

# FORWARD



Official publication of the Connolly Youth Movement

YOUTH

SOVEREIGNTY

SOCIALISM

## 90,000 forced to immigrate

Sometimes complex and confusing political theory is exhaustive and brain melting. So many in this country are the victims of gross political spin due to the unnecessary complexity that certain issues are dealt with by politicians and political commentators. Massive percentages and advance economic figures are difficult enough for economists to digest, let alone the average lay person who has neither the time nor the interest to dissect these huge sums and statistics. This has worked in many cases to the government's advantage. There is a significant disconnect in many people's views between the immigration figures being broadcast on the news and the true gravity of the empty place at the dinner table vacated by a loved one.

Immigration is a clear symptom that an economy is in free fall; of course we already know that. What many don't know though, what many are failing to grasp, is just how close any unemployed person is, at any given time, to having to follow the boat and plane loads of Irish men and women who've been forced to abandon their life in this country in a desperate flight for a basic human right; work. The figure for immigration out of this country between April 2011 and April 2012, just twelve months, stood at 87,100. These are 87,100 sons or daughters, these 87,100 are friends or loved ones, and looking from a larger perspective this number equates to taking the whole city of Limerick and sending it abroad.



Minister Noonan has been quiet clear about how much he cares about the tens of thousands forced to leave.

***These are 87,100 sons or daughters, these 87,100 are friends or loved ones, and looking from a larger perspective this number equates to taking the whole city of Limerick and sending it abroad.***

These figures are, well, just figures until they're actually represented as living and breathing examples of this government's irresponsible and damaging economic austerity. These living and breathing members of a family, of a town, of a football club are faceless numbers to the government. To them they are simply one less to think about. To everyone else though they are the empty place at dinner or the hurler who has left his team a man short, these people are to all intents and purposes an entire generation lost. The weight of this loss is immense and it is counterproductive in every way. Instead of working to invest money into creating employment and keeping skilled and educated workers in Ireland, this government has opened a vital artery and allowed our country's greatest asset to haemorrhage into the world, choosing instead to defend crooked bankers and speculative bondholders.

There is another massive misunderstanding at the heart of this whole issue. Amongst many there is a very real belief that Irish people are voluntarily leaving this country on pleasure seeking trips of enlightenment. This argument was brought to life by the sickening comments of our Minister for Finance on the whole issue of immigration. Minister Noonan speaking earlier in the year said that immigration was "not being driven by unemployment at home" but rather it was "driven by a desire to see another part of the world and live there". These heartless comments were made on the back of rising unemployment and the already mentioned excessive immigration, yet Mister Noonan seems unable to diagnose the correlation between the two. Unemployment stands at 15% in this country and has been steadily rising since 2007, as has immigration.

This government's malignant policies are ripping this country asunder. They have robbed the people of this country of the right to work, the right to healthcare, the right to education; they have systematically destroyed the lives of countless families and workers. With immigration figures as they are, they are now robbing people in this country of an even more natural right; the right to live and work in your own country. The 87,100 people who have left this country in the year I mentioned earlier left this country not because they wanted to, not because they had a return ticket in their pocket and a surf board in their luggage, not because they wanted to see "another part of the world" as Noonan put it, no they left this country with a gun to their head and the troika's finger on the trigger.

Once again it would seem Irishmen are at war with imperialism, this time it's the EU and the troika. In the First World War-a conflict created by imperial war mongering- Ireland sent 30,000 healthy men to die for the cause of the king against the Kaiser. Those men lost their lives', their parent's lost their son, their wives' lost their husband, their children lost their father, and what was the net worth of this genocide? The safety of the ego of a well fed and financed monarch. These 87,100 immigrants who have left this shore have a lot in common with these dead soldiers. They have been forced to leave their country for the cause of protecting the bourgeoisie class; they have had to leave family and loved ones for a lonely life in a foreign land. The rulers may not all be kings now, they are derived though from the same stock. They, like the kings, are the controllers of production who, driven by greed, have forced tens of thousands to leave their country. They have replaced one self-serving, tired and broken system with a carbon copy in a mask. There is a much known and probably clichéd quote by the great James Connolly on the subject of replacing one blood stained standard with another and I'm sure you've all heard it.

***The surge in unemployment coupled with a consistent rise in the cost of living, vicious cuts to social welfare and punitive austerity has acted as the catalyst that has carried so many in this country across the waves.***

During penal times the imperial British government "transported" tens of thousands to Australia as prisoners for minor offenses; it gives tremendous weight to James Connolly's quote when we examine the fact that today it's the Irish government, the supposed free Irish government, who are deporting these individuals in very similar circumstances. Neither grouping committed any serious crime which would warrant such a harsh punishment. They are guilty only of being victims of immense injustice. They are, as the song puts it, "prisoners of want", forced to abandon all they have for the minute chance of something slightly better. The surge in unemployment coupled with a consistent rise in the cost of living, vicious cuts to social welfare and punitive austerity has acted as the catalyst that has carried so many in this country across the waves. All these tumours are of course hidden under the one blanket; capitalism.



**Labour have fully supported these cruel acts of austerity that have forced so many into poverty, and eventually out of their own country.**

The perilous state of our country, the very reason so many must leave, is confounded by the total absence of any form of credible resistance in this country. The proletariat has, as they usually do, taken the brunt of the consequences of the white collar crime which has ruptured this country. Even with the direct effects of those consequences hitting home every day for the Irish working class, there has been no significant strike or demonstration to tackle the government's actions, there has been only minor scuffles by a few smaller parties. The Irish people have, through their silence, assisted the government and the troika in their savage war against workers. One does not have to look far for inspiration. Spain and Greece, countries in very similar situations to Ireland, have seen mass mobilisations of working class people against the sadistic actions of their respective governments. The value of such activity cannot be denied. The flair of passionate resistance has sent a strong message to the leadership in Spain and Greece, a message clearly written that the people will not lie down and take it. One must remember that if Mister Samaras or Mister Rajoy can hear their people's screams, then Miss Merkel is tuned in too. Ireland needs a voice, a collective voice of resistance.

## IMPERIALIST WAR ON SYRIA CONTINUES

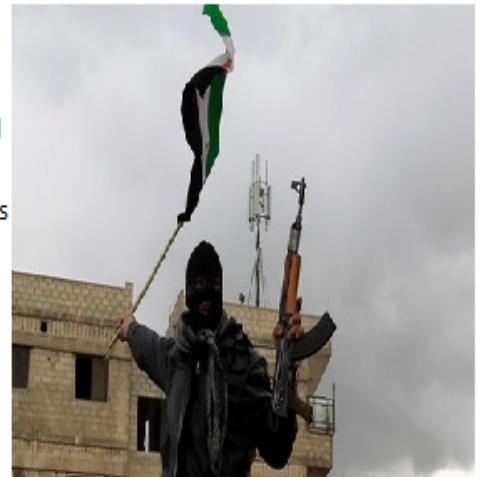
Living in Ireland, and depending on news sources such as RTE, Sky News, BBC and the print media, one would be led to believe that the conflict being waged in Syria today is a David vs. Goliath battle between the tyrannical leaders and the pure, good and heroic rebels. To adhere to this opinion is to close your eyes to every true fact regarding this conflict. This is now a civil war being waged between a progressive and modern thinking government, and a band of Al-Qaida terrorists backed by the imperialist West, Zionist Israel and the Arab Monarchies.

*This regime change, of course, is illegal under every UN convention. This is an imperialist invasion of sovereign Syria.*

This is a strategic battle being waged by the US and her NATO allies to bring about instability in the region and bring about regime change in Syria, just how they did in Iraq and Libya. This regime change, of course, is illegal under every UN convention. This is an imperialist invasion of sovereign Syria. To stand behind the terrorist rebels, against a progressive government, is to join a band of roving imperialists looking to stamp their power on every free and democratic nation.

The Syrian government has carried out attacks, of course they have, what government would stand by and allow radical Islamists take over its nation and her people. Think for a moment about what happened when the US came under attack by Al-Qaida. The US launched wars all over the world and toppled an un-related government in Iraq. So now President Assad is supposed to stand by and allow terrorists enslave his people under a sharia regime? Would president Obama be so willing to allow terrorists march on Washington? What's more would the US, or the world for that matter, tolerate an imperial state funding and arming such terrorists?

People are looking at this conflict from the David vs. Goliath perspective. They are closing their eyes to the truth. On the behest of the US and Britain, the legitimate leader of Libya was lynched and executed without trial. The same fate no doubt awaits President Assad should the rebels succeed. If his leadership collapses Syria will then be governed by criminal terrorists, terrorists who have already carried out gross crimes against humanity, from using chemical weapons, to carrying out suicide bombings and firing mortars at schools full of children. If President Assad falls, Syria falls, If President Assad falls then one of the few remaining nations in that region who stand against both imperialism and religious fundamentalism falls.



Radical islamist fighters are being backed by the West in their war against the Syrian government.

This is a war being fought by minorities; this is a war of a noisy few against a silent majority. The Syrian government has tried again and again to sue for peace, making meaningful concessions along the way. This has failed and tens of thousands of Jordanian, Iraqi and Turkish Al-Qaida men continue to flood into Syria to kill and maim her people. At the conclusion of this war, if the "rebels" are victorious, the right to live in Syria as an ethnic or religious minority will be revoked. Equal rights for women and homosexuals will be destroyed. A radical sharia regime will take over. It's easy for RTE and Sky to speak. As mouthpieces of the imperial world they play an important role and will all benefit from terrorists governing Syria.



**Hillary Clinton in full support of Syrian terrorist rebels.**

*Think if your nation was being bombed back to the Stone Age by western weapons in the hands of terrorists.*

Think if in the morning terrorists took over this country, or were at least on the verge of doing so. Think of the situation were you knew your children could be murdered, or your daughter could be denied the right to vote or the right to show her face. Think of a nation where your daughter might be denied an education. Think if your nation was being bombed back to the Stone Age by western weapons in the hands of terrorists. Think them, after this bombing; a new and regressive regime would do all in its power to keep your country in this Stone Age. This is reality for so many in Syria. Think of that when you hear the lies of RTE, Sky and the BBC.

## SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN KEY ELECTIONS

Ninety-five years ago the working classes of the Russian Empire and its oppressed nationalities broke free of the bonds of tyranny and exploitation which had oppressed them for so many centuries, and set out on one of the greatest journeys in human history. The aftermath of the great war was a time of great turmoil and immense societal upheaval. Revolutions were sparking out in Germany and Hungary guided by the same principles as the previous Russian Revolution. The Imperialist powers of Britain and the USA, and the other members of that bloodthirsty gang of exploiters, feared similar events internally, and rightly so. Now as we approach so many much-awaited centenaries, exciting events are taking place in Europe, which provide a rich and meaningful parallel with those of the past.



*With the dominant government party defeated in local elections by a resurgent communist party, there is a hopeful future for the working class acquisition of power in the Czech Republic.*

Such new developments are being manifested in the increase in support and the consolidation of power being made by many revolutionary parties across Europe, this being expressed in encouraging electoral successes in many places, most recently in the Czech Republic and Belgium.

### Czech government losing ground to Communists

Firstly in the Czech Republic, in October's Local Elections, the party of the country's Prime Minister, the Civic Democrats, won a mere 12.3% of the vote, whereas the regrowing and revived communist party, bolstered by the effects of dissatisfaction with a right-wing austerity government, came away with over 20% of the vote, a stark and profound victory. With the dominant government party defeated in local elections by a resurgent communist party, there is a hopeful future for the working class acquisition of power in the Czech Republic.

**The success of the Belgian party was a fortunate surprise, based on the extensive work done by the Belgian party in promoting worker's rights in all sectors and building a grassroots campaign from the ground up.**

Around the same time, municipal and provincial elections were held in Belgium, the Workers' Party of Belgium achieved a marked increase in seats, rising from a previous 15 local seats to 52 local seats. The success of the Belgian party was a fortunate surprise, based on the extensive work done by the Belgian party in promoting worker's rights in all sectors and building a grassroots campaign from the ground up.

These communist electoral victories show a clear rise in the tide of working class power all across Europe, marking a general increase in the resistance of workers to the malign influence of the neoliberal regimes that violently impose austerity and economic inequality in Europe. These victories sound out a hopeful note internationally, along with the triumphant victory of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, and are creating an atmosphere of expectation for future successes in many places. Only by the tireless and passionate work of party activists can these victories be consolidated and expanded. The fight to reclaim worker's rights and benefits all across Europe will be difficult and long, but will inevitably end in victory.



**Hugo Chavez celebrates election victory. President Chavez was strongly endorsed by his people and saw off a US backed rich opponent.**