2 soldiers.

15th of March - The New People's Army in Mindoro defends itself against the Special Action Force of the PNP. 2 SAF officers are killed in a 5 minute gunfight.

20th of March - The New People's Army in Hinugpayan, Central Negros launch a harassment campaign against the 7th Regional Mobile Force Battalion, wounding 4 soldiers.

20th of March - The New People's Army in Masbate begins a large joint counter-assault after a defensive clash with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, in which an army corporal is killed.

22nd of March - Commemorating its 54th anniversary, the New People's Army in Masbate carries out a joint all-out offensive in Barangay Loco and Barangay Gaid, targeting the 2nd Infantry Battalion. 10 soldiers are killed and 7 are wounded. 3 of those wounded later die.

24th of March - The New People's Army in Masbate continues its offensive and kills 7 enemy combatants in the bombing of a CAFGU-AFP outpost in Barangay Manlut-Od.

24th of March - The New People's Army in Barangay Vista,

Quezon ambushes the 85th IBPA, wounding 2 soldiers.

25th of March - A number of mass flash protests by the National Democratic Front and other revolutionary and progressive organisations are held across the Philippines, including in the capital of Manila, to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the New People's Army.

27th of March - The New People's Army in Barangay Manlut-Od, Masbate carries out a successful gun and bomb attack against Task Force Sagip.

30th of March - Following complaints from the local community the New People's Army in Moises Padilla disarms landlord Eddie Abarquez and his bodyguards, who used illegal weapons to seize land from peasants. A .22 long barrel rifle and shotgun are taken.

30th of March - The New People's Army in Sitio Bukbok, Misamis Oriental launches an ambush against the AFP and CAFGU killing 4 enemy combatants including Noel Ayuma Sagimay of CAFGU.

30th of March - The New People's Army in Barangay Tible Lupi, Camarines Sur fires at an 81st Infantry Battalion and CAFGU detachment, killing 1 soldier.

31st of March - The New People's Army in Barangay San Rafael, Rizal ambushes the 0th Infantry Battalion, killing 1 soldier, in support of community opposition to the Wawa-Violago Dam.

1st of April - In a failed assault on the New People's Army in Barangay Mascap, Rizal, 2 soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division and 7th IBPA are killed.

1st of April - The New People's Army in Labo, Camarines Norte fires on a new 9th Infantry Battalion/CAFGU detachment, killing 1 soldier.

5th of April - The New People's Army in Legazpi City kills PNP intelligence officer P/SSgt. Abel Sevilla at 6:20am in

the morning. A 9mm pistol is seized.

6th of April - The New People's Army in Northern Negros, Barangay San Isidoro defends itself against the 79th Infantry Battalion. 3 AFP soldiers are killed, with more wounded.

9th of April - By the orders of the Revolutionary Court of Pumuluyo, the New People's Army executes Danilo De Baja in Moises Padilla for his continued looting of peasants despite prior convictions.

11th of April - By the orders of the Revolutionary Court of Pumuluyo, the New People's Army executes Arman Babor, an intelligence asset for the 62nd Infantry Battalion in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

14th of April - The New People's Army in the town of Milagros, arrests 2nd Infantry Battalion assets Glenn Masamoc, Rina Verdida, Larry Quilantang, and Ganga Dalanon. During the arrest Dalanon was killed in self-defence. An ArmaLite rifle was confiscated.

16th of April - The New People's Army in Canlaon City kills an acting Confidential Agent of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, Jorge Javier. A .45 caliber Colt, a .357 Magnum, and a KG-9 submachinegun were seized along with Javier's Barangay Intelligence Network ID.

18th of April - The New People's Army in Moises Padilla executes 62nd Infantry Battalion intelligence assets Joven Pasinabo and Nene Tobias, who was a known rapist.

25th of April - The New People's Army in Mindoro ambushes the 4th Infantry Battalion, killing 1 soldier.

28th of April - The New People's Army in the town of San Jose del Monte ambushes the 70th Infantry Battalion, killing 2 soldiers.

INDIA

Despite comprador propaganda that the revolution is waning, the struggle of the Indian masses is only intensifying. The security forces remain on 'red alert' throughout much of central and north-eastern India, especially in the districts of southern Chhattisgarh.

On 27th March an assistant platoon commander was killed by IED in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. The following day two security officers were injured likewise in the Kanker district. On 17th April another policeman was injured by IED explosion in Bijapur following a firefight with Maoists.

On 30th March PLGA troops in Jharkhand took advantage of the police being deployed elsewhere to liberate large quantities of explosives from a mining warehouse. This would have been used to destroy the local ecology and enrich the mega corporations - now it will be used to defend the local people.

The Central Committee of CPI (Maoist) released a statement condemning the repeated drone strikes in the Bastar division of Chhattisgarh over the last two years, the most

recent taking place on 7th April. Many Adivasi villagers were injured, including several while out collecting firewood. The Indian state continues to deny the use of drone strikes. The Maoist statement concluded: 'They are in dire need of the raw materials to exploit from the mineral rich tribal belt. But there is the revolutionary movement... and it has established alternative power organs in that belt. The people of that area are struggling for their just demands. Now, it has become a war between the Indian people and the Indian State, which represents the exploitative Indian ruling classes.'

Another disgraceful show of the Indian state's disregard for the Adivasi people was shown the day before, on the 6th April, with the acquittal of thirteen policemen who raped eleven Adivasi women in Vakapalli in Andhra Pradesh in August 2007. The CPI (Maoist) said: 'It has been proved once again that under this system poor tribals, especially women, cannot get justice.'

On 13th & 14th April a bandh (general strike) was held in the districts of Jharkhand and Bihar in opposition to the murder of five members of CPI (Maoist). Demonstrating

the mass support for the revolutionary movement, ordinary life ground to a halt, with markets and shops closing and virtually no transport running.

Later in the month a state department building was destroyed in mineral-rich Jharkhand in opposition to the ongoing destructive mining projects. Decades of mining has failed to benefit the local people (more than 65% of whom live below the poverty line). They are displaced and rarely even get jobs in the industry. Local media reported: 'the party's successes against security forces and its redistribution of land, coupled with its fierce resistance to big mining companies, has won support among deprived and alienated sections of society.'

On the afternoon of 26th April Chhattisgarh's largest guerilla action since 2021 took place when a police convoy carrying out a sweep in Bastar was ambushed by an IED explosion, killing eleven.

PALESTINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER DIES ON HUNGERSTRIKE

“During my struggle I occupied my mind by recalling the sun on the distant green lands. I missed most of all the feel of grains of sand, the scent of the almond and lemon trees. My resistance proved that the occupier will never understand our story and our love for our land.” – Khader Adnan.



Anti Imperialist Action Ireland sends our fraternal solidarity and deepest condolences to the Palestinian Resistance following the death on Hungerstrike of Khader Adnan.

A leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Adnan had become a symbol of the National Palestinian Resistance, not least because he had defeated the Zionist crime of Administrative Detention, known in Ireland as Internment, on four previous occasions.

Imprisoned again on February 5 2023, Adnan immediately launched a hungerstrike for his freedom and to highlight the ongoing

illegal occupation of Palestine. Adnan fought Zionism from within their concentration camps with everything he had for the last 86 days and became a Martyr in the early hours of the morning of the 2nd of May 2023. All factions of the Resistance have written tributes, with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine stating that: *“Khader Adnan’s assassination demonstrates the occupation’s crimes against Palestinian prisoners, especially ill prisoners who are subjected to medical neglect.”*

The death on Hungerstrike of Khader

Adnan will now inspire a new generation of Palestinian Resistance fighters who will take up the mantle of resistance and fight until the defeat of Zionism for a free Palestine. Already in the aftermath of his martyrdom the Resistance has stepped up operations, firing hundreds of missiles from Gaza and stepping up operations in the West Bank.

Anti Imperialist Action Ireland. will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian Resistance!



BOBBY SANDS AND RESISTANCE

On Sunday 1st March 1981 Vol. Bobby Sands, those who called for an end to the revolutionary resistance fighter, poet, political theorist, a father, a son, a brother, an inspiration to many who would resist, whether incarcerated in imperialist hellholes, or engaging in resistance in whatever form, began his hungerstrike in the H Blocks. The first line in his Prison diary: *“I am standing on the threshold of another trembling world. May God have mercy on my soul.”* He never wavered, nor did those volunteers of the IRA/INLA who were to follow. Throughout Bobby’s life he recognised and resisted the causes of conflict on this island, his writings a testament to his abilities and commitment within the resistance.

Never once mitigating or apologising for the desires of the risen people to be free, indeed his writings show his disdain for

those who called for an end to the resistance or collaborated in any way with those for whom Monarchy, power, and economics were the driving forces for their participation in the people’s war.

On Tuesday 17th March 1981, Bobby’s final entry in his diary was this: *“If they aren’t able to destroy the desire for freedom, they won’t break you. They won’t break me because the desire for freedom, and the freedom of the Irish people, is in my heart. The day will dawn when all the people of Ireland will have the desire for freedom to show. It is then we’ll see the rising of the moon.”*

Vol. Bobby Sands died on the 5th May 1981, unbowed, unbroken, a revolutionary, no monarch, no army, no political favour able to break his spirit, his analysis of the causes of the conflict as relevant today as they

were 42 years ago. On May 6th, Sinn Fein, who use his writings and image, his sacrifice in a British hellhole as a means to legitimise their use of the term Irish Republican, will attend the crowning of a foreign monarch.

They will feast at a banquet with a parasitical elite who continue to occupy, oppress and threaten, while people in our communities face hunger and deprivation, while Irish Men and Women continue to face internment by remand. They do so feeling no shame at their hypocrisy, continuing their claim of Republicanism while celebrating a colonial Monarchy that has occupied, raped and pillaged throughout the world and Ireland.

No republican, no socialist can claim to be so while celebrating the anathema that is hereditary Monarchy.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE JOIN ANTI IMPERIALIST ACTION!



AIA is a fighting Revolutionary Socialist Republican organisation formed in 2017 to rebuild the struggle 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 newspaper 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.

“THE FIGHT MUST GO ON!”

- James Connolly