

Making Shell Feel The Heat

éirígí activists from across the country played a central role in achieving the suspension of work at Shell's proposed Bellanaboy refinery on November 9.

Members travelled to west Mayo from Belfast, Dublin, Derry, Tipperary and elsewhere to take part in the national Day of Action called by the local community in conjunction with the Shell to Sea campaign.

Once on the road at Bellanaboy, the natural resource activists, who numbered in the region of 300, deployed successful sit-down tactics to prevent supplies entering Shell's building site.

The one truck that attempted to break the blockade took over an hour to cover less than a mile of the 'oil road', as Gardaí engaged in the laborious process of removing the determined protestors from its path.

However, the task of putting a temporary halt to Shell's theft came at a cost.

Two éirígí members were arrested while Gary Ronaghan, a republican who had travelled with the éirígí contingent, was injured when his foot was trapped beneath the wheel of the lone truck after he was pushed to the ground by Gardaí.

Dominic McGlinchey from south Derry and Rab Jackson from Belfast will appear in court this week charged with obstruction.

The fact that 300 people travelled to Bellanaboy for 7.30am on November 9 was proof that, one year on from the Garda baton charges, the Erris community and the Shell to Sea campaign will not be intimidated.

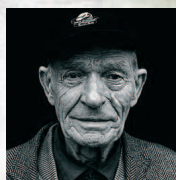
The successful blockade is further proof, if any were needed, that we are as determined as ever to defend the right of the people of Ireland to reclaim their ownership of their natural resources.

The concerned citizens of Ireland are going nowhere
- Shell and their goons would be advised to take this into account.



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clár ábhair



Bob Doyle
- The weapons of victory

Campaigns
update



éiríгі campaigns update

Natural Resources

- Bellenaboy and Dublin actions

éiríгі activists continued the campaign to prevent the giveaway of Ireland's natural resources in October by participating in a number of protests across the country. On October 12th, members of the party participated in protests at the proposed Ballinaboy refinery site where local farmers returned fencing that Shell had been previously placed on their lands.



• Local activists return Shells illegal installation

éiríгі also held solidarity pickets of Shell garages across Dublin on November 1st in preparation for a large mobilisation to Mayo on November 9th.



• The writings on the wall in Dublin



• éiríгі activists on the picket-line

Occupation news

October 16 - Pro-British parties block Irish language bill.

The consolidation of the bigoted nature of the Six County state continued apace in October with the announcement that Irish language speakers will have their rights denied for the foreseeable future.

DUP minister for culture Edwin Poots ruled out the introduction of an Irish language act, for which cultural activists have been campaigning for a number of years.

The British government announced their intention to implement an Irish language act last year but then held off on passing the relevant legislation until the restoration of their Stormont institutions.

It is widely believed they instigated this delay to ensure that a unionist veto in the Six County assembly would scupper any act.



• Edwin Poots

October 8 - Colonial police allow sectarian assault.

The Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition has described sectarian attacks on two young catholic men in Portadown during October as a direct product of unacceptable, partisan policing.

It is understood that the Police Ombudsman's office in the Six Counties is now investigating the RUC-PSNI's behaviour in the lead up to, during, and after both attacks.

One young man, received severe facial injuries and a second catholic man, who went to the aid of the first attack victim, was also set upon and kicked and beaten by up to a dozen assailants. The unionist gang responsible had been seen roaming around the area for a considerable length of time before the two attacks. The area where the attack took place has witnessed dozens of similar incidents over the years, including the murder of catholic man, Robert Hamill, in 1997



• RUC-PSNI

Bob Doyle on the weapons of victory

In August of this year west Belfast hosted the Anti-Racism World Cup as part of the internationally renowned Féile an Phobail.

The annual soccer event brought teams from the Congo, the Basque Country, Palestine, Italy, England, Catalonia, Kurdistan and Germany together with their Irish counterparts in a display of international solidarity in opposition to fascism and bigotry.

In a fitting tribute to one of the most inspiring examples of international solidarity in human history, Bob Doyle, an Irish veteran of the International Brigades who fought in defence of the Spanish Republic in the 1930s, gave the following oration during the World Cup.

"Hello everyone.

I'm an ex-member of the Dublin Brigade of the IRA.

I was born in 1916, in Dublin's north side inner city but when I was five I was put into an orphanage with my sister, and I spent the next eight years in county Wicklow, working on farms and getting a very limited education from nuns. They were my first experience of real oppression.

As a teenager I joined the IRA and was trained by Kit Conway, a veteran of the War of Independence and the Civil War. In 1934 with Peadar O'Donnell, Frank Ryan and Kit, I and many other volunteers left to set up the Republican Congress.

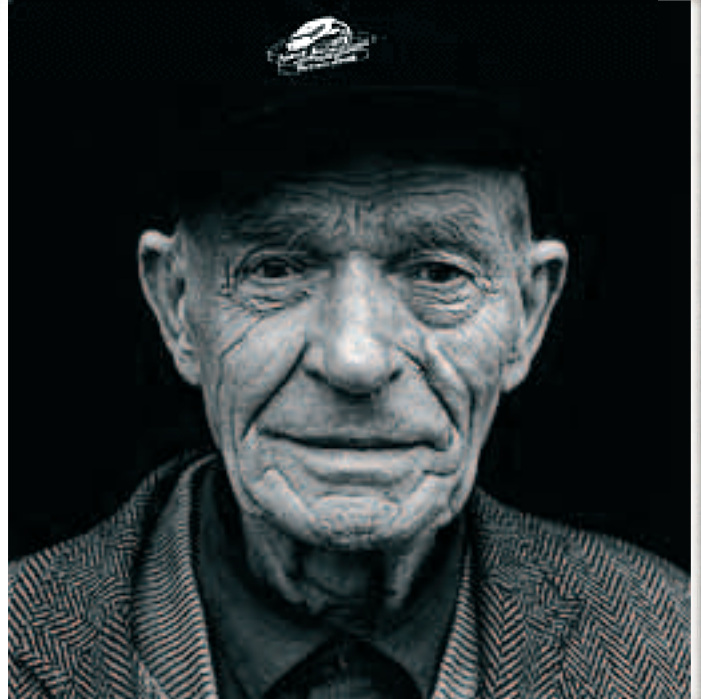
We knew the time had come when the struggle was no longer simply about nationalism but had to become one for the people in the Free State who were facing oppression and injustice. We were still republicans but now we became social revolutionaries also.

The tactics we developed were organising in support of strikes for union recognition, fighting the evictions of slum tenants, as well as against the Blueshirts on the streets, and against the growth of extreme right-wing policies during the economic crisis of the 1930s.

These struggles meant that we had to form broad coalitions with other groups, who might have differed from us in the past, but who now shared our aims - the fight against the rising tide of fascism, and for social justice in our country.

Had we stayed on in the IRA as it then was, we would have had to remain merely nationalists, like many of the landlords and employers we were now opposing. Our politics were now those of the unemployed, the workers, the small farmers being driven off the land, and the families facing evictions.

In 1936 we realised that the fight was being fought outside Ireland also, sometimes even more brutally and with greater consequences, above all in Spain. This is what led me and my ex-IRA comrades to the International Brigades.



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