

The

# Starry Plough

An Camchéachta

Newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party

The Starry Plough/An Camchéachta

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# Political Prisoners Attacked!

A protest by Anti-Agreement Prisoners of War in Portlaoise gaol calling for parity in the granting of compassionate parole was met with violence and assault from prison authorities on the weekend of Saturday 24th November.

The protest by the prisoners came a week after political prisoner Kevin Murray died from a brain haemorrhage which could have been avoided had earlier complaints from him to prison authorities been listened to.

IRSP's prisons spokesperson Willie Gallagher has slammed the brutal assault on political prisoners including INLA PoWs in Portlaoise prison, as "unwarranted and the result of inequalities in the parole system and a drunken decision by the prisoner governor."

Speaking before a meeting with the Irish government's Director of Prisons to discuss the deteriorating situation in Portlaoise, Mr. Gallagher said:

"All these problems emanate from the unequal and discriminatory parole practices by the prison regime. This discrimination appears to be, on the face of it, purely political, with anti-agreement POWs being severely discriminated against. This has led to one POW, Kevin Murray, dying because of medical neglect.

"Dessie O'Hare, the sole prisoner in the south entitled to release under the terms of the GFA is still being incarcerated and compassionate parole is being denied to many POWs. When compared to the kid glove treatment of Provisional prisoners in Castlereagh prison for the killing of Guard Gerry McCabe, who are constantly out on weekend leave, the discrimination is clearly to be seen."

In conclusion the IRSP representative said:

**"The Irish prison authorities clearly need to introduce a fair and equal parole system, free from political discrimination."**

## POLITICAL HARRASSMENT STEPPED UP

During one week recently three anti-agreement Republican political groupings were targeted in an effort by MI5 and their lackeys in Dublin to recruit spies from within the IRSP, RSF and 32 County Sovereignty Committee. They did not succeed. The details of how one IRSP member in Dublin was harassed along with his family are revealed here for the first time. It shows just how low these people stoop in their efforts of intimidation and coercion.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has grown over the past number of years throughout the country, both North and South, so too has political activity by republican socialists on the streets. A revival or interest in our class struggle politics has come from many areas, none more so than from agents of both states. An interest that manifested itself in a particularly sinister way recently in Dublin when one member of the IRSP came in for close attention from Special Branch.

On Sunday 18th November two Special Branch men called to the home of a member of the party and asked questions about him in relation to his whereabouts, when informed he was out, they left a name and number (Jim Broe 01 4757692) and told his mother that her son was to contact them immediately, and that there was nothing to worry about.

When this person was informed of the above he rang the number, where he was told that they wanted to meet with him on O'Connell Street because they did not want to meet him in Harcourt Terrace as they did not want the Special Branch there to see him. The IRSP member told them that under no circumstances would he be meeting them. They told him that they would change the venue and meet him outside the Bridwell police station at 9 pm. (He was not to inform any party members. If he didn't conform to these requests they would raid and damage his house and ensure they would make his and family's life hell.)

The IRSP member then got in touch immediately with the cumann chairperson where he was told that under no circumstances was he to comply to their demands. He then rang the number and left a message informing the Special Branch that he was in touch with a solicitor and had received legal advice. He was advised not to have any contact with them whatsoever unless he was represented by his solicitor. He ended the message by saying that he would be making an official complaint to the Garda Complaints Board. Following this call the Special Branch has visibly stepped up their harassment, not just of this person but also his family as well. They went so far as to park outside his partner's place of work for two hours. The new member is adamant that he will not be deflected from carrying out any legitimate political work irrespective of special branch harassment or intimidation.

The IRSP are not the only targets of this orchestrated campaign of harassment. The 32 County

Below: Still relevant today! An IRSP Political Status poster from 20 years ago



Sovereignty Committee and Republican Sinn Féin have been targeted as well. The 32 CSC were targeted in London in similar sinister approaches by MI5. Republican Sinn Féin in Belfast say they found a sophisticated tracking device in one of their members cars.

What to do if you find yourself under pressure from these anti working class forces.

**Our advice...**

**Refuse to enter into conversation with these people.**

**Contact your local party representative**

**Get in touch with a solicitor immediately. (Conduct all dealings through your solicitor)**

**Publicise it. They hate publicity.**

THE VOICE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM!

The Starry Plough or An Camchéachta was first established in 1975 as the national newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

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Prisoner of War Website:  
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IRSM Statements:  
<http://irsm.org/statements/>

#### GET A STORY?

If you would like to highlight an issue of concern in your area and would like to have it published in the pages of The Starry Plough then get in touch at the address above or contact a local IRSP representative, The Starry Plough is your paper.

For national and international news, or news for your workplace, community or action group then please send your articles, photographs, reports and any other information to The Starry Plough at the address above.

Deadline for next issue of The Starry Plough - An Camchéachta is January 26th 2002.

## No vision for North Belfast

The collective sigh of relief from the establishment in Stormont at the suspension of the loyalist sectarian protest against the pupils of Holy Cross primary could be clearly heard. Throwing a couple of hundred thousand pounds, a few speed ramps, a roundabout and CCTV into Glenbryn appears to have appeased the bigots - for now!

The message from the Stormont establishment is being heard loud and clear across Loyalist areas of Belfast, the nationalist working class in North Belfast can expect more of the same. Murder, pipe bombs, intimidation and forced evictions will continue to be the stable weekly diet financed of course by those clever people up in Stormont. Where is the long term vision for the community in North Belfast?, Where is the strategy that will take us to this vision? The truth is there is none! Living in North Belfast for both communities is akin to living in apartheid South Africa, separate schools, separate shops, segregated housing, both communities suspicious of each other, each believing that the grass is greener on the other side. Hatred, bitterness and sectarianism does and will continue to flourish whilst it is encouraged by funding from the establishment.

What is required is a vision for an integrated future for all the people, not only in North Belfast but everywhere. An agreed programme for long term integration properly funded is required, integration can not only be an aspiration it has to be an achievable goal, let those who work within the community sector waged or unwaged put their collective skills to work in developing a strategy for integration. Many community workers who have struggled over decades poorly funded, if at all, have shaken their heads in disgust with the money that has been given to these bigots whilst overcrowded and stretched communities in working class nationalist areas scramble for the crumbs off the table. There will be a lot of money available for areas with weak community infrastructures in the current round of European funding and there is little doubt that some loyalist areas will be targeting this funding, including Glenbryn. This cannot be allowed to happen, it has to stop. The financial and political appeasement of those who advocate sectarianism and apartheid segregation as a vision for the future has to be rejected. Let's remember the Glenbryn community infrastructure wasn't that weak that it stopped them putting a couple of hundred primary school children through three months of sectarian hatred, intimidation and sectarian hell!

## Omagh Revelations - Touts protected by RUC

The very serious revelations that surfaced on Thursday 6th December, that the RUC had prior knowledge that a bomb was on its way to Omagh, raises many serious questions, not least the fact that the RUC did not even tell their own members in Omagh that they were to be targeted in a massive bomb attack, let alone warn the public!

The IRSP were the first Republican group to condemn that bombing, followed thereafter by both Sinn Féin and RSF, and in so doing making it clear that civilians should never be targeted no matter what the provocation from the state or elsewhere. We now know that the RUC, while weeping crocodile tears on TV, were in the middle of a massive cover up which the word "hypocrisy" hardly lives up to. The RUC are still protecting their touts like they have done since the start of the war. To the RUC their lives are more important than the innocent civilians who died.

# TURKISH HUNGER STRIKE - ONE YEAR OF PROTEST

**This year Republicans Socialists and Republicans commemorated the 20th anniversary of our ten brave young volunteers who died in struggle against Britain's forced policy of criminalisation. It was a time when many of us learned of a similar struggle developing in fascist state of Turkey.**

On October 2000, political prisoners in Turkish gaols began a hunger strike to the death against that regime's forced policy of criminalisation, the breakdown of political status with the creation of F-Type isolation cells.

December 19th of that year, the state's forces entered prisons brutally murdering many in an attempt to suppress the will of an estimated 10,000 political prisoners.

As the solidarity campaign in Ireland increase, in July 2001, Irish National Liberation Army prisoners of war in Portlaoise, Maghaberry, and Magilligan prisons began a week long hunger strike to demonstrate their class solidarity with their brothers and sister on hunger strike in Turkey.

Again in November 2001, the regime tried to crush the spirit of

resistance with a sustained attack on a shanty town, Kucukarmutlu in Istanbul. This onslaught resulted in the murder of six people - five death-fasters and one supporter. Four dead bodies were removed from houses occupied by hunger strikers as the Security forces entered the district with armoured vehicles and earth-moving machines, destroying barricades set up in the streets of the quarter aimed at taking out hunger strikers based in two houses in the neighbourhood, who were fasting for several months.

The attack came not long after

representatives of the IRSP, with other republicans and socialists who took part in an 'fact finding' delegation from Ireland. Inspired by his father's struggle, the son of Derry INLA hunger striker Mickey Devine, himself an IRSP activist also took part in the delegation. Returning Micky Og stated: "Let no Irish republican or socialist stand idly by whilst there is still a continuing death fast in Turkey".

Throughout 2001 as we gathered to remember our martyrs of '81, equal honour and respect was paid to the martyrs of the continuing struggle in Turkey.

Family's, Friends and supporters of the Death Fasters met with the relatives of INLA and IRA hunger strikers as a gesture of understanding, support and solidarity in their continuing struggle for justice. They also brought word to their struggle not only to Ireland but to the world, of the strength and an unbreakable willpower of all involved.

To date 47 young men and women, and their supporters have died on 'death fast' with many more seriously ill. In the prison cells, hundreds of Death Fast resisters are still on the Death Fast, displaying the same willpower as their friends and comrades have done before them.

As we begin a new year, so too must we renew our own strength and commitment as republicans and socialists to the continuing struggle.

The Starry Plough - An Camchéachta, PO Box 1981, Derry, BT48 8GX, IRELAND

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# POLICING CHANGES

Bigotry cannot be reformed!

Since 4th of November 2001, the RUC has become the "Police Service of Northern Ireland".

This is a result of the policing reforms set up by the British Government under the pressure of Nationalists and Republicans after the April 1998 Stormont deal. Reforms are necessary because policing in Northern Ireland differs significantly from the norm in standard Western capitalist societies. Policing in the North has a primarily political role. The organisation of the Royal Ulster Constabulary is designed for the primary purpose of counter-insurgency and political control, to which the activity of "normal policing" is subordinated. A change of name and emblems will not change its nature or purpose.

Policing in the North also suffers from the problem that it suffers from partial legitimacy and acceptability among the public. A number of reasons explain this. The RUC is a 92% Protestant force. The RUC blame the lack of Catholics within their ranks on the fact that when Catholics join the police, they risk being ostracised by Nationalists and Republicans or being killed by the INLA or the IRA.

While there is some evidence to support this thesis, it is nevertheless based on the assumption that members of the Catholic community would be keen to join in the absence of such threat. This assumption ignores the fact that there exists a deep mistrust of the RUC, not just among Republicans, but within the wider Catholic population. It is perceived to be a sectarian unionist force instead of "neutral" and "professional".

If there is empirical basis to think that many members of the RUC are also active in the Orange Order or unionist and loyalist groups or have Protestant and Unionist ethos, it is difficult to assess the extent to which the police force as a whole is characterised by a degree of blatant sectarianism. However, what is not in doubt is that the RUC has been involved in a number of incidents which have done little

to inspire the confidence of the Catholic community in the political impartiality of the force.

There are differential standards of policing applied to Catholic and Protestants. Recently this has been illustrated (for example in North Belfast) by the fact that the controversial plastic bullets have been used more readily and more extensively when the rioters were nationalists than when they were loyalists. There is also evidence to suggest that there

The reputation of the RUC has been tarnished by incidents such as the Stalker affair or the condemnation of the force by international human rights bodies for its ill-treatment of suspected Republican activists during interrogation. Defenders of the RUC point out that no police force in the world is perfect, and that the things that are usually reproached to the RUC could also be reproached to other police forces: for example, the

officers will give tacit support or tolerate organisational deviance if it perceived to be in line with the interests and objectives of the organisation. The force is reluctant to admit deviance (for example, ill treatment in custody was denied on the basis that injuries were self-inflicted) and when it is forced to face the facts, there is a marked reluctance to send to trial and convict officers involved: no RUC member has been convicted of murder while on duty. The result is a culture of virtual

of behaviour preventing the excessive use of force. The fact that RUC officers who were involved in all these controversial aspects of policing are allowed to join the PSNI and will not be prosecuted gives reasons to think that little has changed.

The SDLP supports the new police force. It is a matter of time before Sinn Féin also does. The party has already dropped the "Disband the RUC!" slogan, replacing it with "Implement



Masters and Servants, accountable to no one.

has been collusion between the RUC and loyalist paramilitary organisations – just think of the Rosemary Nelson case, although it is difficult to establish to which degree and at what level.

Members of the RUC have also been convicted of belonging and acting in loyalist groups such as the UVF or the UDA. Even if the new police service succeeds in having a 50% Catholic membership, this will not alter the fact that it is fundamentally a Crown force. The old RIC had a majority of Catholic members, but that did not make it more "nationalist" or less "unionist" – it was still an instrument of Dublin Castle.

Gardai has also been accused of ill-treatment of suspects in custody, it has also been involved in controversial "shoot-to-kill" incidents etc.

The fact that there are a few "bad apples" within the RUC should not discredit the force as a whole. It is not possible to infer a system of inherent deviance from a couple of "bad apples". Those who blame just a few "bad apples" or "rogue officers" for RUC misconduct overlook the structural and organisational determinants of police deviance. There is considerable evidence (i.e. the Stalker affair: conspiracy of silence, dirty tricks campaign, etc) that senior

impunity.

The "rule of law" makes no difference. Defenders of the policing system – and it is one of their major arguments – say that police officers and soldiers are subjected to the rule of law and are constrained to act within the law. Whether or not the police acts within or is restrained by the "rule of law" is entirely scholastic if the law itself enables many of the controversial practices of the RUC to take place. The present legal framework (based on the concept of "reasonable force" and not complying with international standards) is too vague and flexible to impose a standard

Patten!". Republican Socialists will not support the new police force. They will never ask young people to join it, no more than they ask to join the Gardai, the NYPD or the Metropolitan police.

**For Republican Socialists know that the repressive apparatuses of the state –whether in a sectarian state like the North, a racist one like Israel, or a "normal democratic" state like Denmark or Canada– will always defend the interests of the ruling classes. Police forces owe their allegiance to the ruling classes – Republican Socialists only owe their allegiance to the working class.**



attempt to keep the hunger strikers out of sight.

These people have not succeeded. They have actually brought valuable publicity to an event that otherwise would not have been received. The objectors have inadvertently helped to keep alive the memories of the hunger strikers, contrary to their own narrow agenda.

**Right: 1981 Hunger Strike Exhibition on show earlier in the year in Derry**

A political decision was made in Magee College in Derry to ban the showing of an exhibition depicting the 1981 hunger strike.

This seems to be a re-occurring phenomenon in Derry. First we had the hullabaloo over the unveiling of the National Hunger Strike monument on the graves of Derry hunger strikers Patsy O'Hara and Michael Devine. We then had the objections when another hunger strike monument was built and now this latest

## LATVIAN SCHOOLGIRL FACES JAIL FOR SLAPPING CHARLIE

British pampered royal and idle layabout Prince Charles was slapped in the face **with a flower** during a recent visit to Latvia on a visit to pave the way for that country's entry into both NATO and the EU.

Alina Lebedeva, 16, was immediately arrested by Latvian police and charged with **"endangering the life of a foreign dignitary"** which carries a fifteen year sentence.

Well if she endangered Charlie's life by waving a flower in his face and faces 15 years behind bars some people will be thinking she should have went the whole hog and rammed a handgrenade into his mouth!

This case raises another issue. It is undoubtedly an issue of the ruling class protecting themselves. If Alina had assaulted a working class person would she be facing so long in prison? She would not. Some are more equal than others. Time for change!

## THE GAA AND RULE 21

On Saturday 17th November the GAA voted to remove rule 21 from their books. This was the rule that banned members of the occupying armed forces from becoming members of their organisation. The GAA is an independent organisation and therefore has every right to change their own rules as they see fit but as one angry County Tyrone member told **An Camchéachta** "This rule was dropped by 26 County delegates. Not by the delegates of the 6 occupied counties, with the exception of Down.

*With all respect we are the ones on the receiving end of bigotry and harassment that continues. We remember Aidan McAneaspie who was killed by the Brits in Achnacloy because he was going to a GAA match. We recall the stealing of GAA pitches in Crossmaglen. We are in the middle of a concerted campaign of killings and pipe bombings being carried out by so called loyalists. Numerous clubs have been bombed and GAA members killed, including Sean Brown from County Derry. This rule was removed to appease the pro Stormont politicians. This was not done with the membership of the 6 occupied counties in mind."*

The IRSP would echo this view. We believe that the 26 county membership of the GAA should have listened more clearly to their fellow members from the north. They voted overwhelmingly to keep rule 21 and this was rejected by people who do not have to live under British governance.

This change comes at a time when the RUC name has been replaced by PSNI, when the symbol is being changed but that's it. The IRSP believes this is not nearly enough. We need a police service that at the centre of its philosophy is the protection of the working class, not the privileged minority ruling classes and their capital, and neither the RUC nor the Garda Síochána are nowhere near that.

## POLITICAL CENSORSHIP AT MAGEE

University refuses to allow 1981 exhibition

# UNCENSORED NEWS

These are the stories and opinions that you will not have heard or read anywhere else. These are the opinions you were not supposed to see! These pages will carry IRSP press releases and local campaign stories that have not appeared anywhere else because of **CENSORSHIP!**

## QUEEN'S VISIT "GUT WRENCHING"



**Nigel Dodds bows before the British monarch during her recent visit to Ireland**

In a statement issued on 15/11/01 a spokesperson for the Irish Republican Socialist Party described the visit by the British State's Monarch as 'gut wrenching'.

"As Republican Socialists, we view today's visit by the British State's Monarch to the occupied six counties, purely

and simply, as gut wrenching.

"This cheap symbolism is to give further reassurance to unionists that the British State continues to class the north of Ireland as its own. It is a gesture to complete what politicians have already done by signing the Good Friday Agreement, done merely to

further rubber stamp 'British control' in Ireland.

"We are aware that there is a planned visit by the British Queen to the capital sometime next year, it will be a visit to which Republican Socialists will be strongly objecting."

## CHILDREN ESCAPE INJURY IN RANDOM PIPE BOMBINGS

Issued on 13/11/01

The IRSP in north Belfast have urged residents to be extremely cautious and not to handle devices that have been thrown over the 'Peaceline' in Manor Street.

IRSP spokesperson Paul Little said that children for the second time in three weeks have lifted and handled suspect devices in the area. Speaking

after the British Army had carried out a contolled explosion on the device Little said:

"The loyalists that are throwing these pipe bombs over the wall have no regard to who gets injured or killed -- men, women or children -- as long as they are Catholic appears to be the order of the day. The IRSP are urging all residents to talk to their children and to warn them not to touch suspicious objects."

## PLASTIC KILLERS

Issued on 12/11/01

In a statement issued today by the Irish Republican Socialist Party, a spokesperson said that there was "no change in policing tactics".

"Last night several young people from North Belfast were injured, again by the indiscriminate use of plastic bullets. It comes as no surprise to republican socialists, as we have continually believed that any introduction of a repackaged RUC would bring no change in policing tactics for our class, whether Protestant and

Catholic.

"This, combined with more scandalous revelations that the Police Authority's last role was to place an order for an estimated 50,000 plastic bullets, can only ensure that more lives will be destroyed or damaged as a result.

"The IRSP again call for an immediate ban on this lethal yet legal weaponry, and in doing so, call upon the Irish Trade Union movement to come out and support such a ban. Let us have no more victims."

## ANSWERS NEEDED NOW!

Issued on 25/10/01

What sort of health service is provided, where a seriously ill woman has to go to court, to launch a legal bid to get the urgent medical treatment she so desperately needs to save her life?

What sort of health service is provided, where patients have to linger on hospital trolleys or in wheel chairs, in the hope that someone else will vacate the bed? -- sadly that sometimes means waiting for someone to die.

What sort of health service is provided, where raffles, marathons, car boot sales, parachute jumps etc., organised by the family and friends of those needing urgent medical attention, in order to raise money for essential life saving equipment/operations?

What sort of health service is provided, where patients have to wait up to two years, for a simple procedure like a hip replacement operation?

What sort of health service is provided, where patients have to travel to Dublin, from the four corners of the 26 counties, to receive treatment, for heart, lung, liver, cancer related illnesses?

This Government has at its disposal, hundreds of millions of pounds, from the so-called booming Celtic economy, but instead of directing that money, to where it is obviously needed, they would rather spend millions on some of the following:

- ♦ A new Government jet to fly them around the world
- ♦ A new stadium, otherwise known as the Bertie bowl

- ♦ A huge wage increase for Ministers, TDs and Senators
- ♦ Millions spent on tribunals to investigate corrupt politicians
- ♦ £60 million handed to the GAA
- ♦ Millions spent on a spike (to replace Nelson's Pillar)

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Taniste Mary Harney, financial Minster Charlie McCreavy and Health minister Michael Martin, should hang their heads in shame because of their collective failure to provide a decent health service that fully caters for the sick within our society. But at what time, and at what cost, will this shortfall in essential health services be finally realised for this important life or death issue?

**Health patients, especially the seriously ill, are dying to know the answer.**

## DAIL HANDOUT "TOO LITTLE - TOO LATE!"

Issued on 14/11/01

An Irish Republican Socialist Party spokesperson stated that, 'crumbs given out to welfare recipients is nothing to shout about as the national poverty gap increases'.

The IRSP said:

"Lump-sum payments due to be issued to Social Welfare recipi-

ents next year will come too little, too late for most working class families, who are already living well below the bread line, which has yet to be address by those in power.

"Our Party believes that the Dail Committee responsible for this so-called increase have actually no idea of how people are trying to get by just day-to-day. Long-term Social Welfare recipients

such as pensioners, lone parents or those on disability allowance will find life intolerable over the winter months.

"While the fat cats in Dail Eireann continue to reel from the Celtic Tiger, crumbs given out to welfare recipients is nothing to shout about as the national poverty gap increases between the the rich and poor."

## IRSP IN DERRY WARNS OF LOYALIST TARGETING 4 DAYS BEFORE RUC/PSNI ANNOUNCED WORKERS WERE UNDER THREAT

Issued on 16/11/01

The IRSP in Derry issued a statement to local media outlets on 16th November claiming that intelligence in their hands pointed to the fact that loyalists in Derry were actively targetting nationalists. The statement also warned anyone living or working in or near loyalist areas to

exercise caution. This statement was ignored by the local press but 4 days later when the RUC/PSNI issue a copycat statement the press couldn't get enough. They fell over themselves in their attempts to sensationalise this worrying development.

The IRSP statement read "The

*Irish Republican Socialist Party urge anyone living or working in or near loyalist areas to exercise extreme care in wake of intelligence we have recieved."*

The statement went on "The IRSP confirms that some specific targetting, by loyalists against republicans, has taken place, but as yet no credible

*attacks have been carried out. We urge all working class people to be on their guard because as we witnessed in last week's gun attack in Rosstown Drive (Loyalists tried to kill a Catholic lorry driver) loyalists are not very selective as to who they kill or attempt to kill."*



## COLERAINE GRAFFITI WARNS CATHOLICS

Graffiti has appeared in Coleraine recently in a sinister development following the removal of two UDA murals in the town. A scrawled message in Harpur's Hill reads: "To those Taigs who objected to our mural - hope you enjoyed living here." Another at Linden Avenue in Millburn warned: "To those who objected to this mural, we hope you enjoyed your stay in Millburn."

These messages are directed at members of the community who objected to offensive sectarian murals in their area.

One resident, who did not want to be named for obvious reasons, told the **Starry Plough** that as a Catholic living in the area he has suffered greatly at the hands of these sectarian thugs and was seriously considering moving to a safer area. He explained how his home was targeted repeatedly during the past summer with bricks and paint bombs. One of his neighbours had a pipebomb thrown through his kitchen window, which thankfully did not explode.

Speaking of the latest graffiti he said: "To be honest I was thinking of leaving since the summer but these threats that have appeared on the walls are more sinister. I feel loyalists are laying the groundwork in order to set someone up in this area. The people round here know that they are planning to kill again and I fear it could be me or my children."

## POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN SENTENCING OF DERRY MAN

The British establishment used political motivation in the sentencing of Derryman Kieran McLaughlin in Belfast's High Court. The judge in this case used political means ie: the Stormont Agreement to justify the unusually harsh sentence. This was an acception by the court that there was a political element to the struggle here. Probably the first time this has happened.

A friend said after the sentencing, "Here was a man prepared to plead guilty and that would normally be treated more leniently. But what can we expect from a system imposed by Britain on the Irish working class and it is a shame that some who would consider themselves republican are tied to this system. Republicans in Ireland should have no place in this partitionist, sectarian government and this case today proves that Britain still wants to rule the Irish with an iron fist."

The **Starry Plough** says ALL republicans should be prepared to stand up to this and send this system back across the Irish Sea to London where it belongs.

## WORKERS' ACTION NEEDED TO ENSURE SELLAFIELD CLOSURE



Protesters head for the Mox plant in Sellafield in 1995

Issued on 01/11/01

In a statement today, an Irish Republican Socialist Party spokesperson has called on all rank and file trades unionists to act now to ensure the closure of Sellafield.

The spokesperson said: "As the New World Order flexes its muscles in a so-called war against 'terrorism', workers must act now in order to eliminate the risks of a possible nuclear incident at BNFL's Sellafield Nuclear Power Plant, in England.

"We have seen the reverberations of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Ukraine back in 1986 and the devastating results it still has to this day, when radiation drifted across Europe exposing millions to all kinds of contamination. Land as far west as the Atlantic coast of

Ireland still shows signs of contamination, even studies carried on by anti-nuclear pressure groups have in the past expressed concern at health problems directly related to that tragic incident.

The spokesperson concluded stating "When possible attacks are already being discussed by Western Governments on Nuclear Plants such as Sellafield by 'fundamentalists', some countries such as France have went so far as to install Nuclear missile fortification and Air-Exclusion Orders over Nuclear Power Plants there. With that being the case, the Irish Republican Socialist Party would urge workers in England, Scotland, Wales and in Ireland to act now by taking industrial action to ensure an immediate and complete closure of Sellafield Nuclear Power Plant once and for all."

TRANSLINK CUTBACKS....

## "NOTHING TO DO WITH SAFETY"

Issued on 14/11/01

In a statement issued by the Irish Republican Socialist Party, a spokesperson criticised Translink bosses, saying 'transport cuts are not being made for the safety of workers, but for bosses' profits'.

The IRSP said:

"It is the belief of both the Irish Republican Socialist Party and union representatives at Translink that today's cancellation of services in North Belfast have nothing whatsoever to do with the personal safety of bus drivers, as union representatives have already been informed by management that

cuts are to be expected.

"What we have is a situation where, of course, drivers are being continually attacked and abused in many areas on a daily basis, which should be totally condemned by everyone. However, for bosses to cancel badly needed services for communities already suffering from high levels of deprivation and isolation must be rejected.

"Transport cuts are not being made for the safety of workers but for bosses' profits and all cuts or cancellations will inevitably lead to job losses, which is what Translink have in mind."



After the cutbacks... This bus is going nowhere except for the depot.

## BRITISH TERROR LAWS "A FARCE"

Issued on 11/11/01

A statement by the Irish Republican Socialist Party has labelled the British Governments New Terror Laws "a farce".

An IRSP spokesperson said: "It is a farce to believe that the PTA or 'internment without trial' has gone away, espe-

cially if you are Irish. Any Irish person can clarify that such a policy by the British state hasn't gone away, in fact, it has been used against many Irish people in this present climate of so-called 'peace'. This emergency legislation drafted by the British Labour Government, for an introduction of new terror laws is a total farce. Many members of our class and minority communities are already of the opinion that any further movement to introduce more strin-

gent laws, whether it is directed against the 'War on Terror' or other issues, would be yet another nail in the coffin for people's liberty and equality.

"The IRSP believe that such new laws would undoubtedly lead to greater arrests of any individual who is, at this moment in time, opposed to the present imperialist policy of war by the forces of the 'New World Order'.

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# Republican Forum

## A way forward for Republicanism

It was a momentous day for Republicanism in Ireland. Tuesday the 23rd of September 2001- the day the Provisional IRA decommissioned weapons in order to save not only the Good Friday Agreement but also the Stormont Assembly. The shock waves are rumbling through the Republican heartlands ever since.

A number of phrases are heard - " At least "the stickies" didn't decommission", "an act of unparalleled treachery", " we told you so" and so on.

When the issue was first raised in the early days of the peace process the IRSP was sceptical about the whole process but did not believe that decommissioning was an issue or that any republican group would voluntarily decommission its weapons.

Representatives of the Republican Socialist Movement met with representatives of the Provisional Movement on a number of occasions over the last five years and were assured that decommissioning of weapons would not happen. We had no reason to disbelieve the sincerity of those we spoke with. It was a matter for them; it is still a matter for them.

But for all that there is no doubt that shock, disillusionment, feelings of betrayal, and a shaken trust in the leadership, and a reluctant but necessary step all summon up what strong supporters of the provisional movement feel.

Emotions run high and talk of "what about Bombay Street?" etc echoes through the streets of Belfast. The image of the burning streets of Ardoyne 69 runs through the mind as the northern nationalist working class tries to come to terms with this event.

It is always a good thing to become disillusioned. That is the throwing away of false illusions and the start of seeing things as they really are. The Erps feel for those whose have feelings of betrayal and disillusionment. Within our own history we have suffered our own disillusionments. So we understand why many out there are feeling bruised and sensitive to criticism.

But now is the time to see things as they really are not as we wish them to be. When the Civil Rights Movement started not only Republicans of all shades but Socialists of all shades didn't know how to react.



Those who later went on to form the Provisionals were reluctant to become involved in what was a reformist movement. Those who later went on to take the Official IRA down a dead end street of arrogant political self seeking saw the civil rights movement as the only way forward and tried to suppress both the emergence of a more militant brand of republicanism and any manifestation of class struggle.

Those of us who consistently and persistently raised social and economic issues within the mass struggle that the civil rights movement became, were derided as ultra leftists, wreckers, trots and Looney lefties. Socialists veered between a full acceptance of the nationalist agenda or swallowing whole a form of British Imperialist socialism under the guise of an exotic form of

communism.

Out of all this confusion the Provisionals emerged from the ashes of 69 and the failure of the Official leadership to re-arm the North in a time of increasing political tension. The Provos rejected a reformist agenda and launched an armed campaign on the single issue of Brits Out. Later in 73/74 the Official Republican Movement split again and eventually the IRSP/INLA emerged to re-establish the Republican Socialist tradition that they felt had been betrayed by the Officials. The programme the IRSP then set out has still not yet been met. We have not yet attained a Broad Front, removed the Brits or established the Socialist Republic.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since the seventies and

there have been many changes. The Provisionals have accepted, albeit 30 years later, the reformist strategy first put forward by the Officials. The reason for armed struggle has gone and their goals can be achieved by political means and the growth of the catholic population. The Good Friday Agreement saw the Provisionals ditch one of the pillars of Republicanism, non-sectarianism when they accepted the sectarian headcount that gave them seats in the Stormont Cabinet.

This can all be very confusing for those who trust in leaderships and go for the personalities in politics. A trust in a Gerry, a Martin or even a Rauri will eventually lead to disillusionment. All of us as individuals are influenced not only by our parents and neighbourhood but also

by the interaction between our core beliefs and our actions. We are formed in specific historical and economic conditions. We all are in a sense prisoners of history and also of the organisations we are members of.

The Provisionals were an all class alliance merging militarists, disaffected urban nationalist youths and traditional nationalists from rural areas. During the seventies the alliance while capable of launching ferocious military attacks made no political progress. Sinn Fein in the 70's was a right wing pro catholic and anti-communist mouth piece for the IRA with the occasional radical articles to appeal to more left wing elements.

When the Hunger Strikes occurred the urban based northern seized

the leadership, swung the movement towards the left to soak up the militant radicalised working class youth, the growing republican minded women's groups and the radical intellectuals politicised by the mass actions around the hunger strikes.

During all this time regular contact was kept up with the British Intelligence services through various contacts. This was because the Provo leadership recognised that eventually they would have to do a deal with their enemy. They knew from the mid eighties that the continuation of the armed struggle was a road to nowhere.

The Armalite and Ballot Box strategy saw the Provisionals make many political gains. They were able to exercise a strangle hold

over most nationalist working class areas in the north and through the exercise of social and economic control which they had wrestled from the SDLP/Catholic Church were able to create a middle bureaucracy of supporters who formed the intellectual backbone for their control in the ghettos. All opposition whether militarily or politically was ruthlessly crushed within their areas of control.

Throughout all this they were able to retain the loyal support of their base because of their militancy and also their astute political leadership. This leadership was trusted. The development of their peace strategy was an advance from the Armalite etc strategy. It was strongly driven by their support base in the USA. The swing to the left of the early eighties was slowed, a

distancing began with anti-imperialist movements worldwide, the suits came in and the advisers multiplied. Now they were appealing to the emergent nationalist middle classes within the north and they began to occupy the ground that the SDLP had once walked on.

That is because they represent bourgeois Ireland. That is why they can occupy seats in a capitalist Government and introduce privatisation schemes into the educational system. Of course they will oppose corrupt practices and use radical phrases but their whole function now as a political organisation is to make Ireland a more effective and efficient place for international capital to invest in. That is the importance of the USA connections.

The working class of all countries are our friends and allies. The capitalists of all countries are our enemies. Capitalism is ruthless in its

Obviously the creation of one Republican Governmental system on the isle of Ireland will reduce bureaucracy make easier access for multinationals to Government and speed the integration of Ireland into the whole NATO defence scheme. This will be in spite of the desire of individual Republicans to keep Ireland neutral. Their subjective wishes will come up against the brutal logic of Imperialism and objective reality will always overcome subjective wishes.

Witness the response to the Columbian Three, the Turkish Hunger Strike and the September the 11th massacres. There is no way that their principal leaderships will be identified with any radical movements from now on. No matter how much that leadership may support the cause of the Turkish Hunger strikers they can not be seen to do so. Some of the middle tier leaderships will be allowed to associate and participate with safe leftist tinged causes but not the leadership. He who pays the piper calls the tune and be under no illusions the tune is now called from Washington.

That is not to say that the IRSP have all the answers. We don't. It is always easier to criticise than to put forward solutions. Since the return of the Republican Socialist Movement to its political roots following a bitter political and military struggle in the mid nineties we have been measured in our criticisms of other Republicans. While critical of the Good Friday Agreement and the political basis of the peace process we accepted the verdict of the people of Ireland as expressed in referenda and persuaded the leadership of the INLA to call an unconditional ceasefire. We are for peace. We are for politics. We are for the democratic road. We are against militarism.

But we are not for Republicans, or socialists for that matter, taking their seats in a capitalist Government. We are not for decommissioning and we are for the defence of working class areas from sectarian attacks.

Does that lead to political impotence? We don't believe so. Our politics have always been based on a class analysis and can be best summed up in the words of Seamus Costello, " I owe my allegiance to the working class".

The working class of all countries are our friends and allies. The capitalists of all countries are our enemies. Capitalism is ruthless in its

logic as it breaks down national barriers and creates a global economy. There can be no Socialist Republic built in Ireland in isolation. The idea of a socialist paradise isle surrounded by capitalist states is a fantasy. That is why republicans have always been internationalists from Tone to Connolly from O'Donnell to Costello. Republicanism itself was an import to Ireland from France.

What is going on today in Afghanistan, in Columbia, in Sierra Leone and Iraq, impinges on the day to day life of people in Ireland. In its relentless pursuit of profit modern day capitalism is no respecter of states or governments. Hence the creation of super states like the European Union.

It is in this context that we in the IRSP are internationalist. The international capital market profoundly affects the Irish working class. Many of the 1200 workers who have only recently been told that they are facing redundancies are instinctively aware of the internationalist nature of capitalism.

It is the task of socialists and Republicans to bring together the best elements of both republicanism and socialism and create an alliance of the dispossessed within this isle that can successfully challenge the cosy capitalist consensus that accepts the permanency of the capitalist system. The provisional movement has clearly shown by the actions of its leadership that it accepts that consensus. We do not.

An all class alliance of nationalist Ireland while it may weaken the unionist case also weakens the working class. It is a case of Labour must wait as De Valera said during the war of Independence. But now it is the current leaders of Sinn Fein who are saying labour must wait. We disagree. Labour that is the needs and aspirations of the Irish working class can not wait, must not wait. They are the only class capable of building a just and equitable society on this isle.

**That is why we repeat the call we made a number of years ago for the creation of a Republican Forum with which to rally the disorganised and demoralised forces of the left. There is a way forward for the Republican and socialist left and we intend to play our full part in rallying the Irish working class. If you are radical, republican and working class play your part. Join us in the struggle .**

**On to the Republic.**

## This is Republican Socialism!

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is an organisation created by and for working class people, to aid working class liberation in Ireland and internationally with others who share that common goal. The IRSP stands in the tradition of James Connolly, seeking an end to all forms of exploitation and the creation of a 32 county socialist republic, with the working class collectively owning the means of production, distribution, and exchange, as well as democratically administering society.

### Socialism

The socialism we embrace is the kind that liberates, not enslaves. We strive towards a society that functions to meet human needs, not the need for profit. Our socialism is a means of liberating our class from all forms of oppression, whether economic, political, religious, cultural or social. It is a socialism that envisions our class controlling their own destinies and that of the nation as a whole.

### National Liberation

The struggle for national liberation cannot be separated from the class struggle. Any attempt to isolate one from the other will result in failure. It is meaningless to speak of a free nation, if the overwhelming majority remain oppressed, and national sovereignty is lost through multinational corporate control of the economy just as much as by partition. At the same time, someone who refuses to challenge British imperialism in Ireland cannot claim to be fighting for socialism and the continuation of partition props up the divisions in the working class of Ireland that hold us back from our own liberation. We have no choice in whether or not we wish to consider the interconnection of the national and class questions, reality forces us to do so.

We define the national liberation struggle as that struggle which seeks to force a British military withdrawal from the occupied six counties. The destruction of the pro-British loyalist armed forces. The withdrawal of British political influence from all parts of Ireland. The ending the partition of the island of Ireland and the overturning of both the partitionist governments presently administering political affairs of Ireland. The gaining of collective economic control of the nation's resources by the nation as a whole and the eradication of any control or influence exercised by foreign capitalists over any aspect of the Irish economy. The recognition of a separate Irish cultural identity and the establishment of revolutionary 32-county socialist republic.

We aim to build a strong alliance in Irish society of our class in towns and cities, agricultural workers in the country-side, unemployed workers, working class refugees, linked as a movement internationally with other like-minded liberation struggles.

We firmly stand-by the struggle for a republic. On that we are inflexible, but our struggle for the republic is a means to an end. For us, the national liberation struggle is but an aspect of the struggle for socialism.

**Loyalism & Nationalism**  
We distinguish between loyalism and Protestantism. We recognise the right of everyone to their own religious beliefs, provided they do not use these beliefs to oppress others. We have no quarrel with Protestant workers and welcome them to join us in struggle. However, we stand totally opposed to the political

ideology of loyalism. Loyalism is a reactionary, sectarian and pro-imperialist ideology, with which we can make no compromise. We recognise that nationalism in the context of the Irish struggle is progressive, but we also recognise that nationalism can play a reactionary role. The national chauvinism of the Tories, National Front, etc. is counter-revolutionary and anathema to socialists. The nationalism of an oppressed country is vastly different from such reactionary jingoism. We support all struggles against imperialism throughout the world.

### Class mobilisation

Only by mobilising our class north and south - Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter - can the goal of national liberation and socialism be achieved. Workers have distinct interests as a class, ultimately opposed to any other class, we must join together as a class to win control of society.

### For a fighting union

As republican socialists, we take lesson from battles that have gone before us, in the community and in the workplace. We must reclaim our unions and organise the unorganised. We remain committed to the revolutionary industrial unionism of Larkin and Connolly. As republican socialists we see the creation of a fighting rank and file trade union movement as something that still holds potential and we support the building of a revolutionary shop stewards' movement.

### Equality

Our class faces daily, relentless assaults inflicted on us from many quarters and a constant onslaught of attempts to divide us. The IRSP oppose and fight against all forms of inequality and oppression, including that of women, travellers, lesbians, gays, or other sexual minorities, refugees, Africans, Asians, and any other oppressed sector of the working class. We oppose racism, Zionism, sexism, homophobia, national chauvinism, and anything else which divides our class. We support reproductive rights and unhindered access to contraception, including a woman's right to choose abortion. We are opposed to religious sectarianism and seek the complete separation of church and state and a secular society.

### Our Earth

The increasing destruction of our environment is due to mismanagement of industrialisation and the inevitable product of a system, which puts profit before all else, that is, capitalism. The IRSP is committed to sustainable and renewable energy sources, preservation of the ecology and biodiversity of our planet, with protection of all species and the promotion of a healthy environment for all people and animal life.

### Revolution not Reform

The IRSP believe that the present class system cannot be reformed out of existence. There exists no parliamentary road to socialism and the liberation of our class. We need to build an organised working class movement with the politics capable of leading the fight against capitalism. Our class are entitled to control over all the wealth of society and to obtain it through any means necessary.

If you agree with us, then we urge you to join the Irish Republican Socialist Party and help build a movement that can accomplish these aims and objectives. Be part of the Irish revolution!



# Republican Socialist Merchandise



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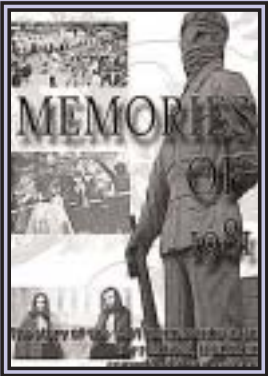
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## HUNGER STRIKE BOOK NOW ON SALE

A new booklet, "Memories of 1981", is now on sale. It was officially launched during the Celebration of Resistance Weekend in Derry. It includes biographies of the ten hunger strikers as well as an historic look at the use of hunger strike as a form of protest. It also includes eyewitness accounts of 1981 from friends, comrades and relatives of the hunger strikers.

It costs £3 and is available from:

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LIBERATION  
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# The right to choose

## Defending the Separation of Church and State

The recent Bill and the coming referendum on abortion raises a great many issues beyond the termination of unwanted pregnancies. What underlies the campaign for providing women with control over their own bodies and reproductive rights is a struggle for increased democracy within Irish society.

It is an issue of separating the law of the land from the moral strictures of any particular religious perspective and, as such, the right to abortion deserves the support of all working women and men.

It was the capitalist class, during the period when they were still a revolutionary class struggling against feudalism, that first put forward the concept of separating Church and State.

In the English Civil War (that nation's bourgeois revolution) this took the form of demanding the disenfranchising of the Anglican Church and the various political perspectives and class formations were expressed in the form of Presbyterians, Puritans, Baptists, Quakers, Ranters, and Fifth Monarchists.

In the post Enlightenment French and American revolutions, it took the form of anti-clericalism and fascination with classical paganism in the former and in Deism and secularism in the latter.

The capitalists cried out for the separation of Church and State at that time because the Church then formed a major component of the feudal system, with Bishops and Abbots the sacred version of earthly Princes, maintaining large estates. After the capitalists gained power and expropriated the land held by the Church, however, the zeal of the bourgeoisie for a secular state diminished.

Often, once they held the reins of power firmly in hand, the capitalists even found the teachings of the now docile churches to be useful in holding the workers in

line, as with the Catholic Church's opposition to the First International in Ireland, opposition to Larkin's unionising efforts, opposition to both the republicanism and socialism of James Connolly, and vilification of the Spanish Republic in its war with the Phalangists.

Despite the cooling of interest by the capitalists, the struggle for a secular state remains a keep facet of the fight for greater democracy within society. With the working people of all industrialised nations forming a majority of their countries citizens, as is the case in Ireland today, work-

with the right to control what happens to their bodies and this right cannot be taken away without robbing women of any real semblance of freedom.

If this or that church teaches that abortion represents a mortal sin, that is a matter for the believers of that faith to consider for themselves. It should not be legislated into a restriction on the personal liberty of others who have no such belief.

Those who share the Catholic Church's view that abortion is a mortal sin, remain free to refrain from any compulsion to have an abortion if they don't want one, but those who think differently should not be held to the theology they do not share by the dictates of the State.

Both the Labour Party, the Irish Family Planning Association have come down against the government plan, indicating it will recommend a "No" vote in the referendum, expected to go ahead in February.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has been on record as supporting a woman's unrestricted right to choose an abortion since the 1970s and in the past has publicised opportunities for women seeking abortions to travel to England to receive what their own nation denies them.

The abortion issue is just the tip of the iceberg, however. It is important that the Catholic Church in the 26 counties and various religious bodies in the six counties not be allowed to impose their theology on the State and thereby impose their rules and perspectives on Irish citizens who do not share those views.

Irish working women and men have a right to an unfettered option to divorce, with the ridiculous constraints now in place. They have a right to unrestricted access to contraceptives, including the "morning after pill" or an abortion. The educational systems of both the six and 26 coun-

### A NEEDLESS JOURNEY FOR THOUSANDS OF IRISH WOMEN EVERY YEAR



6,500 WOMEN TRAVELLED IN 2000

ers have a clear interest in promoting greater democracy.

It has even been said that socialism can be described as the extension of the concepts of democracy from the political sphere to the economic sphere as well.

Beyond this, women make up the majority of our class. Accordingly, it is essential that all socialists, regardless of their gender, join in the struggle to gain the complete emancipation of working women. Just as it is not possible to speak of the freedom of the Irish working class while Ireland as a nation remains oppressed and exploited by imperialism, it is not possible to speak of the liberation of Irish workers while the women of that class remain oppressed and exploited by sexism and restrictions on their right to control their reproductive systems.

Women are not incubators for children, they are human beings

## RUC ISSUE WEAPON USED TO KILL LOYALIST

The RUC/PSNI had yet another bad news day when they were forced to admit that one of their weapons was used to kill a leading loyalist in Strabane recently.

The RUC/PSNI claimed that the weapon was lost in the town in May 2000. It apparently fell out of

a landrover! The Heckler and Koch MP5 is a standard issue weapon to state repression forces throughout the world and it's loss is a serious blow to the RUC/PSNI. Following the death of this loyalist ex-prisoner there was much speculation as to who killed him, some of this specula-

tion was directed at the INLA. The Starry Plough has received no indication that the INLA were involved and therefore we are not prepared, as other media outlets have been, to wildly speculate as to who carried out the



Heckler and Koch MP5: Standard issue to RUC/PSNI

killing until such times as a claim of responsibility has been received. The IRSP in Strabane said that they are opposed to such killings.

### "GOVERNMENT HYPOCRITS" - (DARG)

A statement issued by Dublin Abortion Rights Groups described the 26 county administration as hypocrites.

A spokesperson said: "Dublin Abortion Rights Group condemns the attempt to deny suicidal women with crisis pregnancies the option of an abortion. The government is playing politics with the lives of very vulnerable women in order to retain the votes of four independent TDs.

"The government are hypocrites. If it is legal to receive information about abortion services in other countries and legal to travel abroad to avail of them, why should it not be legal to provide the same services here in Ireland?"

"100,000 women from Irish addresses have had legal abortions in Britain since 1985. These are our daughters, sisters, mothers and grandmothers."

"If they had attempted to have the very same abortions in Ireland they would have been criminalised; and under the proposed legislation would face up to 12 years in jail."

The spokesperson concluded: "Dublin Abortion Rights Group, along with pro-choice organisations all over Ireland, will campaign to defeat this anti-choice referendum."

**THE I.R.S.P. HAS CONSISTENTLY CAMPAIGNED FOR A WOMANS RIGHT TO CHOOSE ON THE ISSUE OF ABORTION. SOME CONTACT DETAILS ARE LISTED BELOW FOR ANYONE WHO IS IN A POSITION TO NEED THEM.**

### TERMINATION CLINICS REPRESENTATIVES:

Marie Stopes International  
Belfast 02890 235 161  
Marie Stopes Reproductive  
Choices Dublin (01) 830 0630  
British Pregnancy Advisory  
Service phone 0845-730-4030

### Irish Women's Abortion Support Group, London

pager 07666-767055 - from the Republic, dial 0044-7666-767055 (this group of Irish women living in London provides practical support for women traveling to London for abortions -- accomodation, lifts, etc.)

### Escort Charity, Liverpool

PO Box 2, Lark Lane, Liverpool  
L17 8FN  
phone:0151-727-3106  
email: liverpool\_escort@hotmail.com

(this group provides practical support for women traveling to Liverpool for abortions -- accomodation, lifts, etc.)

### Well Woman Centres Family Planning Clinics

67 Pembroke Rd., Dublin 4,  
phone 660-9860  
35 Lower Liffey St., Dublin 1,  
phone 872-8051  
Northside South Circular Rd.,  
Dublin 5, phone 848-4511  
10 Patrick St., Dun Laoghaire,  
phone 280-3206  
126 Mt Merrion Ave, phone 288-9838

### Strikers urinate for more pay

Hundreds of strikers urinated on a Government building in Romania to show their anger.

Members of the country's National Block Union are demanding more pay.

They urinated on the walls of the Ministry of Labour building in Bucharest after a march through the city.

About 15,000 union members took part in the march which ended in front of the Senate.

Evenimentul Zilei reports they insulted members of the government, calling them "transvestites" and "circus men".

### SHOPACHECK OFFICE DAMAGED IN FIRE ATTACK

An office belonging to the parasitical loan sharking company, Shopacheck, was damaged recently in Coleraine. The overnight attack came less than four weeks before Christmas and their busiest time of the year. This is the time of year that this company, and many others as well, descend into working class areas in search of vulnerable and hard up people so that they can ply their trade in greed. They are licenced loan sharks who have no scruples in terms of what amount of interest they demand in return for a loan.

One woman who spoke to the **Starry Plough** described getting a letter from Shopacheck offering her a £200 loan for payments of only £4 per week. Sounds good, too good to be true really. When the figures were calculated it was worked out that she would have to repay Shopacheck **£350!**

These incidents are not isolated. In every working class estate in Ireland, north or south, Catholic or Protestant, people are turning to these loan sharks for help in covering the purchase of expensive items that they would not normally be able to afford.

Shopacheck knows this and they also know that they don't have to compete with cheaper options because they know that the people that they target are mostly unemployed and on benefits and will not be able to get credit elsewhere.

An IRSP spokesperson, when asked by the Starry Plough to comment, described these companies as the lowest of the low. "These are companies licensed by the British Government to fleece the working class. They do not target the Malone Road for instance. It is about time these people got off our peoples backs.



LITREACHA DEARGA

# RED LETTERS

Starry Plough Readers Views

## STILL IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY

A Chara,

As the Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign gathers support and solidarity the world over, it has again completed yet another 92 page booklet titled 'In the Hands of the Enemy : Mark Barnsley's Struggle for Justice'. The book is a fully illustrated collection of writings by Mark, his family and a broad range of his supporters and fellow prisoners. Designed to give the reader a fuller understanding of Mark's case and his long campaign for justice, the many varied articles also give valuable insight into miscarriages of justice, the prison system, Mark's long history of political activism and his connection to the wider struggle for justice. The JFMBC believes this book makes powerful reading!

"Mark Barnsley is one of Britain's 'secret' political prisoners, a hostage of the State. In 1994 he was attacked by 15 middle-class students, and ended up sentenced to 12 years in prison for supposedly attacking them. This was no 'accidental' miscarriage of justice, but a calculated move by the British State to 'take out' a political activist, a long standing thorn in their side. In The Hands Of The Enemy takes over where Beaten Up, Fitted Up, Locked Up, the first Justice for Mark Barnsley pamphlet, left off. Using articles written by friends, com-

rades, fellow-prisoners, and by Mark himself, In The Hands Of The Enemy tells the story of a political prisoner described by former Prisons Minister Paul Boateng as "a major ringleader for prisoners unrest", and exposes the depths that the State will go to to deal with it's enemies. If, no matter how lightheartedly, you've ever classed yourself as an enemy of the State, you should read this before it's too late, and you too find yourself In The Hands Of The Enemy. " (quote taken from cover of booklet).

Despite the continued campaign of harassment by the British state and of their prison system, Mark remains as strong as ever: "Each day I'm held within the clutches of a thousand tyrants, big and small, who continue to do everything they can to break me. The abuses that I am subjected to should be condemned, and loudly, but ultimately they will make no difference, they will certainly never achieve their aim of bringing me to my knees. I remain defiant, and will continue to fight for justice until my dying breath." - Mark Barnsley, Wakefield Prison 2001.

We are asking friends and supporters of Mark's Campaign both in Ireland and internationally to order 'In The Hands Of The Enemy' by post, direct from the J.F.M.B. campaign or

review this book in other publications.help stock'In The Hands Of The Enemy' in your local bookshop/library etc. The Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign (Ireland) would like to thank The Starry Plough and its readers for their continued support of Mark Barnsley and his fight for Justice.

Yours in Struggle

Justice for Mark Barnsley (Ireland).  
c/o P.O. Box 1981, Derry, BT48 8GX, Ireland.  
barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com

IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY:Mark Barnsley's Struggle for Justice  
With an Introduction by former Political Prisoner John Barker

Available from October 2001.  
Paperback, 92 pages, Illustrated.  
ISBN: 1-873605-89-7

£6 (includes post & packing).  
Orders from outside Europe add £1 for post.

When ordering the book, please make cheques/Postal Orders payable to: 'Justice for Mark Barnsley'. Orders should be sent to: Justice for Mark Barnsley- PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX, England.

A personal reflection by a Dublin IRSP and anti-drugs activist. PART 2 OF 2

## THE DRUGS DON'T WORK

It was a major achievement in itself that communities united in a common goal to organise against their common enemy "Heroin" Smack had been eating at the heart and soul of this city for too long and ordinary people out of necessity got up off their knees and decided to fight back. Today the fight against heroin continues.

"Operation Dochas" was set up on the tides of emotion that swelled when Veronica Guerin was gunned down. Operation Dochas (hope) was a government sponsored public relations exercise designed to create an illusion, especially to the much better off in society that there was not a major drug problem despite the over whelming evidence to the contrary. In Dublin alone heroin has claimed hundreds of lives, created thousands of victims and divided families and communities alike.

Minister for Justise John O'Donohue publicly promised that every resource available to the state would be utilised to target known drug dealers when in reality the resources used were

of the Gardai and special branch variety who used their well honed skills to target and harass anti-drugs activists. The criminal assets bureau was set up in 1998 to seize the finances of those who amassed vast amounts of wealth from drug dealing and organised crime. Of the £20million seized not one penny has been redirected back into the communities from where it originated. Due to the public outcry over heroin kingpin "king scum" Tony Felloni who, despite having been caught red handed three times with heroin totaling £2million pounds, Minister for Justice John O'Donohue initiated a bail referendum which stipulated that anyone who committed an offence while on bail would be committed into custody. Anti drugs activists and Republicans actively campaigned for a no vote on the basis that such legislation would be used solely against us. Of the 49% of the electorate who bothered to go out and vote a yes vote succeeded. In the first 6 months of 1999 over £6million of heroin and cocaine was seized, of the 12 people arrested in connection with these seizures all were

released on their own bail pending direction from the DPP. When we marched on drug dealers, in reality it was just a short term solution of removing the immediate threat to the safety and welfare of our children. We should know that it is no solution to just kick a pusher on to the streets or force them into another community where the same problems arise again. Drugs are here and the question is "What do we do about them?"

Heroin, cocaine and ecstasy are the drugs that are found in the poorest areas of the city. This is no coincidence because we live in a system that has been grossly negligent to the needs of the people. Because of poverty and inequality people are used to seeing a bleak future being mapped out for them and drugs, especially heroin, is one of the escape routes available, especially when it's available at £10 a fix. Anti drugs campaigns cannot just concentrate on dealing with addicts and pushers. We must fight for the facilities which will get people off drugs and insure they stay off them. Proper facilities must be provided

in the areas most affected such as needle exchange and detox programmes with after care facilities as well as the social support required to recover from addiction. One of the key elements necessary in tackling drug addiction is education and for that reason drug education should be made compulsory in all primary and secondary schools as well as all government funded job training and creation schemes.

The fight against heroin in this city is a positive one, but we are dealing with a symptom of the real deal. It is just one part of the fight. We must all unite to fight the root causes of drug addiction ie; poverty, alienation and deprivation. And when this happens short term and long term strategies will combine as a formidable weapon where not only will we march on the drug pushers but also on those who hold the reigns of power in Leinster House where we will demand that they provide equal housing, health, education and employment opportunities.

ONWARD TO VICTORY!



### WORKING CLASS BELFAST ABANDONED

THE quality of life in west Belfast is spoilt by - among other things - groups of young people standing on street corners, and drunks keeping people awake for hours at night time and leaving the place absolutely filthy. Groups of youngsters - in particular those taking drink - standing on street corners are at best intimidating and at worst aggressive.

When walking alone past these groups of young people, I have often been laughed at and called names. Litter, cans and bottles have been thrown at me. All this without any provocations on my part.

This has happened also to lots of other people. I am young but this kind of experience must be terrifying for elderly people. When trying to get some sleep at night, I - and the whole neighbourhood - have been awakened by drunken people, party-going students and youngsters in particular.

One of the reasons I am writing you this letter is that last night - like countless others recently - the noise lasted for more than an hour. These drunks are totally uncaring for others - especially families with babies.

The streets of west Belfast are absolutely filthy with trash, cans and bottles lying everywhere. Even animals wouldn't live among such waste. I am sure my feelings are shared by the majority of your readers.

On the Malone Road, at least, one can walk at night time without being intimidated by youngsters standing on street corners like packs of dogs. One can sleep without being wakened by alcoholics, and the place is never allowed to become filthy.

Why do these conditions occur only in working class areas? The evidence is that working class communities have been abandoned by the authorities and have been left to drown in their own filth, booze, deprivation and despair.

The ordinary people of west Belfast and other working class areas are fed up with this. It's time to take collective action against this general wretchedness.

If those in power are unable or unwilling to do anything, we must stand up and act for ourselves.

LIAM O RUAIRC  
West Belfast

### "TRUE" REPUBLICANS

A Chara,  
As a keen follower of politics in Ireland and with a distinct leaning towards republicanism and the north I can only say I am dismayed at the various Republican groups and the terms they like to use about themselves and other republicans.

This letter was sparked by comments by Sinn Fein MP Pat Doherty who said that the people who killed a Loyalist in Strabane were not Republicans.

Does he know something we don't? What makes one a republican? Can he answer these two questions? I don't think he will somehow. Because I have my suspicions that this is part of Pat Doherty's attempts at promoting one version of Republicanism and deriding all others as "not Republican".

He is not the only one playing these "true republicans" games. Republican Sinn Fein have been doing this for years. Pat Doherty and Rauri Ó Brádaigh are talking crap and no-one will be taken in by this charade. My point is this, there are no layers of republicanism. You are either a republican or you are not. Pat Doherty has no right to say who is a republican and who is not. He does not speak for all republicans, just a section of the republican family that believes in the Stormont Assembly. Equally Rauri Ó Brádaigh cannot say with all honesty that the only true republicans are the ones in Republican Sinn Fein.

I believe that members of Sinn Fein, Republican Sinn Fein, the IRSP, 32 County Sovereignty Movement, ORM etc are all republicans of one hue or another. There are even some republicans in the SDLP! There are as many different ideas about what it means to be a republican as there are republicans.

Get rid of the arrogance Doherty and Ó Brádaigh so that we can all move forward as REPUBLICANS to a new Ireland of equals.

Republican, Doire

#### LITREACHA DEARGA

This is your page to create debate about the issues that affect the Working Class both at home and internationally. If you would like to contribute please send all correspondence to:

LITREACHA DEARGA  
Starry Plough  
PO Box 1981  
Derry  
BT 48 8GX  
IRELAND

or email:

starry\_plough@hotmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Please remember to keep your letter brief and to the point as the editorial collective reserves the right to edit it's length but not it's content.

**Insertions:**

If you would like to place an insertion into *Cuimhneamh* then please contact the *Starry Plough* with details as soon as possible before you want it to appear. Address is on page 2.

# Cuimhneamh

Fallen Volunteers and political activists remembered

## The Staff and Volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army remember with pride our comrades who gave their lives in the struggle for National Liberation and Socialism.

Vol. Ronnie Trainor Assassinated 15 Dec 75 Co. Armagh,  
Vol. Colm McNutt Killed in Action 12 Dec 77 Co. Derry,  
Vol. Roddy Carroll RUC Shoot-to-Kill 12 Dec 82 Co. Armagh, Vol. Seamus Grew RUC Shoot-to-Kill 12 Dec 82 Co. Armagh, Vol. Joe Craven Assassinated 5 Dec 83 Co. Antrim,  
Vol. John O'Reilly Assassinated 20 Jan 87 Co. Antrim,  
Vol. Thomas "Ta" Power Assassinated 20 Jan 87 Co. Antrim,  
Vol. Alex Patterson Killed in Action 12 Nov 90 Co. Tyrone, Vol. Gino Gallagher

Assassinated 30 Jan 96 Co. Antrim

## The Republican Socialist Prisoners of War in Maghaberry, Magilligan and Portlaoise, remember with sorrow and pride the revolutionaries who gave their lives to free Ireland's working class from the shackles of imperialism.

Vol. Ronnie Trainor Assassinated 15 Dec 75 Co. Armagh,  
Vol. Colm McNutt Killed in Action 12 Dec 77 Co. Derry,  
Vol. Roddy Carroll RUC Shoot-to-Kill 12 Dec 82 Co. Armagh, Vol. Seamus Grew RUC Shoot-to-Kill 12 Dec 82 Co. Armagh, Vol. Joe Craven Assassinated 5 Dec 83 Co. Antrim,  
Vol. John O'Reilly Assassinated 20 Jan 87 Co. Antrim,

Vol. Thomas "Ta" Power Assassinated 20 Jan 87 Co. Antrim,  
Vol. Alex Patterson Killed in Action 12 Nov 90 Co. Tyrone, Vol. Gino Gallagher Assassinated 30 Jan 96 Co. Antrim  
**The Ard Comhairle and membership of the Irish Republican Socialist Party remember with pride**

Vol. Ronnie Trainor Assassinated 15 Dec 75 Co. Armagh,  
Vol. Colm McNutt Killed in Action 12 Dec 77 Co. Derry,  
Vol. Roddy Carroll RUC Shoot-to-Kill 12 Dec 82 Co. Armagh, Vol. Seamus Grew RUC Shoot-to-Kill 12 Dec 82 Co. Armagh, Vol. Joe Craven Assassinated 5 Dec 83 Co. Antrim,  
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Vol. Thomas "Ta" Power Assassinated 20 Jan 87 Co. Antrim,  
Vol. Alex Patterson Killed in Action 12 Nov 90 Co. Tyrone,  
Vol. Gino Gallagher Assassinated 30 Jan 96 Co. Antrim

**The Derry City Cumann, IRSP, remember with pride, our comrades**  
INLA Volunteer Colm McNutt Killed on Active Service 12 December 1977  
Republican Socialist Activist Michael Montgomery, died 1 December 1984  
Hessy Phelan, Killed in New York, 21 January 1996

**They died for the liberation of their people, The Irish Working Class.**

## Obituary:

### Caitlin Hines

Irish Republican  
Socialist Activist  
23 January 1962  
- 27 November 2001

Caitlin Hines, an Irish Republican Socialist activist for nearly twenty years, died due to complications associated with lingering neurological problems from a stroke suffered in January 1984.

Caitlin was a well-known figure in the highly politicized arena of the San Francisco Punk Rock scene: a highly respected member of the punk community while still only 16 years old, columnist for Los Angeles's "Slash" magazine, and founding member of New Youth--a punk collective who provided alternatives to corporate concert promotion and, after the Clash played a benefit for them, published the "Little Pink Book," a collection of information on punk bands, clubs, record labels, and publications across North America, which

facilitated punk do-it-yourself efforts. She also helped to organise a punk benefit for Black Panther Geronimo Pratt years before his case became a cause for much of the Left.

In late 1980, inspired by the hunger strike, Caitlin helped organise a benefit for Irish POWs. Because of the renewed hunger strike, she continued as an Irish activist, working with the Irish Action Committee, then helping found the San Francisco H-Block/Armagh Committee, and finally joining the IRSP in late 1981.

Only just turned 22, in January 1984, Caitlin suffered a stroke from a burst blood vessel. She wasn't expected to survive the initial surgery and was in a coma for 30 days. She spent all 1984 in hospitals, undergoing rehabilitation, causing her to miss the founding of the Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America in St. Paul, Minnesota, but an IRSP representative there delivered a special message of support for Caitlin from the

Party.

Despite paralysis of her vocal chords, paralyzed optic muscles, lack of strength and sensation on her left side, and severely impaired balance, Caitlin returned to work in early 1985, after visiting Scotland, at New Years, where she met John MacLean's daughter Nan Milton and SRSN activists.

Caitlin returned to college, earning BA and MA degrees in Linguistics from San Francisco State University, where she became a key organiser against the Gulf War and was hugely successful in Linguistics. She presented papers at several international conferences, published three articles in scholarly journals and two of them later in books as well, and she organised a Linguistics conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Her primary focus in Linguistics was on the sexist notions in language used about women, writing two papers on 'women as dessert' and another on 'women as small animals'.

Then several years ago, she suffered a serious setback when new neurological damage developed. She lost her ability to swallow, finally relying on a duodenal tube into her abdomen for nourishment and became confined to a wheelchair. Throughout, she retained clarity of mind and her passion for the Republican Socialist cause. She always rode in the IRSCNA's annual annual St. Patrick's Day parade float and joined in the IRSCNA's annual wreath-laying at Easter.

The 27th of November 2001, Caitlin apparently collapsed while attempting to get into her wheelchair to answer the door, hitting her head during her fall. When her roommate rushed in with her therapist fifteen minutes later, they found her unconscious on the floor. Paramedics were able to get a pulse after nearly thirty minutes, but the damage was done from a lack of oxygen to her brain. She was put on life-support all night but failed to show any brain wave activity. Her mother stopped life support the next day, recognizing Caitlin's

struggle against adversity had, in reality, ended the previous afternoon. Caitlin will be cremated, as were her wishes.

Caitlin Hines:  
Irish Republican  
Socialist,  
working  
class  
activists,  
and  
accomplished  
academic  
in the  
field of  
Linguistics.  
She is  
remembered  
with pride and  
sorrow by her  
comrades and  
friends around the  
globe.

Peter Urban

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Turkish Hunger Strike Support Campaign

**Derry:** Protest every Saturday in Support of Turkish hunger strikers. 2.00pm Shipquay Street, beside Richmond Centre.

**Contact:** turkishhungerstrike@hotmail.com

Regular protests occur around the country each time a hunger striker dies. To find out more visit the website

<http://www.geocities.com/turkishhungerstrike/>

or contact your local committee.

They are:

**Dublin** - Solidarity with Hunger Strikers in Turkey can be contacted at turkishhungerstrike@ireland.com

**Belfast** - Turkish Hunger Strike Action Committee can be contacted at solidarity@ireland.com

They also have a website THSAC Website

**Derry** - Derry Committee of Solidarity with Hunger Strikers in Turkey can be contacted at turkishhungerstrike@hotmail.com  
Postal Address: P.O.Box 1981, BT48 8GX, Derry City.

**Omagh, Co Tyrone** - The campaign is co-ordinated by Ogra Shinn Fein and the 1981 Committee. More information from: babylonexpress@yahoo.co.uk

**Wicklow** - Wicklow Turkish Hunger Strike Solidarity Committee. Contact via the Dublin address: turkishhungerstrike@ireland.com

If none of these groups are near you please e-mail the Dublin address for updates. New groups are in the process of being formed.

## Bloody Sunday Anniversary

**Derry:** Bloody Sunday 30th Anniversary Week Long Programme of Events:

27th January - 3rd February 2002

Annual Commemoration Sunday 3rd February

Assemble Creggan Shops, Derry 2.30pm

Bring Flags and Banners

**London:** Bloody Sunday Commemoration (Check local press nearer time for details)

## Political Status Campaign

**London:** Political Status Ongoing Campaign. Regular protests. For details contact [statusnow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:statusnow@yahoo.co.uk)

To publicise an event contact the *Starry Plough*.  
Our contact details are on Page 2.

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The

An Camchéachta

# Starry Plough



Newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM!

Since September 11th....

# IT'S OPEN SEASON FOR IMPERIALIST FORCES

TURKEY, IRELAND, PALESTINE, SPAIN, ETC

Listening to US President Bush, the reality of what we are confronting could not have been plainer, though many Americans, including many in the Irish activist community of the US have yet to grasp the truth—the current US and British military campaign against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's organisation in Afghanistan is only the first round in a campaign that will seek to liquidate all armed opposition to the imperialist world order.

With the fall of the Soviet Union and its allied states, the US was left as the sole superpower in the world. Immediately thereafter, George Bush senior seized upon the opportunity to send a message to those nations still presenting an independent, anti-imperialist posture within the world, by launching its war on Iraq, which continues unabated to the present day.

Having succeeded in largely neutralising the greatest threat to its Zionist ally in the Middle East and finding a means to establish US military bases on the Arabian peninsula, as well as leaving PKK positions within Iraq open to attack by its Turkish allies, the war with Iraq also sent a message designed to hold other countries, such as North Korea, Libya, and Cuba in check.

Now, George W. Bush has launched the next offensive against the imperialist's remaining enemies, the various armed guerrilla movements and terrorist organisations around the globe. Having been provided with justification to go after two targets unlikely to draw tremendous sympathy within the broader anti-imperialist community—the reactionary Islamic fundamentalists now under attack in Afghanistan—the American President is moving swiftly to expand this action to neutralise others prepared to challenge

imperialism.

If is notable, for example, that when the British and US authorities moved to freeze the assets of over 30 of the world's "terrorist organisations", the list included the Real Irish Republican Army, the Basque ETA, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the International Sikh Youth Federation, Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Mujahedin-e Khalq Organisation, National Liberation Army, Palestinian Liberation Front, PFLP General Command, Revolutionary Nuclei, Revolutionary Organisation 17 November, Revolutionary People's Liberation Army/Front, Shining Path and most notably the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. None of these organisations are fundamentalist Islamicists. In fact, the PFLP is notable as secularists within the Arab world as

are several other of the Palestinian groups named. None are likely to have any links whatsoever to bin Laden's organisation, yet they have been singled out for inclusion in the first wave of a campaign to cut off funding to all armed enemies of imperialism.

The RUC accusing the Irish National Liberation Army of a murder, using a weapon claimed to be in the hands of the CIRA and after the INLA has been on cease-fire for over three years, may well be an attempt to extend this net even further, to impede financial support to the Irish Republican Socialist Movement as well.

If the present US/British military campaign is allowed to go forward unchecked and the associated assault on civil liberties continues to meet with no serious opposition, the imperialists will have succeeded in making it difficult

for anyone to challenge their monopoly over the use of armed force around the globe.

All anti-imperialists must recognise the serious threat being aimed at the heart of the organisations throughout the world prepared to direct armed resistance against the imperialist nations and their assets. Beyond that, we must collectively struggle to thwart the imperialists' attempts to remove the last enemy capable of inflicting armed attack against them, or those engaged in non-military resistance today, will find themselves subjected to similar tactics down the road.

**Republican Socialists call upon all anti-imperialists to recognise the campaign now having been launched and take all actions within their power to combat it, before it becomes too late.**

**THE VOICE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM!**