

Irish Political Status Committee

SPEAKERS

Francie Mackey
(Chair, 32 County
Sovereignty
Movement)

Mickey Óg Devine
(IRSP & son of 10th
Hunger Strike Martyr,
Mickey Devine)

Patricia Campbell
(Fourthwrite/
Republican Writers'
Group and former
activist anti-H Block/
Armagh Committee)

TAYAD (Relatives of
Current Turkish
Hunger Strikers)

- **BOOKSTALLS**,
including sale of
Memories of a
Hunger Strike CD
- **REFRESHMENTS**
- Grand Raffle for
POW handicrafts
- Solidarity
statements
- **QUESTIONS
& DISCUSSION**

PUBLIC MEETING



**Commemorate the 20th
anniversary of the 1981
IRISH HUNGER STRIKE!**

**Support the fight for
political status today!**

SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER

**6.30 pm CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square
London WC1 (nearest tube, Holborn)**

**SALUTE THE HUNGER STRIKE MARTYRS OF '81
SUPPORT THE POLITICAL PRISONERS OF TODAY**

BM Box 1981, London WC1N 3XX E-mail: statusnow@yahoo.co.uk

NO! TO IMPERIALIST WAR! NO! TO RECOLONISATION!

The Twin Towers went down and the Pentagon was hit. Within minutes, the myth of U.S. 'invincibility' got crushed under the concrete of these two imperialist giants of mass-destruction and super-exploitation. It took the U.S. officials no time to work out who was behind it. It was Bin Laden - one of their former henchmen and protégé. How did they figure it out? Nobody knows. Yet, the anti-terrorist rhetoric followed, threats were hurled, the ultimatum served: do as you are told or..... They got "no" for an answer. Would the U.S. take no for an answer. No way! Before we knew it the bombs went pounding down on the already tormented people of Afghanistan drilling into the wound deeper and deeper.

It is always the same pattern that the imperialists follow when deciding on yet another crusade against the oppressed people. To the fore goes their media-machine - the warmongering agents - whose task is to prepare the 'moral' ground for the onslaught. This is when you learn without mistake that the journalist's 'intellectualism' boils down to spreading the lies and hoaxes on behalf of imperialism's ruling classes in order to pave the way for the invasions and aggressions.

But it all felt easier for the U.S. this time around. Because it was the heart of the supposedly 'civilised' world that the so-called 'terrorists' were targeting on this occasion, imperialists are convinced they have the support of the people of the West on their side. In the name of truth and justice, and in the interests of the solution let's prove them wrong. Let us not forget. It was the first strike of this sort on U.S. soil, but the U.S. have 200 years of genocide on the record.

With this in mind, what do we say when the imperialists try to rally us behind their "war on terrorism" call. FORGET IT! We will not answer the call of those who have been for over 10 years now terrorising our sisters and brothers in Iraq, where hundreds of thousands were massacred in the never-ending bombing campaign, which does not even make a secondary news item any longer. Up to 2,000,000 people, most of them children, have been murdered by the monstrous sanctions imposed on Iraq by the West.

Immediately following the 11 September strike the imperialists in U.S., Britain, and across the imperialist hemisphere have unleashed their repressive police, law and justice apparatus to silence people who will not be blinded nor fooled. Their mission is to restrict drastically our so-called 'democracy and freedom' or to ban us all together. But we will not be silenced by the 'anti-terrorist laws' of the Special Branches and judges whose 'justice' boils down to how many black and nothing-to-lose people they frame and incarcerate for life or send to death.

And we will not cry for the butchers of the Pentagon whose biological and chemical weapons, stealth-bombers, B-52s, cluster bombs, (depleted) uranium, daisy cutters, or however bombastically they name their weaponry of mass-destruction, have sown death in every land that does not constitute the imperialist block. Nor will we buy the story which the self-serving and vainglorious ministers and politicians, such as Blair and Bush - to name the two top criminals - are trying to sell us, how the mass slaughter of the innocent has to do with 'defending civilisation and democracy, serving justice and equal-opportunity-for-all cause'.

For we know better. This is why we stand with the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed such as the Palestinian people - the entire nation made and kept homeless by the two notorious partners in crime - imperialism and Zionism. For the Palestinian people we cry - never for the stockbrokers and bankers (such as those who used to sit in the luxurious offices of the World Trade Centre) - the parasites and robbers 'blessed' with the power of deciding the destiny of the millions of people around the globe with the single press of a button. Each time there is a click somewhere in the poor part of the world the despair of the masses deepens and they get pushed even closer to the precipice.

Britain's willingness to fully assist the United States of Aggression in whatever genocidal profit-grabbing mission it embarks on is more than apparent. In the last ten years, there were (and still are) Iraq, Yugoslavia, and now Afghanistan. But, make no mistake, it was always reciprocal. Britain has been persistently aided and abetted by the United States in her pogrom against Irish nationalists. The FBI has been on the case of Irish Republicans as much as MI5 and has all along provided information on them to Britain. Moreover, Republicans have been jailed in the States for daring to fight British imperialism, (for the U.S. state knows that to successfully fight one imperialist is to weaken the whole of the imperialist order), or they have been extradited to be locked up in British jails.

The U.S. has now outlawed some of the organisations and groups who do not go along with the 'peace process' and did not sign up to the Good Friday Agreement. They closed down Irish Radio Stations, and even more repressively clamped down on Irish activists who are committed to the cause of a United Ireland. But, they have gone even further than that. They have brought in the new 'anti-terrorist' law, which does not distinguish between those they classify as 'terrorists' and those who defend the right of a people to fight oppression without necessarily agreeing with their methods. So, according to them, we are all 'terrorists' now.

Now the truth is that, unlike Irish Republicans, the Taliban can hardly be classified as freedom fighters of the national liberation movement. This however should not confuse us. Our focus should be on the way the imperialist terrorists operate. They operate on the principle of self-given absolute power to impose oppressive regimes into power (such as Taliban) and to bring them down at will. In the process they massacre masses of people, destroy entire countries and throw the lives of millions of people into total despair. So we say - down with imperialism!

The Irish Political Status Committee reiterates its anti-imperialist position and stands firmly against the U.S. - British aggression in Afghanistan, Palestine, Ireland or anywhere else, no matter what the pretext.