

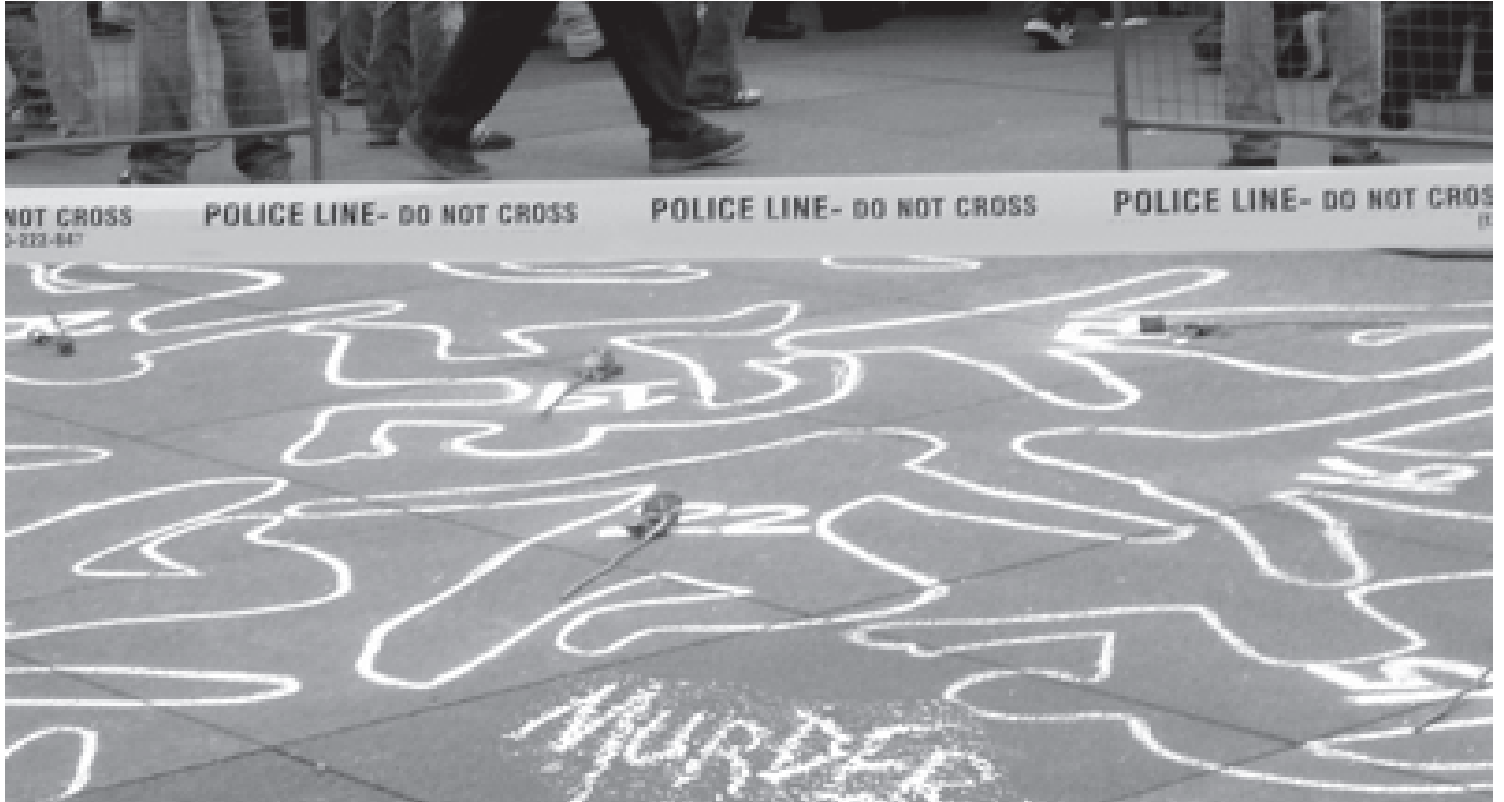
# WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Number 92. July - August 2006

Twenty Two Years of Anarchist News

www.wsm.ie

## DEATH BY GARDA



The deaths of Terence Wheelock and John Moloney in Garda custody have again focused attention on the brutal nature of policing in this state. Brian Rossiter and John Carty are other names from a long list that have a public resonance.

Historically the Gardai have enjoyed a high level of public confidence and support outside of some poorer working class communities, and leftwing and republican circles. However the constant drip, drip of corruption stories and bitter experience, has gradually eroded this support.

Violence and corruption are part of any police force and for many years the Gardai had the advantage of political cover for their actions as the state perceived itself under threat from republicans. A culture

of getting results at any cost built up. The notorious "heavy gang" operated with impunity in the 1970s, so Garda brutality is nothing new.

As Ireland has become wealthier and more unequal, the ruling class have been unwilling to tackle the problems that are plain to all but the most biased observer. The Gardai are the first line of defence of the status quo, their actions during any crisis are key to keeping the rabble in line. But as old social control structures have broken down, and in the absence of any serious subversive threat, peoples' questioning of the Gardai's authority and actions has increased.

The ERU who have killed several people in questionable circumstances come in

for regular criticism and hardly a day passes where you will not hear someone complain of Garda graft or pettiness. In some communities the Gardai are viewed with suspicion and only turned to in the most desperate circumstances.

For now, despite all the talk, there is no real sanction on the actions of the Gardai. Retirement on full pension is the usual "punishment" for serious offenders. It is of critical importance that people support the campaign of the Wheelock, Moloney and other families for justice. Organised opposition can hopefully save more lives and create an atmosphere where people can begin working on community alternatives to the state's hard line force.



NEWSPAPER OF ANARCHISTS IN IRELAND



# Anarchism and the WSM

The Workers Solidarity Movement is an organisation which gathers together working class anarchists with the aim of maximising the impact of anarchist ideas.

By working together as anarchists we can combine the resources of many people; we're able to produce and distribute significant propaganda on a regular basis – over 6,000 copies of this paper are distributed; it means being able collectively discuss and prioritise which political campaigns at any one time; it means people are able to step back from political activity when busy, yet still keep in touch and contribute a little.

The WSM believes that members should have a high degree of agreement so that we can act effectively. Perhaps most importantly, our anarchism is outward looking in that we see revolution coming from the working class and not any political elite either armed or elected.

Single issue campaigns are vital because they defend our standards of living as well as giving us confidence to go on and challenge the system itself. With this in mind we aim to

participate in the struggles of the class, but we are clear that we do so not only in solidarity but also as anarchists.

We aim to encourage directly democratic methods in the campaign as well as being honest about the limitations of the campaign itself. A victory, e.g. preventing US troops from using Shannon would be good but insufficient to overcome imperialism. For the working class in Ireland and abroad need to implement more fundamental change.

Anarchist ideas aren't going to spread by magic, especially given the massive opposition of the state and the rich. We want to see anarchists on every street and workplace in Ireland, anarchists who are involved with their neighbours in community campaigns, involved with workers when fighting the boss. For that we need more people – a lot more people – to organise and participate as anarchists in the ongoing class war. The easiest way to do this is to think about joining the WSM, but in any case organising is essential if we are to have an impact.

Anarchism is still a very small voice on the Irish political scene. But in the last few years we have crafted a solid beginning. If you are interested in joining you can get in contact at the address on the back page.

## Rosspport Solidarity Weekend

The sweltering sun of the June Bank holiday weekend shone down on over one hundred and fifty people attending a gathering at the Rosspport Solidarity Camp. This marked the first anniversary of the Solidarity Gathering last June, at which Shell to Sea groups for different parts of the country were established and at which the camp was born. The camp has been a base for people to travel to the area to join in the residents' pickets and other actions against Shell.

The gathering focused on resistance to the privatisation of natural resources and had talks on the situations in regard to that in Ireland, Bolivia and Venezuela. The recently formed activist film group Revolt Video ran a cinema for the duration of the weekend, as well as filming the entire event.

Workshops included bender construction, this being a form of large tent made out of bendable hazel poles, and long drawing, which involved a whole bunch of people collectively making a painting of Broadhaven bay.

The weekend also featured report backs from the Afghan hunger strike solidarity protest, from an anti-pylon campaign in Bantry, and from a campaign in Limerick

which is seeking to prevent a community from being switched to a polluted public water supply. On Saturday night there was a trad session in a nearby pub, and on Sunday night there were djs on the



beach.

At the moment Shell and the state are attempting to keep things low key and use time to demobilise the opposition to the destruction of Erris and the robbery of our gas. We have to counter this by be-

coming more proactive. We need to draw greater public attention to the situation in regard to the privatisation of natural resources, and link this up with the under funding crisis in the health service.

We need to stress what the gas, and probable oil, off our coast could pay for, if it were not being given away for next to nothing. That sounds like an overstatement, but the fact is, between 1987 and 1992 successive governments switched the tax regime for oil and gas exploitation from 50% to 25% with tax write offs for production and exploration costs going back decades. Hence a company can claim its costs as tax, and pay less tax. We need to campaign more for our natural resources to be used to pay for our schools and hospitals.

The opposition to Shell's hell for Mayo has been very successful up to this point, and is very winnable, but there is no room for complacency. We need your involvement in order to win.

You can get in touch with Rosspport Solidarity Camp by contacting: 087 6543425 (Tracey) 086 3588890 (Michael). For more information see: [indymedia.ie/mayo](http://indymedia.ie/mayo), [struggle.ws/rsc](http://struggle.ws/rsc) or [shelltosea.com](http://shelltosea.com)

*Terry Dunne*

# Anarchists Against the Wall

## The struggle continues in Israel and Palestine

A young Israeli anarchist was shot by Israeli forces during a protest against the construction of the so called 'Separation Fence' in Palestine. Matan Cohen, 17, was critically wounded when he was shot in the face with a rubber bullet, after Israeli Border Police opened fire on a group of peaceful demonstrators at Bil'in, in the occupied West Bank.

Matan, a member of Anarchists Against The Wall, and who recently met with WSM during a European speaking tour, is a peace activist who refuses to serve in the Israeli army. There have been daily ongoing protests in the village of Bil'in as there have been in villages and towns right across Palestine, where the construction of the wall threatens livelihoods, cuts off farmers from their land. It is a further attempt by the Israeli government to legitimise its ongoing terrorism against the Palestinian population.

Anarchists Against the Wall are a collective of Israeli activists who work closely with Palestinians and others groups such as the International Solidarity Movement, in coordinating non-violent marches and direct actions against the wall's construction. Having recently returned to the village of

Bil'in he was greeted by those who he was acting in solidarity with."It is very moving to see how the village people reacted" says Cohen. "As far as I am concerned, this hu-



man warmth, our togetherness, is the biggest achievement of struggle. More than a struggle against the physical wall and the thousands of acres it is stealing from the Palestinians. The real struggle is against the mental wall."

Cohen, like many, is only too well aware of the disparities between Israeli and Palestinian life. At the weekly Friday protests across

Palestine against the wall, many hundreds of Palestinians have been injured, beaten or shot. Their injuries are rarely reported, showing the dehumanising and ultimately racist attitudes inherent within not only the Israeli government and its security forces, but most of the western media as well.

Readers may be interested to know that the Irish Cement Roadstone Holdings Group, are heavily involved in the wall's construction. Amnesty International recently stated that "C.R.H., through its subsidiaries Mashav and Nesher is likely to be providing the raw material of the fence/wall...if so, it would contravene the U.N. norms on the responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with regard to Human Rights".

Regardless, the company made a profit of €1279 million. So when CEO Liam O Mahony says "...CRH continued to move forward on many fronts in 2005 once again producing new record sales and profits together with substantial development activity", Palestinians and all those who genuinely value human life can only but wonder what hope there can be under the bastardising logic of capitalism, and its wars.

*Mark Malone*

# Indonesia: Workers occupy Securicor

Indonesian workers employed by global security giant Securicor have been through a lot. Over a year ago, they took the decision to strike – and were promptly (and illegally) sacked by the company. Since then, they have tried to win back their jobs.

Most recently, the Supreme Court of their country has ruled in their favour. So the struggle is now over, right? Surely a multinational corporation is not going to ignore a Supreme Court ruling ...

But Securicor is refusing to give the workers



their jobs back - and the workers have decided to occupy the company's offices in Jakarta.

These workers have been through a tremendous struggle -- a strike, lengthy court battles, and now an audacious act of defiance by occupying Securicor's offices. They have appealed through their sister unions to trade unionists around the world to send off a simple message to the company demanding that it give them their jobs back.

If you have internet access, please take a moment and send off your message now. Details are at: [www.labourstart.org](http://www.labourstart.org)

# Climate Change

## Root Causes & Radical Solutions

*In light of growing concern over the rate of climate change Cian Lynch gives his views on some of the solutions being proposed.*

The recent spate of unusually destructive hurricanes in the US and the severe floods in Eastern Europe over the last 2 years have seen the climate change issue climbing the headlines once more.

A special report in *Time* magazine acknowledged that the "serious debate" about whether climate is, or is not occurring, has ended. There is now agreement even among skeptics that climate change is real and that human activity is causing it. Of course the most important issue is whether it is possible to significantly slow or reverse this phenomenon, and if it is, what are the actions we need to take? This is where we begin to most clearly see the bias of the mainstream media emerge. Elsewhere in little "green" columns around the media, journalists suggest that individual solutions like "eating organic food", "planting a tree" or using energy efficient lightbulbs will save the planet. This is a myth, and a dangerous one at that. These are all market choices, made within an economy that is based on ever increasing growth and as such, these individualistic,

"environmentally friendly" shopping choices do not even begin to tackle the root causes of environmental problems. In fact, as these products become more successful, they are opening up new markets for these goods and increasing overall economic growth.

The conclusion that is so strenuously avoided by media from *Time* magazine to the *Guardian* and the *Irish Times*, is that in fact the primary cause of Climate Change is the inherent drive to constantly increase corporate profit within a capitalist market system. *Time* magazine offers an opinion poll on possible ways to reduce climate change that reveals very little: two options involve increasing taxes (obviously few people opted for these) and two more popular options that involved giving companies tax breaks to develop alternative energy sources. However, nothing substantial was offered to back up the implied claim that our current energy demands can be met by non-fossil fuel alternatives.

The best that the liberal consensus has to offer is the ailing Kyoto protocol, which most climate scientists had regarded as being more of a symbolic victory than anything that would make serious inroads into slow-

ing climate change. However, it is clear now that most countries are not on track even to meet these extremely conservative objectives. The 15 longest standing members of the EU (which includes Ireland) had agreed to reduce emissions by 8% by 2010 but are currently predicted to miss this target by 1.6%. The US, the world's biggest contributor to global warming, actually walked out of the Kyoto talks in Montreal in December 2005, and has only committed to future talks on the stipulation that the dialogue "will not open any negotiations leading to new commitments". The astounding complacency of liberal environmentalists in the face of this is extremely worrying – Greenpeace International's political director Steve Sawyer called the meeting "historic" and said it had delivered "just about everything" he wanted.

Clearly, neither governments nor corporations are prepared to take the necessary steps to change course from our current catastrophic direction towards real, sustainable alternatives. We can only achieve a sustainable world if we work to build a genuinely sustainable economy, one that produces for need and not to blindly accumulate profits with terrible results for the environment.

*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.*



### NEUTRAL MY ARSE

From January to March of this year 116,450 US troops have passed through Shannon Airport. In 2004 the figure was 121,943, by the end of 2005 the numbers more than doubled to 330,000. This year we may see just under half million troops go through the airport. Yet the government continues to proclaim Ireland's 'neutrality'!

### WHOEVER PAYS THE PIPER...?

Trinity College Dublin is getting €1,000,000 from Coca-Cola to establish two full time posts in "international economics and competition policy". The same college's Computer Science department also received "research funding" from the US Air Force.

### LAND OF THE FREE (ENTERPRISE)

While the US government proclaims its love for democracy and freedom in Iraq, at home the President of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union in New York was sentenced to 10 days in jail for leading a strike last December. Other union officials were fined.

### THE RICH GET RICHER

A rising tide may lift all boats, but some get a lot more of a rise than others. In the years 1995-2003 wages & pensions in the 26 counties went up 126% but profits and self-employed income grew by 189%.

## James Connolly and Direct Action

If we always obey the rules of our rulers, always con ourselves into believing that justice can be obtained by going through the 'proper channels', we will usually lose.

At the Dublin May Day rally, the guest speaker from the Belfast & District Council of Trade Unions quoted from an article, *Direct Action in Belfast*, written by Connolly and published in the *Irish Worker*, September 16th, 1911.

"We have just had, and taken, the opportunity in Belfast to put into practice a little of what is known on the Continent of Europe as 'Direct Action'.

"Direct Action consists in ignoring all the legal and parliamentary ways of obtaining redress for the grievances of Labour, and proceeding to rectify these grievances by direct action upon the employer's most susceptible part – his purse. This is very effective at times, and saves much needless worry, and much needless

waste of union funds.

"Direct Action is not liked by lawyers, politicians, or employers. It keeps the two former out of a job, and often leaves the latter out of pocket. But it is useful to Labour, and if not relied upon too exclusively, or used too recklessly, it may yet be made a potent weapon in the armoury of the working class."

Direct Action is not a new idea. It is not about stunts or being 'hard'. It simply means taking action directly rather than trusting in someone else (politicians, Labour Court, mediators, etc.) to sort things out for us.

It gave our unions many victories in the past but that is almost forgotten today. It is time to go back to basics: decide what we want to achieve and then organise together to win it. It's both a radical idea and a practical one.

*Joe King*

# Thinking About Anarchism

## A touch of Class

by Alan MacSimion



**Why are anarchists always dragging class into everything? Isn't class struggle something more at home in a history book than in Celtic Tiger Ireland? After all you don't see too many downtrodden workers wandering around in donkey jackets, cloth caps and heavy boots.**

Instead, lots of us go to Turkey, Morocco or even the US for our holidays. And hardly anyone eats bread and dripping in 2006.

So that settles the question, doesn't it? Well, no (what else did you expect me to write!). The ruling class would love us to think class was no more; that we are all the same and it's the courageous and 'enterprising' who get on in life.

Sadly, in the real world, there is no single 'humanity', not yet. In every country there is still a division of people into classes, and these classes have conflicting interests.

Classes are defined by their relationship to the "means of production"; their relationship to the factories, machinery, natural resources, etc. with which the wealth of society is created. Although there are groups like self-employed and small farmers, the main classes are the workers and the bosses.

It is the labour of the working class that creates wealth. The bosses, through their ownership and control of the means of production, have legal ownership of this wealth and decide how it is to be distributed.

Only a part of this wealth is returned. Some is paid as wages, some as the "social wage" (hospitals, schools, public services, and so on). The rest is creamed off as profit. But labour creates all wealth. An apple on a tree is worth nothing until someone picks it, coal in the ground has no use until someone mines it. What is known as "surplus value" or profit is stolen wages.

The working class is the majority in Ireland today. All who work for a wage, salary or commission are in its ranks. It consists of all who have to sell their ability to work. It makes no difference if you work in a factory, office, school, hospital or shop. It makes no difference if you work with your hands or your head, whether you wear overalls or a suit, whether you earn 'good' or bad wages.

The unemployed also form part of the working class. Social welfare payments are made to those who have worked and those who may potentially provide some employer with their labour power. It is a condition of payment that a claimant is "available for and actively seeking work". Needless to say, the partners and children of workers are also part of the same class, as are the retired.

The interests of the working class (wages, working conditions, jobs, useful public spending, etc.) are in constant and inevitable conflict with those of the boss class. They want to maximise their profits and gain an advantage over their competitors, and what better way than to cut wage costs?

Although capitalism can give people a hard time on many different levels, race and sex to name but two; it is the exploitation of our labour that is fundamental to the system. If we can reclaim that aspect of our lives, the system can be overturned and replaced with something much better.

However just because someone is a worker it does not always follow that he or she will think of himself as a worker, or realise the potential for change that the working class collectively possesses. We all know people who identify with their boss, or others who become isolated from any sense of belonging to anything bigger than their own family and a few close friends.

Class consciousness, an awareness of our common interests and the potential we have for real change, needs to be encouraged and strengthened. This is one of the tasks of an anarchist organisation.

Only when direct control and management of production is taken by the working class themselves will we end the class division. In such a society wealth would be created and managed for the benefit of all. There would be no elite of bosses or rulers; instead, everyone affected by a decision could have a say in making that decision. What people need and want will be the guiding principle, not the interests of a few very wealthy shareholders.

And that's when we will stop "dragging class into everything".

## Book Review: The Rebel Sell

*The Rebel Sell: How the Counter Culture Became Consumer Culture* (Capstone Publishing)  
by Joseph Heath and Andrew Potter:

With a tagline on the inner dust cover that reveals the authors disappointment that "Counterculture has almost completely replaced socialism as the basis of radical political thought" I had expected to sympathise quite strongly with this book. The picture of the authors with "defy the state" graffiti behind them on the back dust cover also gave me a warm feeling inside so I picked it up on the spot. Given these initial signs I had assumed (mistakenly as it turns out) that the authors were at worst socialists of some kind, and at best quite sympathetic to anarchist ideas.

I was completely off the mark – the authors are in fact pretty firmly in the social democratic, liberal tradition, they claim to consider themselves part of the "left", but I certainly came across nothing more radical than the socialism-lite of the average Labour voter. I did find myself nodding, chuckling through and thoroughly enjoying their attacks on the "counterculture" – I particularly enjoyed their

attack on the pretensions of Adbusters to be revolutionary and "against the system" when they're now flogging sneakers just like their supposed mortal enemy – Nike. Unfortunately, the authors seem to believe that "counterculture" and "anarchist" ideas are pretty much interchangeable.

One particular passage about Rousseau is worth quoting in its entirety since it will serve to show how the authors misunderstand anarchism to be a "rebellion against mass society":

"He was opposed to the specifically hierarchical form that this order had taken on in his own society. It was the perversion of the natural order into class domination that angered him. In other words, despite the sweeping nature of his indictment, Rousseau's critique was directed against a specific class enemy – the aristocracy. Furthermore, he regarded the general population – the masses – as a natural ally in the struggle. The social upheavals that his thought inspired – up to and including the French Revolution, were not anarchic uprisings against society at large. They were aimed quite specifically at the ruling classes."

But anarchists like ourselves would argue that an uprising directed against the ruling classes is a perfect example of class struggle anarchism.

At the very end of the book, the "Spaceship Earth" chapter critiques the environmental movement, easy targets like Deep Ecology and "Buy Nothing Day" and finally concludes with their "practical fix" of encouraging emissions trading as a solution to our environmental problems. As Sharon Beder rightly observes in "Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on the Environment", emissions trading merely involves selling the "right to pollute" to the highest bidder.

Overall, this is an interesting but deeply flawed book which is worth reading for its powerful deconstruction of the claims of the counterculture to be revolutionary, and despite its utter confusion on the significant differences between anarchism and countercultural ideas.

Cian Lynch

# Victory for French Youth

## Government forced to back down on unequal employment laws

**During March and early April a wave of protests and occupations gripped France. On March the 7th over one million people protested against the French government's attempt to introduce the C.P.E., a new law that reduced the rights of young workers.**

The five weeks that followed saw 68 Universities occupied as students and workers went on strike. The government responded to this popular protest by unleashing the notorious police force, the C.R.S against the strikers. Thousands of arrests were made and a 39 year old Trade Unionist was put in a coma following a brutal attack by the police.

The current wave of unrest is the latest in a series of social upheavals in France. The protests against pension cuts in 2003, the protracted strikes in Marseilles and the rioting of the urban poor in late 2005 show the failure of capitalism to guarantee a decent standard of living for people.

The unemployment rate among young people in France is 25% and is as high as 40% for the unskilled. The C.P.E. was supposedly an attempt to solve the unemployment crises but as always it was the workers that were expected to suffer for the wellbeing of the economy.

In 2005 the C.N.E. was passed which exempted small workplaces from the majority of labour laws and protection for employees. The C.P.E. was next step in the process of reducing the rights of workers and weakening the trade union move-

ment.

The new law allowed employers to fire young workers at any stage during their first two years of employment. It reintroduced night work for people as young as 15 and lowered the school leaving age to 14. The new law encouraged bosses to hire young, easily exploitable workers,



and then fire them before they became permanent or had the audacity to fall sick or join a union.

The effect would have been to create a pool of insecure, low paid workers that could have been used to drive down wages throughout the French economy. It introduced job insecurity as a method of controlling workers and the union movement. Workers and students throughout France recognised this and decided to stand up against this latest attack on their living standards.

Universities were occupied and democratic decision making bodies were set up among the students. General assemblies were held and delegates were elected to allow the assemblies to organise on a na-

tional basis. The actions of the students became a catalyst and focal point for popular discontent.

School students went on strike, impoverished youth from the poorer housing estates (banlieues) joined their peers, and workers linked their struggles to those of the students. The popular grassroots support that the students received forced the moderate unions into action. Four days of protest were called, culminating on March 28th when over three million people took to the streets to demonstrate across the country.

The popularity of the student revolt, the possibility of it spreading and their willingness to engage in direct action forced the government to back down. Despite blustering promises to the contrary on

Monday 10th of April, just over a week after signing the C.P.E. into law, the French government was forced into a humiliating climb down and promised to scrap the law.

The French government's plans were just the latest in a series of attempts by bosses and governments across Europe to drive down wages and working conditions. In Ireland we have already seen widespread exploitation of young and foreign workers, the efforts to undercut unionised jobs and now the privatisation of Aer Lingus. It is only by linking the struggles of young people and workers that we can effectively fight back against the agenda of the bosses and their lackeys in government.

*John Flood*

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Affiliated with International Libertarian Solidarity

### Organise! Working Class Resistance

Class Struggle Anarchist Organisation

Publishes "Working Class Resistance"

PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ

www.organiseireland.org

### Anarchist Youth

Anarchist Organisation

Ph: 0879184604

www.anarchistyouth.org

anarchistyouth@riseup.net

### Grassroots Dissent

<http://flag.blackened.net/infocenter/grassroots>

Non-hierarchical Network of grassroots social justice activists formed as a merger between Dissent! and the Dublin Grassroots Network.

### Indymedia Ireland

www.indymedia.ie

Irish Branch of Global Media Collective

The place to find Irish campaign news.

### Barracka Books

Radical Book Store

61 Barrack Street, Cork City

barrackabooks@yahoo.ie

### Cork Autonomous Zone

Social Space

61 Barrack St., Cork

corkcaz@yahoo.ie

## ACTIVIST GROUPS

Activist groups fighting for social justice

### Shell to Sea

www.shelltosea.com

Website of campaign to move Shell's pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo

### Alliance For Choice

Campaign for women's freedom to choose

www.struggle.ws/ireland/allianceforchoice/index.html

### BODY

Pro Choice Youth Activist Group

choice\_ireland@hotmail.com

Louise: 086 329 3741

### Residents Against Racism

Campaign against racism & deportations

Meets every Friday at 7pm in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square in Dublin [www.residentsagainstracism.org](http://www.residentsagainstracism.org)



# Justice for Terence Wheelock

Just over a year ago, on the 2nd of June 2005 Terence Wheelock was arrested on suspicion of car theft and brought to Dublin's Store Street Garda station. Just two hours after his arrest he was found unconscious in his cell. He entered a coma and passed away in September 2005.

The Garda Press Office made a statement, claiming that Terence had tied a ligature around his neck, and secured this to a "fixture" which was "counter sunk into the wall". However the idea that Terence had hung himself is one which has been contested by his family and which looks increasingly dubious given subsequent revelations.

As per normal procedure Terence should have been checked in his 'suicide proof' cell on a regular basis. According to the station records ten minutes before he was found unconscious his cell was inspected and it was noted that he was asleep. The gardai claim that in the next ten minutes he woke up, broke away the concrete around a light switch which was about two and a half feet off the ground with his bare hands and then hung himself. The ambulance was called about 9 minutes after Terence was supposedly found in his cell. There is no explanation over what caused this delay. Likewise no one has explained why when the ambulance arrived Terence was found in a hall close to the main desk of the station and not in his cell.

Gardai called to the Wheelock house, informed Terence's mother Esther that her son had hung himself and was in the southside St. James' Hospital. These gardai then drove her to St. James'. They claimed not to know the direction to get there and Esther actually had to direct them. Terence had actually

been brought to the much closer Mater Hospital. By the time his family had found this out and arrived in the Mater his clothing had been taken away by Gardai.

The Garda press statement mentioned that there was no evidence of any bruising on



Terence's body which is completely contradicted by his family who saw him in the hospital, and by hospital photographs.

Any attempts the family have made to find out what happened have been frustrated by the gardai and the state. In an effort to find out what had happened in the cell the Wheelocks family solicitor obtained a court order to preserve the it for technical examination. Despite this order the cell was completely renovated, was 'surgically cleaned' and the light switch from which Terence supposedly hung himself was removed.

When the family managed to get hold of the custody records the names of the arresting gardai had been removed. The Wheelock family have made many attempts to recover Terence's clothes for independent forensic examination. These attempts have been continually rebuffed by the Dept of Justice.

The family's calls for an independent investi-

gation have been refused and instead of this the garda commissioner has appointed Detective Superintendent Oliver Hanley from Dun Laoghaire Garda Station to look into the events around Terence's death. Hanley served in Store Street station for over fifteen years and as the family have pointed out this makes him far from independent.

The Wheelock family have also been subject to intimidation and even attacks from the gardai because of their campaign for an investigation. On the third of June this year, just over a year since Terence was arrested, his brother was distributing leaflets. He was ap-

proached by a guard who tore up the leaflets and then tried to arrest him. When members of the family questioned the reasons for his arrest they were attacked by other gardai. In minutes over 30 gardai were on the scene, some of whom ran into the Wheelock house assaulting Terence's mother, his six months pregnant sister and terrifying a two year old girl. In the days since this brutal attack the gardai have stationed people outside the Wheelock home in a blatant attempt at intimidation.

The Wheelocks are fighting for an independent inquiry into the circumstances around Terence's death. In the circumstances it is quite a modest demand. However the case is important not just to the Wheelocks, but to everyone living in this country today. Its simply unacceptable that a man can die in police custody without anyone having to explain what happened. If it happened to Terence it can happen to any of us.

*Jack White*

## Launch of Video Activist Collective

Revolt Video is a video activist collective set up to provide footage of political events happening in Ireland and internationally, covering the whole spectrum of social change. The collective works on the same principle as Indymedia, and alongside it will provide footage and less heard voices on issues which other mainstream media outlets ignore, often due to owners vested interests such as advertising and profit.

There are plans to provide ongoing workshops in the future once a secure location is obtained. With this physical presence we can

also focus on the distribution of independent films and activist media. Recently the collective has held numerous screenings such as those at the Anarchist Bookfair in Dublin, various concerts and benefits, and will also be holding screenings at the new Indymedia film nights in Dublin ([www.Indymedia.ie](http://www.Indymedia.ie)).

Revolt is there to encourage people to report on issues and events which affect them. Members of the collective propose projects which are discussed and created collectively, with each person working with their strengths whether it is filming or editing etc. It is run on

a non-profit basis, all money raised is reinvested into future projects and equipment.

Revolt video volume one is currently available directly from Revolt by emailing [revoltvideo@hushmail.com](mailto:revoltvideo@hushmail.com). You can order one copy or multiples if you want to distribute in your community or school. Our films are also available in Connolly Books in Dublin. You can view footage and obtain more information on Revolt Video Collective by visiting [www.revoltvideo.blogspot.com](http://www.revoltvideo.blogspot.com)

*Barry*