



Sinn Féin

Kneeling at the Altar of Imperialism by Themselves Alone



For genuine Irish Republicans, there was no surprise when the First Minister of the British Occupation of Ireland, Michelle O'Neill announced that she would participate in a commemoration for British Imperialist soldiers at the cenotaph in Belfast, side by side with the Colonial Administration in Ireland, the British Army and their colonial militia the RUC.

Sinn Féin, since the treaty of surrender in 1998 have become a key component of British Rule in the Occupied Six Counties.

While there was no surprise, there was genuine anger at the actions of Michelle O'Neill and Sinn Féin who while kneeling at the altar of Imperialism in Ireland claim to still be Republicans out the other sides of their mouth.

This anger was expressed in a passionate and dignified way by more than 100 members of the families of our Republican dead from

Tyrone, in an open letter to the Irish News, resolutely condemning the British First Minister and the actions of Sinn Féin. The letter raised the fact that those IRA Volunteers who had fought and died, along side the innocent Irish Civilians gunned down by British Forces had been killed 'in their own country by a foreign force that had no right to be here'. That Britain has no right to be in Ireland is a basic Republican principle that Sinn Féin seems to forget. The letter goes on to state; *'Have you all totally lost the run of yourselves or is it really power at any cost? Because when you get to the pinnacle of wherever it is you want to be you'll have compromised so much, you'll be no different from the staters and Blueshirts that executed republicans and hounded those who held dear to the words and sacrifices of Tone, Connolly, Pearse, Sands, and Hurson.'*

Other Republicans went further, taking direct action to resist the actions of Sinn Féin. As Michelle O'Neill stood shoulder to shoulder with the British Forces of Occupation in Belfast, Revolutionary Irish Republican Activists in Tyrone hung a large banner on the office of Michelle O'Neill emblazoned with a Blood-Soaked Imperialist Poppy and bloody hand prints symbolic of all those killed by British Imperialism in Ireland and in their ongoing wars of conquest around the world.

This action, which was carried out by members of Anti Imperialist Action, received national and international coverage in the mainstream media and forced Michelle O'Neill to admit that she understood exactly why Republicans opposed her actions. Britain's First Minister subsequently cancelled her attendance at a British Remembrance Ceremony at the colonial parliament at Stormont.

A month is proving a long and eventful time in political developments both in Ireland and around the World. As we go to print there are strong protests in Belfast against the presence of leading US Imperialist Hilary Clinton who is sharing a platform with a host of British and pro Imperialists in Queens University including Sinn Féin. Word is breaking that there have been a number of arrests at the anti-imperialist protest and that at least 3 people have been charged. Socialist Republicans are of course to the fore in this protest and we send our solidarity to those arrested and charged. Foreign Imperialists, no matter what flag they fly will never be welcome in Ireland.

Palestine and Lebanon continue to resist the Zionist and Imperialist onslaught against their people. The Revolutionary Armed Struggle being waged by the Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance and being supported by the axis of Resistance particularly Ansarallah in Yemen and the Iraqi Resistance, is inspiring the world and without question has become the leading Revolutionary Armed Struggle in the World, demonstrating how a unified national Resistance can greatly advance a revolutionary situation in a country. The Palestinian Resistance is also demonstrating with great effect in Gaza, just as the IRA and INLA previously has done on the streets of Belfast and Derry, that a protracted armed struggle can be waged in the urban environment.

In Ireland, November 2024 marks an important anniversary in the current ongoing Armed Campaign against the ongoing British Occupation. This month marks a full two years that a Republican Military Operation has been carried out in the Occupied Six Counties. That the Revolutionary Armed Struggle in Ireland is once again on the rise can be understood when the number of actions over recent months by Armed Republicans is compared to the number of operations carried out by the New People's Army in the Philippines, one of the most advanced Revolutionary forces in the world. According to reports being carried by this paper, the Volunteer Soldiers of the Irish and Filipino Resistance both carried out at least 6 Military Operations in the last 4 weeks. When the

might of British Imperialism, The Free State and the Corporate Media are attempting to portray the Armed Campaign in Ireland as over, this comparison is worth considering and taking note of.

The Free State Election is in full swing as the establishment parties are vieing for who gets to administer the 26 counties on behalf of Imperialism. In Response, Socialist Republicans across the state are engaged in a community-based campaign to encourage a boycott of the Election and instead raising the objective of achieving the All-Ireland Republic, Proclaimed in 1916. Socialist Republicans are also playing a leading role in the ongoing Palestinian Solidarity Campaign ensuring the Revolutionary line is unrepentantly put forward and are playing leading roles in the fight for Housing, against Homelessness and in the organisation of the Anti-Fascist Forces that are necessary for the defeat of the foreign back but still miniscule Irish Fascist Organisations attempting to gain a foothold. The direct actions by Republicans in Dundalk in recent weeks and months have demonstrated for anyone who may have doubted it, that the only way to defeat fascism is to beat it off the streets. It is the hope of this newspaper that similar and significant victories will be won against the fascist agitators across the country in the time ahead.

December as always for Republicans will mark POW month, and we encourage all our readers and supporters wherever you are do what you can next month to raise the plight of Republican POWs being held in gaols across Ireland by Britain and the Free State. For as long as our struggle continues there are Irishmen and Women who will face arrest and the prison cell for their commitment to National Liberation and its important that the Republican Family makes an extra effort each December to support our Republican POWs.

Proletarian



Above: McDonald lays a wreath for British soldiers in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.



Right: AIA action against McDonald's Office.

Not to be outdone in the pro-Imperialist Olympics by her deputy or the other members of the Free State establishment, the Sinn Féin Leader was front and centre at a memorial service for the British forces of Occupation in Ireland held in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and organised by the British Legion. This event also honours serving members of the British Military and the RUC, those imperialist forces that continue to occupy our country and wage a low intensity war against the Republican community every day. Mary Lou took the current Free State Election campaign as an opportunity to further distance herself and Sinn Féin from the legitimate Armed Struggle for Irish National Liberation by stating today's incarnation of Sinn Féin cannot be held accountable for the actions of the IRA.

In response to what was clearly a veiled attack on the memory of the IRA Volunteers that have fought and died for Irish National Liberation in every generation since 1916, Republican Activists in Dublin

took direct action against Mary Lou McDonald, painting 'Brit Lackey' in large letters at her office on Aimens Street in Dublin. In the aftermath of this action, which has been widely supported by genuine Republicans, the revolutionary Irish Socialist Republican organisation, Anti Imperialist Action released video footage online through telegram. An accompanying statement said, *"Mary Lou Mc Donald presides over a party who accept the British Occupation and actively administer it. A party that upholds the Unionist Veto and calls on the public to inform on Irish Republican Activists. Sinn Féin is not a Republican Party- they stand with the oppressor. No Republican should have anything to do with Sinn Féin. Instead, it is the duty of all Republicans to continue the struggle for National Liberation until Victory and the Reestablishment of the 32 County People's Republic as Proclaimed in Arms in 1916."*

All genuine and traditional Irish Republicans will agree with the actions and statements of Anti Imperialist Action. However,

some may be reluctant to call out Sinn Féin in this manner, believing that in-fighting in the Republican family serves no one. This is a wrong line. While it is correct that Republicans should focus their action of British Imperialism and the Free State Establishment, Sinn Féin is now part and parcel of how the occupation maintains its grip on Ireland. Sinn Féin is not a Republican party. At best it is a Nationalist party with a vague and diminishing aspiration for National Liberation. But because Sinn Féin continues to refer to itself as Republican, and is portrayed as such in the mainstream media, this revisionism has to be fought and defeated in much the same way as Republicans of previous generations had to expose Fianna Fáil and the Stickies, so as to assert the Revolutionary Republican Line and ensure our young people are not led up the garden path by false promises and double speak.



WAR NEWS

'If ever you shoulder a rifle, let it be for Ireland' - Cmdt General James Connolly, ICA.



'I believe that the only way to unseat them [British Imperialism] is to use Violence and more Violence and to rally the Irish People, wherever they might be, in England and in America to support this cause. I would like to see it [the Armed Campaign] run on the lines of violent, well-planned action in terms not merely of Guerrilla Warfare, but aimed at disrupting the civil administration of the Six Counties making it impossible for the government in the Six Counties to continue to function, in other words for that government to collapse.' - Irish Socialist Republican and guerilla commander Joe Christle, speaking in 1962.

For exactly 24 months, since November 2022, there has been at least one Military Operation carried out by Irish Republicans each month and in most months, there have been several such operations reported on. While many of these actions are reported in the mainstream media, they tend to be reported as unrelated or sporadic in nature. Despite this narrative lie put out in the establishment and the corporate media, a deliberate propaganda tactic devised by British Imperialism in Ireland, the facts speak to a sustained, currently low intensity, but growing campaign by several different Republican Armies over the last 2 years. These Republican military operations should be considered as part of a current Republican Campaign against the British Occupation of Ireland. It will be stated that campaign is being waged at a lower ebb than previous campaigns, but the very fact that the revolutionary armed struggle continues in 2024 and has been waged, unbroken for a sustained period of 2 years against one of the worlds leading imperialist powers in victory for revolutionary Irish Republicanism in and of itself. Revolutionary Irish Republicanism has not and cannot be defeated. The current armed actions and developing campaign demonstrate this.

Some of the most recent actions in this campaign, as reported in the mainstream media include:



September 25 - The British Army and RUC carry out operations in the Carnhill area of Derry following the discovery of a number of pipe bombs.

October 7 - The British Army carried out several controlled explosions on a device located at Dunsilly between Junction 1 and Junction 2 of the M22 Motorway in Antrim.

October 28- The British Army carried out a controlled explosion on a device close to the courthouse in Downpatrick, County Down. The incident saw large numbers of the British Army on the streets backed up by the RUC and resulted in the Gaol Lane area being closed off for several hours.



British bomb squad, Downpatricks.

November 2 - The British Army and RUC closed Hazelbrook Park in Newtownabbey, where they had located a device which was removed by the British Army for further examination. Yet again the British Army were on the streets of an Irish town despite the claims of some that the Occupation has finished.

November 4 - A Pipe Bomb is put through the window of a house on Limewood Street, Derry resulting in an operation by the British Army and the RUC to remove the device. The mainstream media has reported that it is believed this device targeted Michael McGonagle, a former Sinn Féin press officer, now a convicted Paedophile.

November 5 - The RUC are called to the scene of a security alert in the Maplebrook Court area of Coalisland, County Tyrone and evacuated residents from their homes for several hours.

MI5 Step Up Targeting Of Republicans Across Ireland

In recent weeks there have been increasing reports of British Military Intelligence targeting Republican activists across Ireland. As has long been known, MI5 operate and are in control of policing across all 32 counties of Ireland and this was highlighted by a recent approach made to an Irish Republican in Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Republican activists in Derry, Occupied Ireland have also come in for particular targeting by MI5 with two young Republicans recently being approached and given £200 each by MI5 agents in what was a blatant effort to recruit them. MI5 then stepped up the targeting of Derry Republicans by sending text messages directly to the phones of Republican activists and their family members in an attempt to bring psychological pressure on the activists to end their involvement in the struggle for National Liberation and Socialist Revolution.

While British Imperialism pretends it is not at war in Ireland, the actions of MI5 in

recent weeks demonstrate that the British remain very much at war with Irish Republicans and it demonstrates a level of desperation on behalf of the Imperialists that despite all their machinations, despite all the resources they have thrown into defeating Irish Republicanism and finally pacifying Ireland for the empire, Irish Republicans remain committed and capable of resisting their presence in our country until our inevitable victory.

Anti Imperialist Action and An Phoblacht Abú extend our solidarity to all who have been approached by MI5 and we call on all who are approached to come forward and expose the shadowy actions of British Military Intelligence so as Republicans can drag them into the light where they are unable to operate. Republican activists can contact us in confidence if they are approached by British intelligence services, or failing that, we would advise you to approach a solicitor.



British intelligence agent approaching members of Saoradh in Derry.

NATO TERRORISTS OPPOSED IN SHANNON



On Sunday November 17, members of Anti Imperialist Action Limerick attended a protest at Shannon Airport to resist the presence of NATO in Ireland and to support the Palestinian People against the ongoing NATO backed Zionist war of genocide.

While at the march and protest the Republican activists took part in a sit down protest that was violently attacked by the Garda Public Order Unit. Several Republicans were assaulted and eight Pro Palestinian Activists have been arrested and charged.

In a statement, the Republican group stated that "AIA commends all those who travelled to Shannon to highlight the ongoing occupation of the Airport by NATO. We condemn the actions of the Garda Riot Squad in defending their Imperialist masters and we stand in solidarity with all those assaulted and arrested.

NATO has no right to be in Ireland or to wage war on the Palestinian People. As the demonstration shows, there is a growing number of Irish People ready and willing to take direct action against the presence of NATO in Ireland and Irish Republicans are rightly at the front of this people's Movement.

In the words of the great Socialist Republican leader Seamus Costello, "*No Foreign Army, under no matter what flag, will ever garrison Ireland in Peace!*"

KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION 2024

On November 3, Revolutionary Irish Socialist Republicans from across South Leinster and further afield gathered in Rathvilly, Co. Carlow for the Annual Vol. Kevin Barry Commemoration organised by Anti Imperialist Action Ireland.

The following is the main oration delivered at the very well attended, event. It should be studied by all Revolutionary Republicans:



Fáilte a chairde go dtí an chomóradh ceithre bliain is céad do Chaoimhín de Barra.

Comrades, welcome to this commemoration for Volunteer Kevin Barry, who on the 1st of November 1920 was brutally murdered at the hands of the British Occupier. Our tribute to him today is for his brave actions as a republican soldier, but also a broader reflection on what Kevin Barry exemplifies and demonstrates of the republican movement and its struggle for Irish Freedom.

The republican movement is no stranger to martyrdom and sacrifice, our tradition of commemorating those who have thread the path before is ingrained in us. And it's exactly this tradition which counts as one of the factors which radicalised young Kevin Barry who at the age of 13 attended a commemoration for the Manchester Martyrs in November 1915 at the Mansion House, in Dublin.

Barry, who was born in Dublin on the 20th January 1902, but spent a significant amount of his youth in his mother's native home in Co. Carlow where his family owned a farm in Hacketstown and attended National School where we are today, Rathvilly. He demonstrated from an early age a fierce intelligence and an even fiercer commitment to the republic. In one of his Latin copybooks his Latin exercises are bordered, written in various types of handwriting, 'Up the republic, up the republic, up the republic'

In September 1920, Barry as part of the Dublin brigade of the IRA was part of a raid on a British army van that was scheduled to collect bread from Monks Bakery on Church Street. During the ambush a shoot out ensued resulting in Barry's arrest. During this action he and the other volunteers had successfully killed 3 British soldiers, said to be one of the first IRA attacks since the Easter Rising to cause British fatalities. Barry was captured, swiftly court martialled, brutally tor-

tured, interrogated and sentenced to death.

The execution of Barry marked a defining moment in the Republican struggle for a number of key reasons

First, the further definition of political status and criminalisation of republicans as they fight the enemy force of British colonialism. Protests on behalf of Barry argued the case that Barry was a prisoner of war in the ongoing struggle for Irish independence. A war which the British refused to recognise. Their erasure of our language, our names, our folklore and of course of our ancestors through the ages extends to trying to erase the blows we have dealt their empire throughout the years, in a deluded haze of greed and xenophobia. The vilification of republicans as criminals and terrorists follows the logic of supremacy espoused by any empire of terror.

Barry, following the Republican line, refused to recognise any form of law and order such an entity might promote, and so they hanged him for this. Secondly, that the coloniser in the face of human ingenuity and bravery can only resort to brute force and savagery. For the enforcers of such crimes in our country have never been able to fathom the depth of determination and love that has possessed every single soldier of the republic. This tactic of blind, brute force is cynically reproduced in the zionist terrorising of Palestine, unwilling to face the bravery and fortitude of the Palestinian resistance they resort to committing genocide of men, women and children, torturing and humiliating Palestinian prisoners all the while crying back to their US handlers to prop up their crumbling state.

The British government in their decision to execute Barry was right to feel threatened by him and any other volunteer. The might of an empire is built on their self belief in their own supremacy

over the people they keep under foot. It is this core tenant of an empire which is often the source of their downfall. The intelligence and commitment of our martyrs are wholly unimaginable to the British, which has allowed us to deal blow after blow over the decades. Barry was committed to the Republican cause and knew the great price that this incurred, certainly because the hunger striker Terence MacSwiney had died shortly before Barry. Whose words sum up this miscalculation of force made by the British:

"It is not those who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will conquer."

To honour Kevin Barry we must follow in his steadfast and dedicated legacy. This means remaining true to the republic of 1916, and to not betray our cause, comrades or martyrs before us with dirty deals made with the enemy by traitors.

Barry himself was radicalised by attending a commemoration for the Manchester Martyrs. As we all come together today to commemorate his slaughter at the hands of British imperialism, we remember his life as an active soldier for the republic. To end this oration however, I would like to end end with the image of Kevin Barry, being attentive and moved (as we are today) by the actions of those Fenian's before him back in 1915 and remember that spirit and determination stayed with him five years on in September 1920, onwards from all our martyrs, onwards to the immortal dream we are striving towards.

**"His end! No end to lives like his;
With us he lives always."
(Poem by Constance Markievicz)**

1913: IRISH CITIZEN ARMY ESTABLISHED

November 13 2024 marked the 111th Anniversary of the establishment of the Irish Citizen Army at a rally at Liberty Hall.

The rally was called by James Connolly and the ITGWU demand the release of Jim Larkin during the height of the Lockout. The formation of the Irish Citizen Army took place before the formation of Óglaigh na h-Éireann and both groups would later go on to organise a broad front to fight the British empire, known as the Army of the Irish Republic, or the IRA.

At the rally, James Connolly addressed the crowd saying "The next time we are out for a march I want to be accompanied by four battalions of our own men". We want our men to be trained and drilled, so that when it comes to a pinch, they will be able to handle a rifle" When he raised the call for recruits, thousands of hands went into the air and the ICA was born.

The ICA first mustered at Croydon Park on November 23, and began to protect workers marches and rallies during the lockout armed with sledgehammer handles. Attacks on the workers soon

stopped.

The ICA also acted to prevent evictions as well as organising to confront British Rule. The Army played a key role in the 1916 Rising, with a number of Volunteers giving their lives for the Republic while fighting as a constituent part the Army of the Republic (IRA). It is important but often overlooked that the ICA remained active in the fight for national liberation after the rising, developing a close relationship with the IRA and working on arms procurement, intelligence operations, supporting the working class and directly engaging in military operations against Brit Imperialism.

Lenin described the Irish Citizen Army as the first Red Army in Europe and in 1934 the ICA was involved in the establishment of the Republican Congress, becoming its armed Wing and later playing an important role in organising Irishmen to go to Spain to fight Fascism.

Today the Green and Yellow flag of the Irish Citizen Army, the Starry Plough, continues to be the standard of Irish Socialist Republicanism in the ongoing fight for National

Liberation, a Socialist Revolution and the People's Republic as Proclaimed in Arms in 1916. In that Republic November 13 will surely be celebrated as Irish Citizen Army Day and the role of the Army of the working class in the fight for Irish Freedom can be properly honoured.

In the words of Commandant General James Connolly, the most prominent and martyred leader of the ICA, *'However it may be for others, for us of the Citizen Army there is but one ideal - an Ireland ruled, and owned, by Irish men and women, sovereign and independent from the centre to the sea, and flying its own flag outward over all the oceans.'*

We cannot be swerved from our course by honeyed words, lulled into carelessness by freedom to parade and strut in uniforms, nor betrayed by high-sounding phrases.

The Irish Citizen Army will only co-operate in a forward movement. The moment that forward movement ceases it reserves to itself the right to step out of the alignment, and advance by itself if needs be, in an effort to plant the banner of freedom one reach further towards its goal.'

CONSTITUTION OF THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY

As agreed at a public meeting, held Liberty Hall 22 March 1914.

1. The first and last principle of the Irish Citizen Army is the avowal that the ownership of Ireland, moral and material, is vested of right in the people of Ireland.

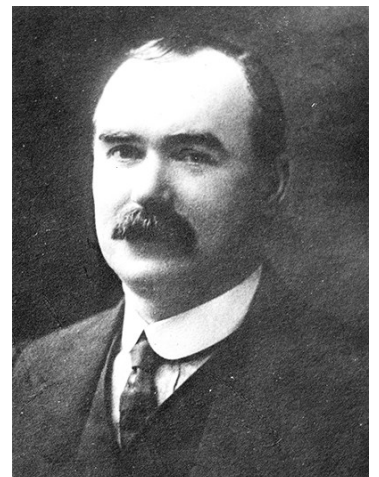
2. That the Irish Citizen Army shall stand for absolute unity of Irish nationhood, and shall support the rights and liberties of the democracies of all nations.

3. That one of its objectives shall be to sink all difference of birth, property and creed under the name of the common Irish people.

4. That the Irish Citizens Army shall be open to all who accept the principle of equal rights and opportunities for the Irish people.

5. Before being enrolled, every applicant must, if eligible, be a member of his/her trade union, such a trade union to be recognised by the Irish Trades Union Congress.

Principal Object - 'to arm and train all Irishmen capable of bearing arms to enforce and defend its first principle'.



In the history of revolutionary movements, nothing corrodes the foundations of change more than betrayal from within. There exists a point when a revolutionary or movement is wholly subsumed into the very regime they once opposed. At this point, they cease to function as an opposition and instead become active enforcers of the system's oppressive behaviours.

The path from defiant resistance to complicity is a complex one, yet history has shown us that once it is fully traversed, there is no return, the former revolutionary becomes an instrument of oppression, a co-conspirator in the very oppression and occupation they once condemned.

This process of betrayal is not simply a moral failing or a matter of individual weakness. It is a systematic absorption of resistance by the powerful, an intentional co-optation of individuals or movements that once held promise for real change. Once co-opted, these former allies of the oppressed find themselves in a position where they are no longer representing their communities, or a revolution, instead, they serve the regime's interests, commemorating and even celebrating the forces responsible for harming those they once vowed to protect. This betrayal stings doubly, for it turns former symbols of hope into agents of despair, and symbols of solidarity into representatives of an indifferent and hostile power.

Consider the instances where figures or movements that once stood in defence of marginalised communities pivot and begin to celebrate, commemorate, and legitimise the forces of oppression, "to do the right thing." Whether by commemorating fallen soldiers of an oppressive state or by endorsing violent actions against their own people, these individuals and groups signal a dangerous realignment of values. No longer are they concerned with justice or equity, they are now bound to the very machinery that enforces hierarchy, exclusion, and injustice. Their former revolutionary spirit becomes an ornamentation, a relic preserved in rhetoric but hollowed out in action.

One of the most insidious aspects of this

THE COOPTED REVOLUTIONARY

When Betrayal Is Complete, Their Resistance Is Dead

transformation is that these former revolutionaries often maintain the outward appearance of resistance. They still speak the language of the people and refer to their earlier ideals, and about those who fell or suffered in resistance, creating a façade of integrity. Yet, their actions reveal the truth, they defend the state's violence, even praise those who enforce it, and subtly manipulate the trust of their communities to keep them compliant. This transformation blurs the line between friend and foe, undermining genuine resistance by blending it with submission, and leaving the oppressed in a state of confusion and frustration.

Such betrayals are not isolated, they are part of a larger tactic employed by regimes to neutralise opposition. Co-opting leaders, incorporating former revolutionaries into political or economic systems, and redirecting revolutionary energy toward symbolic gestures rather than substantive change are time-tested methods used by regimes to weaken opposition and stifle genuine change. By subsuming former revolutionaries into the system, these regimes dilute and diffuse the very ideals that once challenged their rule, rendering them ineffectual and toothless.

At a broader societal level, this betrayal has devastating effects on the psyche of the people. When leaders who once symbolised hope and justice become indistinguishable from those they once opposed, the people lose faith not only in these leaders but also in the very possibility of change. Scepticism hardens into cynicism, hope turns to apathy, and a learned helplessness begins to pervade. The people see that even the brightest lights

can be dimmed by the lure of power, wealth, or survival within the system, and thus they come to believe that perhaps no one can truly stand for them, perpetuating the cycle of control by the predatory capitalist class.

To resist this insidious process, movements and individuals must prioritise an integrity that cannot be bought, coerced, or assimilated. True revolutionary movements build structures that are resilient to co-option, valuing transparency, and accountability to the community more than anything else. Leaders must be held to the highest standards of public scrutiny and should, whenever possible, decentralise power so that no one individual becomes irreplaceable or susceptible to the temptations of the regime. There must be a cultural understanding within revolutionary movements that any engagement with the regime is valueless, and that even symbolic compromises pave the way for ideological betrayal.

Betrayal by former revolutionaries is not only a personal failure but a tragic reminder of the lengths to which oppressive regimes will go to preserve their power. But it is also a lesson for those who continue to resist, underscoring the need for vigilance, integrity, and a radical commitment to community-driven change. Only by remaining fiercely committed to their original values and accountable to their communities can revolutionaries hope to avoid the traps set by the very forces they seek to dismantle. And in the end, they must remember, once a revolutionary is subsumed, they are no longer a revolutionary, they are an agent of the regime!

For a Radical Palestinian United Front

The present unprecedented crisis in the Middle East, ongoing for over a year, has been onset by two interrelated phenomena: 1) the decay of the settler-colonial Zionist entity alongside the weakening of US imperialism in the region, and 2) the great upsurge in anti-Zionist resistance in the region. This contradiction - a crumbling empire and a rising people - has ushered in a period of intractable crisis for international imperialism, which has only drawn the Western powers deeper into Zionism's death spiral, tying the fate of Western imperialism in West Asia to a dying fascist beast.

Such momentous events have found their inevitable echo across the globe. The US Empire is hurtling headlong into its 21st century Vietnam, supporting its fascist client state to the hilt at the expense of its own people, backing and carrying out genocide at the price of its naked exposure before the masses of the world as nothing but 'the political reflex... of the lowest and meanest phase of human slavery that ever disgraced this old world of ours', to borrow Connolly's phrase. The Palestine solidarity movement has erupted across the world, intensifying an enormous moral crisis of legitimacy for the US-led world order. All of their resolutions and liberal lingo is devoid of meaning in the wake of the slaughter, and it is plain once more that only serious popular resistance can stop the fascist onslaught.

The resurgence of anti-imperialist, progressive sentiment, led by the Palestinian resistance, has resounded like a clarion call with the people of Ireland, like a hilltop pyre declaring the moment for action. Ireland's anti-colonial tradition, and the ongoing occupation of the Six Counties, provides a clear frame of reference for our people to brush away imperialist propaganda and to embrace the Arab masses in struggle as our friends and comrades, upholding their struggle with the same wholeheartedness we do our own.

Two trends

However, as with Ireland's own national movement, two trends in the solidarity movement with Palestine have been apparent: 1) those who

sympathise with the oppressed and disapprove of the actions of the oppressors, and 2) those who support the struggle of the oppressed and wish to see the oppressors defeated.

The former liberal trend is presently the dominant one in the Irish solidarity movement with Palestine. The orientation has been towards lobbying the state and bourgeois parties to adopt a more conciliatory stance on Palestine, and to pass liberal resolutions, such as recognising the collaborationist Palestinian Authority or supporting toothless international condemnation of the genocide. While the Free State hurries through some window-dressing resolutions (such as regarding the ICJ case) to gain support ahead of the election, they are committed to not passing a tangible reform, that is the Occupied Territory Bills, politicians having received warnings from, and given assurances to, US and Zionist officials to not pass it. Despite mass support and major protests, the victories of the liberal trend have been paltry.

The radical anti-imperialist trend has been well-organised in Arab countries, as well as England and the United States. Their orientation is towards organising the masses to take direct action in support of the Palestinian cause and to the detriment of the Zionist war machine. The emphasis is on showing support for the Palestinian people and their struggle, recognising the moral support provided by such demonstrations and actions. Furthermore this trend sees the Palestinian struggle as part of the global struggle against imperialism, fascism and capitalism, seeing the complete defeat of Zionism and the establishment of a free Palestine as the primary means of pushing forward the cause of freedom everywhere. In Ireland, under the thumb of the same powers, from Britain, North America and Europe, it is evident how Palestine's victory will spur on our own national cause.

The Irish context

While many in Ireland feel and uphold the precepts of the radical trend, it has as of yet been poorly organised. Over a year on from the start of Al-Aqsa Flood, with the genocide stretching across Palestine and Lebanon with increasing intensity, as Zionism faces its darkest days, Irish

progressives must put aside petty differences in the interest of committing to a concrete, radical, mass, anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist programme for Palestinian solidarity. The time is now for anti-imperialists, republicans, socialists and progressives to work collectively for a radical national solidarity movement, one taking the lead shown by the resistance in Palestine, not one beholden to government parties or liberal NGO politics. Such a broad front must not only organisationally unite those with a radical programme on Palestine under one umbrella, with its own internal democracy, with a clear direction and objectives, but must aim to unite with communities across the country, who have been largely left on the sidelines of the struggle, despite the mass upswell of support for Palestine. It's the task of revolutionaries to lead the way in the formation of such a front and to ensure a radical, militant line is upheld and maintained.

Such a united front effort would not only ensure serious solidarity with Palestine, and honourable action in the face of the Holocaust of our time, but would be the most effective means of uniting and spurring on the forces of progress across Ireland for our own struggle against comprador capitalism and imperialism.

In 1936, Donegal republican Peadar O'Donnell wrote that the Spanish Civil War - the struggle of the Spanish masses against fascism - was relevant to him 'because of the uproar which the news from Spain caused in my own country where it rekindled the antagonisms of our own Civil War.' Nearly 90 years on, Palestine is performing the same role here. The same political and economic forces of collaboration and imperialism that has temporarily defeated the republican movement now stand arrayed against Palestine. The masses still stand against imperialism and occupation and for progress and democracy. The principal means at present of uniting the Irish people under the banner of radical republicanism is through uniting them in radical support for Palestine. This is the task before revolutionaries at present, it is long since time we took it up.



The Four Martyrs of Éire's Civil War

In Éire's heart, where freedoms flame burns bright,
Stand four brave souls who faced the darkest night.
Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Richard Barrett, and Joseph McKelvey,
Bold and true, their vision of a united land, they pursued.

In the shadow of the Four Courts, they took their stand,
Defying division, for a free Irish land.

With courage unyielding, they faced their fate,
For the dream of a nation, they would not abate.

Their sacrifice echoes through the hollows of time,
For their hearts, they beat to freedoms rhyme.
For unity and justice, they gave their all,
In answering Éire's clarion call.

Though their lives were cut short, their legacy remains,
In the struggle for freedom, their spirit sustains.
Let us honour their memory with courage anew,
And strive for the Éire they dreamed to pursue.

In Éire's four fields of green, where their dreams took flight,
We carry their torch through the darkest night.
For Rory, Liam, Richard, and Joseph, we stand,

By Pádraig Drummond

PEOPLES WAR UPDATE

PHILIPPINES

The anti-imperialist guerrillas of the New People's Army are currently waging a revolutionary armed struggle in the islands of the Philippines against their fascist government and imperialism in their

25th of October - The New People's Army in Caramines Sur attacks a force of soldiers belonging to both the 81st Infantry Battalion and CAFGU with a CDX explosive.

26th of October - The New People's Army in South Central Negros carries out the death penalty against military intelligence agent Diosdado "Dadoy" Apatan, recovering 3 firearms.

27th of October - The New People's Army in Albay successfully defends itself from an attempted raid by the 49th Infantry Battalion.

5th of November - The New People's Army in Oriental Mindoro actively defends itself against the 76th Infantry Battalion, killing 6 soldiers and wounding several others in a 30-minute battle.

9th of November - The New People's Army in Caramines Sur reports the executions of two AFP intelligence agents, including a CAFGU member.

14th of November - The New People's Army in South Central Negros carries out the death penalty against Arnie "Pane" Tuparan, an abusive landlord and AFP intelligence asset. 4 firearms are recovered.

Mála Poist: Letters to the Editor

A Chara,

In a recent "*Conversation*" with a member of Sinn Féin, I was once again met with the standard question when challenging the party's current stance on resistance and electoralism, "*What is your alternative?*" This question, posed by individuals who were neither engaged in the earlier republican struggle nor bore the scars of those turbulent years, is designed to put critics on the defensive, as though opposition to the current path demands a fully fleshed-out, alternative master plan. However, the demand for an "alternative" misses the mark, especially given the direction Sinn Féin itself has taken, a path that strays so far from revolutionary ideals that it arguably warrants critique on its own terms.

We must consider what the question implies. It suggests that there is an inherent legitimacy in the path Sinn Féin has chosen, as though engagement with a democratic process under British rule, accepting the structures of the very state that continues to enable our oppression, could be a means of liberation. This path has been marked by collaboration with the British state, a tolerance for the RUC, which includes calling on our people to join and inform, and a faith in the imperialists electoral process as a means to end imperialism in Ireland. But how realistic is it to believe that Westminster, and Stormont structures built upon the maintenance of empire, and sectarianism would willingly allow an electoral decision to dismantle its presence on Irish soil?

When Sinn Féin entered the peace process, they presented this shift as a pragmatic step, one made to alleviate the suffering of communities worn down by decades of conflict. It was also purportedly the tactical "alternative" that could secure a united Ireland. However, this gradualist approach has increasingly appeared less like strategic prudence and more like acquiescence. At a critical point in our history, when armed resistance had effectively demonstrated the resilience and commitment of the Risen peoples Republican Resistance and the inability of the British state to subdue this re-

sistance entirely, Sinn Féin was presented with another "route", one that traded revolutionary solidarity for political office, with all the trap-pings.

The consequences of this path are stark. Communities that once stood firmly in resistance have been encouraged, over time, to place their faith in Imperialist British aligned political structures and its armed thugs or repression and terror. The armed republican ethos once held by SF rooted not in a glorification of violence but in a firm rejection of imposed rule, has been diluted into the illegitimate state sponsored framework that praises "reconciliation" "doing the right thing" but does not rectify the root causes of division or conflict, the occupation and partition of Ireland and the oppression and repression of our peoples. If we look around today, the path Sinn Féin chose has yielded no concrete progress toward genuine sovereignty, instead, it has enabled the Imperialist British establishment to claim a victory over the Irish struggle without firing a shot.

When asked what *my* alternative is, the answer is simple, Sinn Féin and others have already opted for an "alternative" to revolutionary resistance, and it has led us here. For those of us who believe in the right to resist by any means necessary, the core issue is not devising another alternative. It is acknowledging that the alternative Sinn Féin chose has weakened our position. The solution is not necessarily to produce a new political pathway but to recognise the validity of republican resistance in its original, unfiltered form and to draw upon the principles that once made it a formidable revolutionary Resistance movement emulated around the world in other struggles.

The republican movement was founded on a principle that sovereignty would not be granted or bargained for, it had to be asserted and defended. Rather than falling into the British lure / trap of political office to satisfy some personal need or greed, the mission should have remained clear, an unwavering dedication to dismantling Imperialist British power struc-

tures in Ireland, rather than coexisting with them. It is worth noting that those who now ask critics for an "alternative" likely once saw these values as core to the struggle and would have considered them non-negotiable!

The reality is that the British Empire has never willingly relinquished territory out of electoral sympathy or public goodwill in any of its military occupations around the world in which it enslaved, slaughtered the indigenous people, plundered and pillaged the natural local resources. When Sinn Féin signed onto a path of negotiation and collaboration, they began to play by the rules of a system designed to suppress our national will and our rights as a risen people to self determination. The very structures they now uphold, whether it is the local assemblies, or the thugs born from the RUC, are still intertwined with the apparatus of occupation and imperialism.

The question, therefore, is not about finding an alternative. It is about deciding which values we uphold as central to the republican cause and to the broader goal of Irish liberation. The choice Sinn Féin made was not a necessary one, nor does it have to be the end of the struggle. We do not need to justify resistance by creating a neatly packaged political agenda that conforms to the expectations of a British or Free State backed sectarian state, rather, we need to reassert that resistance is an intrinsic right and that liberation will not come through participation in the oppressor's structures.

Our alternative, then, is simple, *to remember why we fought, to honour those who have given their lives for Irish sovereignty, to those who suffered so much during incarceration as P.O.W's in hellholes and to refuse to be pacified by power that rests on the terms of the very institutions that sought to subdue us.*

Mike Edwards

BOYCOTT ELECTIONS

REBUILD THE REPUBLIC

This November the Free State establishment will hold the next general election across the 26 counties, to decide which representatives of the ruling class will sit in Leinster House for the next five years and administer the affairs of the state on behalf of the rich and the foreign imperialists from Britain, North America and Europe who really rule our country.

Following the recent giveaway budget in October, and the lack of any credible opposition within the electoral system, Simon Harris and the garrison class are keen to hold a snap election to secure their position, getting rich off our backs until the end of the decade.

No change can come through the electoral system and Leinster House. It is a system purposely designed to enrich the capitalist class and exploit us. The time has come to reject that system and build the Boycott!

Anti Imperialist Action Ireland is calling on the working class to actively boycott the coming election and instead use the opportunity to organise in our own communities to take back the democratic control of society ourselves. The Garrison Class will continue to exploit us unless we fight back. This November we ask you to consider the following reasons to Boycott the Free State Elections:

NO CHANGE CAN COME FROM LEINSTER HOUSE: Despite the promises at election time, the committee of the rich in Leinster House has no intention of making any change to the current system because that system keeps them in power and wealth. The radical change needed in Ireland can only come through a revolution waged by people like you on the streets and in communities. Don't legitimise their criminal acts against us- Don't Vote!

TURN PASSIVE REBELLION INTO ACTIVE RESISTANCE: The working class already reject Leinster House and the Free State. This is why voter turnout and registration in working class communities is at an all time low. Its time to get organised collectively and turn this passive act of rebellion into active resistance across the Country by building a boycott of the election and beginning to build the Republican alternative in our communities (see page 2)

THE FREE STATE IS ILLEGITIMATE: The Free state was established by British Imperialism in Ireland as part of the violent suppression of the All Ireland Republic, Proclaimed in 1916. The administration in Leinster House is a committee of the rich, landlords and bankers that runs this state for foreign imperialism at our expense. The administration is pro-partition, pro the British Occupation, pro-imperialism and exploits us on a daily basis. By voting in Free state elections you are voting against our Republic, Proclaimed in 1916. You are voting against Irish Unity and to continue the British, North American and European Imperialist interference in Ireland. By voting you are sanctioning your own exploitation and the exploitation of the working class.



BOYCOTT LEINSTER HOUSE