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WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Twenty three years of Irish Anarchist News

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Something Rotten In Store Street



Above: WSM member addresses rally outside Store St. Garda Station

In July the Garda Ombudsman announced that it will begin an inquiry into the arrest and death of Terence Wheelock following injuries sustained in custody at Store Street Garda station in June 2005. This announcement follows two years of silence, denial and cover up by the Gardai and the political establishment.

would like us to believe that his injuries resulted from a suicide attempt, there's a wealth of evidence to suggest otherwise. Garda records say he was in fine physical condition when brought into custody, yet photos taken at the hospital clearly show that Terence's body was covered in bruises and lacerations. Where did these mysterious bruises come from?

Not only this, but Gardai decided to stage an impromptu renovation of the cell before

allowing anyone to access it; blatant cover up or home improvement? When we add to this the facts that a witness saw Gardai assaulting Terence while he was being arrested, custody records were altered to remove the names of the arresting Gardai, and the Gardai refused for over a year to release Terence's clothes to his family for forensic investigation, it should be very obvious that something fishy is going on.

Continued inside...



Inside How Ireland Stopped Nuclear Power – Factory Occupation Victory

NEWSPAPER OF ANARCHISTS IN IRELAND

Postman Pat Says 'Stuff Your Pay Cut'

From June to mid-August, postal workers in the North and in Britain were taking industrial action. Management are on the offensive, and the action was to protect existing conditions.

In a display of cross-border common purpose An Post bosses are also having a go, with conditions under attack as a prelude to selling off parts of the service to private companies. So, An Post workers have a special interest in how the Communications Workers Union dispute progresses

On 10th August, Royal Mail agreed to talk, and the CWU suspended strike action pending the outcome of negotiations. A Work-to-Rule continues, and will continue to cause disruption to the post. If the talks don't deliver for the workers, strike action will have to be resumed and escalated. Anything less will be seen as weakness by the bosses and will encourage them to seek even more concessions from staff.

One Royal Mail worker gives her views: *The strike occurred in to protect working conditions, can you describe the changes that were threatened?*

Early in 2007, Royal Mail unveiled its Business Plan, which included unpopular later starting times, 'Team-Working', which means covering for staff on holiday or off sick with unpaid overtime, 'Summer Lapsing' which means five staff covering six duties during the summer months (and which will no doubt lead to it being an all year round exercise, thereby losing another 40,000 jobs), closing the pension scheme to new employees, (a leaked document has shown there are insufficient funds in the pension plan due to Royal Mail deciding to withhold payments for a number of years) and delivering leaflets for no extra payment.

Royal Mail say that these measures and more must be agreed to before any pay rise will be granted. An offer of 2.5% on

basic pay equates to £8 per week, but staff will lose £12.50 per week by agreeing to later starting times. The offer is a pay cut however it is viewed.

What was the reaction of the workers?

In June, the membership delivered an overwhelming decision in favour of strike action, the significance of which Royal Mail attempted to play down. However the first strikes have seen massive support with very few scabs turning into work. After the first strike, Royal Mail claimed 60% of staff worked normally, but this was proved to be false.

In a desperate attempt to undermine the strike, a manager repeatedly drove a Royal Mail minibus with blacked out windows through a picket line to give the impression of people wanting to work whenever a camera from the local media turned up.

Since the strikes began, more and more delivery office staff have chosen not to perform unpaid overtime before official start times and are refusing to use their own cars to transport themselves and their mail to their deliveries. Both practices are responsible for job losses. Managers in offices where this is taking place have been unable to cope with demand for vans and have been delivering mail which has been left or brought back by staff unable to complete delivery in the appointed time span.

Workers have become sick and tired of being bullied by power-tripping managers manner and are fighting back the best way they can.

What are the usual relations between staff and employers?

When Tony Blair appointed Allan Leighton as Chairman of Royal Mail in March 2002, he was already on the boards of nine other companies, had sold Asda to the anti-union Wal-Mart supermarket chain and was in the process of the



transforming Leeds United Football Club from Champions League contenders to relegation certainties and ultimate bankruptcy. Allegedly he receives a basic salary of a £800,000 per year.

Leighton is fond of referring to the employees of the companies he has anything to do with as "our people", an annoying habit which along with referring to recipients of his many propaganda letters by their first name and signing off with 'Regards, Allan', he imagines gives him a 'matey' persona.

He introduced to Royal Mail the idea of 'huddles', an innovation he brought with him from Asda. Embarrassed managers would call together a few workers to discuss issues around the job. Staff quickly dubbed these meetings 'muddles' when it became clear managers had little idea of the duties they were supposed to be in charge of and simply refused to participate in them.

Obviously Leighton had not been used to dealing with a large, highly unionised workforce made militant by many years of bullying management and a series of CWU General Secretaries who seemed almost as out of touch with the workers as Leighton himself. In 2003, the CWU lost ballot

on pay by a mere 1,600 votes and Leighton, Crozier and just about every manager under them thought the result gave them licence to impose 'team-working' and four hour delivery spans.

The culture of bullying and harassment from managers increased, leading to unofficial industrial action in many large towns and cities which forced Royal Mail to the negotiating table. Leighton gave up referring to 'activists' in his letters to staff as it was obvious the 'activists' made up a sizeable majority of the workforce and his 'divide and conquer' tactics had failed.

What are the CWU like as a union?

The biggest fear now is that of being let down by the leadership of the Communications Workers Union. This is always a possibility while those at the top of the CWU are enthralled by the notion of a link with the Labour Party. If ten years of Labour looking after the interests of big business and trampling on the working class have taught them nothing, perhaps the near total silence from the party they help fund on this latest battle might.

More info -

libcom.org/pay-2007

Why Ireland Never Got Nuclear Power

The debate has started. One of the ESB unions, Unite-Amicus, wants the government to build nuclear power stations. We are told that it's a "clean technology" that will reduce climate change.

What isn't being given as much publicity is that there is still no way of safe way to dispose of nuclear waste, and that the ultimate 'weapons of mass destruction' are a by-product of the nuclear industry. Even more frightening is the reality that just one mistake or accident at a power plant can kill tens, even hundreds of thousands. Near misses like at Three Mile Island in the USA and Mihama in Japan show it can happen, disasters like Chernobyl show us what has already happened.

In the late 1970s a Fianna Fail government was going ahead with plans to build not one, but four, nuclear power stations at Carnsore Point in Co. Wexford. We were promised clean and safe energy that would be

so cheap it would be hardly worth metering (in fact it is the most expensive form of electricity generation when waste disposal and decommissioning are taken into account).

Unfortunately for the government and the ESB Board of Directors, not everyone accepted that the plan was some sort of benevolent gift to the Irish people. The main white collar union in the ESB (the ESB Officers Association) produced a detailed report on the health, safety, and civil liberties risks. This was widely circulated both within the ESB and more generally in the trade union movement.

Parallel with this, local anti-nuclear groups sprang up all over the country. Within months a libertarian anti-nuclear magazine called the Contaminated Crow was able to give contact details for 48 groups. Cork had 9 groups, Dublin had 16. And most of these were very active, with their own leaflets, newsletters and pickets

of ESB offices.

Big free festivals were held at Carnsore in 1979, 1980 and 1981, which saw around 5,000 camping on the site. Three or four days of discussions, workshops and entertainment from artists as varied as Christy Moore and Chris De Burgh. (yes, it was a very broad movement!).

Throughout all this there was no leader or central committee who the government could negotiate with, flatter or buy off. There was nothing we wanted to bargain about, everyone was agreed that we wanted no nuclear power in Ireland, full stop.

Local groups were completely independent and every three months or so one of them would host a national gathering where anyone could come along, share experiences, throw out ideas, appeal for help, make suggestions, and propose initiatives.

According to every single one of

the polls done at the time there was a large majority against going ahead with construction at Carnsore. But the government was determined to press ahead, taking as much notice as they usually do of people's wishes. □

A sop thrown out was that they would set up an inquiry to investigate all the pros and cons. The more conservative sections of the movement, gathered around Friends of the Earth agreed to take part. The majority refused, saying they had no confidence in any enquiry set up and financed by the government, and whose findings could be ignored even if the inquiry team somehow bit the hand that fed them and recommended against nuclear power.

When the government saw that almost all anti-nuclear activists were not going to be suckered into passively making submissions and then sitting at home hoping for a good result, the idea of an enquiry was quietly dropped. The anarchists and sec-

tions of the left had, instead, called within the unions for blacking the job, and for a mass occupation of the site if construction started. This idea won massive support and led Dessie O'Malley to treat us to a semi-hysterical outburst where he warned that he would use the army if necessary to remove what he called "20,000 hippies".

With major opposition all over the island and several thousand determined to physically stop any building work, the Carnsore plan was quietly dropped. There was no big announcement. But those of us who participated in the anti-nuke movement knew what we had achieved, and so did the state. That's why they have waited 25 years reopen the issue. We beat them once, we can do it again.

Alan MacSimoin

Workers Occupation Pays Off

Joe King

The boss is shown the door and the workers take over. That's what happened for a month at Reilly Bookbinders on the Murrough Industrial Estate in Wicklow town.

The company had been in Wicklow for 30 years. Then four years ago it was taken over by Dunne and Wilson (Ireland) Ltd.. Two years later the building from which the company operated was sold to the Wicklow Enterprise Centre for over €900,000. It is understood to have been acquired by Dunne and Wilson for between €400,000 and €450,000. Then, this summer, boss Richard Geraghty told staff that the lease was up on August 1st and their work was being relocated to the Czech Republic.

He also announced the firm was insolvent and could not even pay them their statutory redundancy entitlements. All but one of the workers had at least 15 years service, some had over 20

years service and one had worked at Reilly's for 28 years. Normally staff would expect to get several weeks pay per year worked as well as statutory payments as compensation for the loss of their jobs.

This is not the first time a business owned by Geraghty has gone down the toilet. European Binding Ltd, Venture Innovations Group, Impact Photographic, Impact Portraits, Alchemy Consulting, Rosen Health and Twofish Group have all bit the dust. Yet Geraghty never seemed to be out of pocket.

Ten women and four men, all members of SIPTU, took over their workplace on July 18th and locked the boss out. They refused to allow any equipment or customers' orders to leave the building, knowing that once everything valuable was gone they would have nothing to bargain with.

At a Labour Relations Commission meeting, the company representative, Stephen Holland (whose own Holland Photographic went bust last year), offered to sell two printers' guillotines and 'split' the proceeds with the employees. This would have worked out at around a pathetic €1,000 per employee. The workers gave a unanimous two fingers to this excuse for an offer.

In the end the occupation pushed the government's insolvency fund to move faster than usual. The workers got their statutory payments of a week's pay and two weeks for each year worked, their outstanding holiday pay – plus payment for the four weeks they were in occupation.

As Shane McKean of the Print division of SIPTU said "Here is a company that has received €900,000 from a state sponsored body for its premises, has been trading on state contracts for years and now wants the state to pay its redun-

dancy bill. This takes the concept of 'state aid' to a whole new level."

The rights of property came before the rights of workers, and no surprise. It's called 'capitalism' because capital rules. But the workers, by standing up for themselves and being prepared to break the law by occupying, showed that courage can pay off. They got more money than if they had done nothing, and they got it quicker. Only when the working class takes control, when socialism/anarchism becomes a reality, will we be free of the terrible uncertainty that parasites like Geraghty can hold over us.

The Great Gas Robbery

Sean Flood

For the past eight years the people of Rosspoint in North West Mayo have been struggling against an attempt by Shell and other companies to build a dangerous and destructive gas processing terminal near to their homes and their community. This development would benefit no-one but wealthy shareholders as the Irish Government handed over the extraction rights to the oil companies in the 1980s and 1990s.

All the exploration costs going back many years as well as the cost of building the refinery can be written off in full, that is, one hundred per cent against tax. This means that not only will people in Ireland get no benefit from the gas reserves, but that it's not even costing Shell anything. The state has responded to the efforts of the local community by sending hundreds of Gardai to this rural region in an effort to destroy the popular resistance to the proposed gas terminal.

The Gardai have conducted a campaign of harassment, intimidation, beatings and arrests directed against those who oppose the development. Recently the state, believing that the Shell to Sea campaign was weakening and isolated, has begun using the courts again to smash the campaign. Three local men were accused of trumped up charges of assaulting a Garda sergeant during a protest in Bellanaboy, Co Mayo.

Despite the contradictions in the Garda evidence Judge Mary Devins, who is married to Fianna Fail Jun-

What would you do?
With €50 billion of gas?

Invest in public healthcare?
Free & Better education for all?
Improve transport infrastructure?
Invest in sustainable energy?

What our Government did...

Handed it over to Shell, Marathon & Statoil
Agreed to buy our own gas back at market rates
Removed all taxes (50% to 25% with 100% tax write off) and royalties (7%) on gas extracted

www.wsm.ie/resources

ior minister Dr Jimmy Devins, convicted the three men and sentenced them to three months in prison and a fine of €500 each. This is simply one in a number of made up charges brought against those seen to be heavily involved in the Shell to Sea campaign. Closely following these arrests and court cases, after over eighteen months of providing a base for activists supporting the local Shell to Sea campaign, the Rosspoint Solidarity Camp was served notice

to quit by Mayo County Council two weeks ago.

The community responded to this political policing by stepping up their campaign. The weeks that followed saw numerous occupations of the site, pickets and a non-violent blockade of the road leading to the proposed gas refinery.

The struggle in Rosspoint to have the refinery moved offshore hasn't

gone away and the coming months will be important in determining the future of the campaign. We need to stand by the people of Rosspoint as they challenge the right of the state to brutalise those who oppose the agenda of big business. The situation in Rosspoint concerns all of us. The natural resources of Ireland could be used to fund our ailing health service instead of lining the pockets of a few fat cats.

Slaving your life away just so you can make ends meet; having no say in the major decisions that affect your life; criminal politicians and businessmen plundering the country. Try to do something about it and they'll lock you up. Yes..



Just 1% of the population owns 34% of the wealth in the 26 counties (excluding the value of residential housing). That's according to the Bank of Ireland report 'The Wealth of the Nation'.

May saw absolutely no job losses announced. May was also the month of the Dail election. Did Fianna Fail ask their business pals to hold off any bad news? In June things got back to 'normal' with job losses at Eircom, Dell, Lapple, Wrapite, Molex, the ESB and Hovid.

While 'partnership' agreements have restricted most workers' pay rises to less than 5% a year, the richest 1% have seen an average increase in their wealth of 13.7% each year since 1995.

Liam O'Mahony, chief executive of Cement Roadstone, took home €11.8 million last year. That's €32,000 a day!

Is Equal Pay Possible?

You thought that equal pay had been sorted years ago? Well, according to the United Nations, women and girls do two thirds of the world's work for 5% of the income. Of the world's 550 million working poor, those unable to lift themselves and their families above the \$1 per day threshold, 330 million, or 60%, are women.

'But surely things cannot be this bad in the prosperous West?' Well, one consistent fact across every EU country is that women earn less than men. Unveiling an action plan, on July 19th, to deal with this pay gap Commissioner Vladimir Spidla revealed that on average women earn 15% less than men in Europe.

So let's deal with the barroom sexist arguments first: "But shure obviously - hic - men are clearly superior to women and deserve to earn more" he splutters into his pint of Carlsberg. Ok, barroom sexist, so wages should be based on superior strengths and abilities, eh? Let's go with that plus the

fact that most modern work is based on skill and education. But Commissioner Spidla also revealed that "Girls outperform boys at school and more women enter the labour market with a university degree than men".

So, by barroom philosophers Carlsberg logic (probably the best logic in the world) surely women should be earning more than men? Closer reading of EU reports hints at the real reasons for this persistent pay gap. A detailed report from last year, Gender Pay Gap Origins and Policy Responses, quickly provides us with some clues.

It tells us that the extent of the pay gap is "significantly smaller in the public sector", that it hardly exists with young women coming into the workforce but "tends to widen with age" and that the authors are worried about a trend towards individually negotiated contracts "potentially increasing the gender pay gap".

The reasons for this are obvious; public sector workers are usually unionised and their employer, the state, has to be seen to implement equal pay & opportunities legislation. Younger women coming into the workforce are in a position to organise and fight but as they have children or grow older, the system, in effect, can 'pick them off'. It is the ruthless logic of capitalism that it can exploit 'weaknesses' such as the ability to give birth.

As well as doing the lion's share of unpaid work at home, women - mostly due to childcare responsibilities - are more likely to be employed in part-time work where hours are more flexible but pay is less and job security is more precarious. These factors, combined with lower levels of union membership in the service industries and the increasing trend for individually negotiated contracts, have resulted in the pay gap either remaining constant or even increasing.

As far as individual contracts are concerned, this is the logic of capitalism - exploit any 'weakness' to save shillings. And sometimes throw in some good old-fash-

ioned common or garden sexism just to add insult to injury.

I think it is actually fair to say that capitalism (even if it wanted to, and some EU officials are genuinely trying!) could never fully eliminate this gender pay gap. As long as there is a weakness to be exploited (in this case time off work for the bearing and raising of children) the system will hone in on it remorselessly.

So anarchists encourage women to organise, fight for decent state-funded childcare and battle sexism at every turn. The fight for equality is not over. Improved pay and opportunities at work may not be our ultimate goal but it is part of the struggle to make things better in the here and now. However, we don't intend to stop until we achieve for the far fairer goal of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs" and the abolition of the wages system itself.

Conor McLoughlin

www.wsm.ie/gender

Climate Change; Delusion and Hypocrisy

There no longer remains any doubt that climate change has been caused by the activities of humans. The resulting problems of flash flood, more severe droughts, hurricanes etc alongside increased resource and water wars will have drastic economic, social and political consequences right across the globe. For many people both in the richer developed north and the global south, the ensuing climate chaos will only further exasperate their already precarious lives and livelihoods.

Whilst governments like our own make almost daily pronouncements about 'tackling' climate change, and the media have weekly reports of increasing chaotic and unpredictable weather conditions, both have carefully avoided talking about its main cause. The one thing that historically has caused and continues to perpetuate the effects of climate change is putting private profit before public welfare.

It has been left to environmental activists and communities that suffer the consequences of climatic instability to speak up and act on the core of the problem, most recently at the Climate Camp in London. At the heart of climate change are the structures of power that make up capitalism.

Capitalist thinking has always been deluded and hypocritical. Hidden in the language of economic growth in this 'globalised' world are the daily hardships of exploitation, inequality, war and poverty that touch people in each and every country on the planet.

Now we can add increasing climatic instability as an end product of societies controlled by a rich few. Modern day capitalism is founded on the use of fossil fuels. The linkages between governments and the petro-chemical industry are well known, and it is the petrochemical industries that have funded political parties in the West, as well as funding 'research groups' that have been at the forefront of disputing and downplaying the reality of climate change

Unending economic growth based on fossil fuels is impossible on a planet with finite resources. A 10 year old kid can grasp the logic of this fact. When you realise that so much of our 'economic growth' is based on an addiction to fuels like coal, gas and oil which pump out carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases it seems like madness



to not radically change the way our energy is produced. What does our government suggest? That we change our lightbulbs and turn down our heating.

This makes sense if we accept the individualised, consumer notion of ourselves that capitalism needs to exist. In the face of an overwhelming problem perhaps its best to do our bit and let the government and business sort it out for us. But the fact is neither big business nor our governments have real interest in taking the necessary steps to reduce the impact that climate chaos is already having across the globe.

To radically alter the way we create energy so as to make it not just sustainable, but to ensure it is not based on the same methods of human exploitation, political corruption and social and environmental decay, will require the dismantling of the power structures that support these practices today.

In Ireland one only has to look at the violence visited upon the community at Rosspoint. Here we see very clearly that justice and climate change play second fiddle to private profit in to the hands of the already rich. Despite the police beatings and media spin, it is grassroots and community activity that gives voice to other ways.

Whilst as individuals we all have a part to play, and perhaps the role we play as consumers is a good place to start,

we also need to tackle head on the forces that resist meaningful and radical changes. We need to put voices to the truth and not be fooled by the greenwash of the fossil fuel industry or our politicians.

We were born more than consumers, much as our 'leaders' would like us to forget. Like in most struggles for democratic and just control of our world, it is when we see ourselves collectively, as communities and real participants in society, that we are likely to have most success in achieving our aims.

For billions across the globe, and for future generations to come, the sooner we move to sustainable forms of energy production the better, and the impetus needs to come from 'ordinary people'. The ruling class are in no rush to change to sustainability, so if we want to see real change we will have to bring real pressure to bear.

In the next edition of Workers Solidarity, we will look at how the fossil fuel industry and governments are conning us with notion of carbon trading and carbon offsetting, whilst also opposing genuine attempts to reduce the effects of climate change

Mark Malone

www.wsm.ie/environment

Anarchism and the WSM

Anarchists stand for a society where production is organised to meet human needs and desires rather than to generate profit for a few. We hold that there should be no limits on human liberty other than respect for the liberty of others. We believe in democracy, in direct democracy. This means everyone being able to have a say in making the decisions that will effect them.

The Workers Solidarity Movement is an or-

ganisation of working class anarchists who have come together to maximise the impact of anarchist ideas. Pooling the resources of many people allows us to distribute 8,000 copies of this paper every two months, and 1,000 copies of our twice yearly magazine, Red & Black Revolution. It allows us to discuss the best ways to advance working class interests, and prioritise particular activities rather than be so widely dispersed as to have little effect.

Every additional person who joins adds a little bit more to what we can achieve.

To find out more you can write to -

WSM,
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Dublin 8

or email wsm_ireland@yahoo.com

Evidence Disappears In Garda station

...Continued from cover

Faced with silence from the Gardai and the political establishment, Terence Wheelock's family launched a campaign for an independent inquiry into his death. The Summerhill community, no stranger to wanton intimidation and corruption from the boys in blue, has rallied around them, and forced this to become an issue.

Gardai responded to this community-based campaign with their own campaign, one of intimidation and harassment, to the extent that Terence's parents have been forced to leave their family home. Meanwhile, Gardai created a token enquiry into Terence's death. This was carried out by Garda Oliver Hanly, who had served for over fifteen years in Store Street. Unsurprisingly he found no evidence of Garda wrongdoing.

The Wheelock family refused to recognise this self-investigation and

maintained their demand for an independent inquiry. Last year another investigation began; it was carried out by the Coroner's Court and concluded in July. This investigation refused to hear independent evidence commissioned by the family, relying instead on the evidence of State Pathologist Marie Cassidy, who argued in favour of her Garda chums.

This independent evidence would have blown the Gardai and Marie Cassidy out of the water; forensic evidence from Terence's clothes points to injuries that could not possibly be caused by a hanging attempt, while another report shows that photographs of Terence's cell are inconsistent with the Garda story and, in fact, indicate reconstruction of evidence.

It's hard to tell whether the Ombudsman's inquiry will get to the bottom of what happened to Terence at Store Street, it's certainly not a full and independent investigation. Most

likely it will only make some small complaints, if it does find against the Gardai it will probably only be 'one or two bad apples' who will be sent off on early retirement and a full pension. What the investigation will not touch is the culture of silence, corruption and cronyism that pervades the Gardai and allows them to literally get away with murder.

The fact that this issue has not been forgotten is a real victory for the campaign, the Wheelock family's courage and persistence is an inspiration to all of us. We need to continue to spread these facts as widely as possible and continue the demand for a full and independent inquiry into Terence's death. The silence of the political establishment has shown that the State does not like to discipline its own enforcers; in circumstances like these it's up to ordinary people to organise and demand justice for themselves.

Ronan McHugh

www.wsm.ie/repression

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Organise! Working Class Resistance
Anarchist Organisation
Publishes "Working Class Resistance"
PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ
<http://organiserireland.blogspot.com/>

Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group
Anarchist Women
P.O. Box 10785, Dublin 1
www.ragdublin.org

Libertarian Networks
Networks and collectives with a libertarian ethos in which anarchists are involved

Indymedia Ireland
Irish Branch of Global Media Collective
The place to find Irish campaign news.
www.indymedia.ie

Baracka Books
Radical Book Store

61 Barrack Street, Cork City

Cork Autonomous Zone
Social Space
61 Barrack St, Cork
centraladminzone@gmail.com

Seomra Spraoi
4 Marys Abbey D7 dublin
www.seomraspraoi.blogspot.com

Activist groups
fighting for social justice

Shell to Sea
Website of campaign to move Shell's pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo
www.shelltosea.com

Alliance For Choice
Network of campaigners abortion rights
theallianceforchoice@eircom.net

Choice Ireland
Pro-choice action group
choiceireland@gmail.com

Residents Against Racism
Campaign against racism & deportations
Meets every Friday at 7pm in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square in Dublin
www.residentsagainstracism.org

Revolt Video
Video Activist Collective
revoltvideo.blogspot.com

Anti-War Ireland
Democratic anti-war organisation with branches in Belfast, Cogh, Cork, Dublin and members elsewhere.
www.antiwarireland.org

Justice for Terence Wheelock
Died after being injured in Garda custody
087-6221218
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The latest issue of the WSM magazine. Articles on sex work, the meaning of 'direct action', Rosspoint, anarchists and the elections, a history of the Grassroots Gatherings, and more. Send £2.00 for a copy

Anarchists Against The Wall



"Anarchists Against the Wall (AATW) is a direct action group that was established in 2003 in response to the construction of the wall Israel is building on Palestinian land in the Occupied West Bank. The group works in cooperation with Palestinians in a joint non-violent struggle against the occupation."

Operating under the principle that "It is the duty of Israeli citizens to resist immoral policies and actions carried out in our name", the AATW is actively resisting the construction of the wall with more than protesting in the streets, governed by the belief that the Israeli segregation of the Palestinian people will not end by itself. Instead, they believe that the only way to end the occupation is by creating a social climate that is "ungovernable and unmanageable" for the Israeli state.

The group is made up of both Israelis

and Palestinians and has, in their relatively short existence, already seen some significant victories. In 2004 the AATW joined the struggle of the village of Budrus, whose land was to be almost completely confiscated by the Israelis. Through local mobilization, struggle and popular resistance, Budrus managed to push the path of the wall almost completely off its land instead of vainly appealing to the Israeli courts. Victories like these have seen local resistance grow immensely in popularity and the AATW is present at any local struggle where its presence is requested.

One of the main benefits the AATW is able to offer the villagers struggling to keep their homes is the simple fact that the group is made up of Israelis as well as Palestinians. When Israelis are present in a group of demonstrators facing off with the military, the army is far less likely to try and disperse

the crowds using lethal violence. The army and the Israeli government are however trying to prevent Israeli activists from joining the resistance in any way they can, stopping short of firing the business end of a rifle at them. Under current law, it's possible to indict people for simply taking part in a demonstration.

Over the years, AATW activists have been arrested hundreds of times and have had numerous indictments filed against them. All this an attempt by the Israeli government to try and crush a growing resistance and dissent from within its own borders.

For more information about AATW, their actions and how to make a donation, to cover the mounting legal costs of keeping their comrades out of jail, visit their website www.aawalls.org

Patrik Kuure

