

# FORWARD #20

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A YOUNG VOICE FOR SOCIALISM

Fascism in Ukraine - The Dehumanisation of the Homeless - Basque



CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT  
ÓGRA UÍ CHONAÍLE

## The Roots of Modern War

The Cabinets who rule the destinies of nations from the various capitals of Europe are but the tools of the moneyed interest. Their quarrels are not dictated by sentiments of national pride or honour, but by the avarice and lust of power on the part of the class to which they belong. The people who fight under their banners in the various armies or navies do indeed imagine they are fighting the battles of their own country, but in what country has it ever happened that the people have profited by foreign conquest?

The influence which impels towards war today is the influence of capitalism. Every war now is a capitalist move for new markets, and it is a move capitalism must make or perish. The mad scramble for wealth which this century has witnessed has resulted in lifting almost every European country into the circle of competition for trade. New machinery, new inventions, new discoveries in the scientific world have all been laid under contribution as aids to industry, until the wealth producing powers of society at large have far outstripped the demand for goods, and now those very powers we have conjured up from the bosom of nature threaten to turn and rend us. Every new labour-saving machine at one and the same time, by reducing the number of workers needed, reduces the demand for goods which the worker cannot buy, while increasing the power of producing goods, and thus permanently increases the number of unemployed, and shortens the period of industrial prosperity. Competition between capitalists drives them to seek for newer and more efficient wealth-producing machines, but as the home market is now no longer able to dispose of their produce they are driven to foreign markets. So it is in China today. The great industrial nations of the world, driven on by their respective moneyed classes, themselves driven on by their own machinery, now front each other in the far East, and, with swords in hand, threaten to set the armed millions of Europe in terrible and bloody conflict, in order to decide which shall have the right to force upon John Chinaman the goods which his European brother produces. Laveleye says somewhere that capitalism came into the world covered with blood and tears and dirt. We might add that if this war cloud now gathering in the East does burst, it will be the last capitalist war, so the death of that baneful institution will be like its birth, bloody, muddy and ignominious.

The Workers' Republic, August 20, 1898



# CYM Summer School

In August, friends and members of the Connolly Youth from across the country gathered in Glendalough county Wicklow for a weekend political summer school. Proceedings began on the Friday evening with the screening of *The Revolution will not be Televised*, a documentary film detailing the events of the failed coup d'état against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2002. The film was followed by a discussion and information session led by CPI National Executive member Seán Edwards who had re-

cently returned from a visit to Venezuela, Colombia and Cuba. Saturday's program of events began with Eoghan O'Neill delivering a lecture on Marxism as a philosophy. This was followed by CYM General Secretary Ciarán Mac Aon Tuile who spoke on the life of James Connolly, noting in particular Connolly's time in Belfast spent uniting the dock workers from both communities in a successful strike for increased wages. After lunch, Finbar Cullen former director of the Ireland Institute delivered a lec-

ture on why class is central? The final presentation of the day was by CPI General Secretary Eugene McCartan who spoke on the origins of the state, its class makeup and who's interests it operates. After dinner, Saturday evening was rounded off with a table quiz (the spoils going to the Dublin team) and social night with many a revolutionary song sung. A change of pace was on the cards for Sunday with the main event of the day being a trek around the picturesque surroundings of Glendalough.





## Basque Country

The Basque people have long existed as a distinct and separate nation from the Spanish state. The Basque language, Euskara, is one of Europe's most unique languages and is spoken by over one quarter of people resident in Euskal Herria, the Basque region, administered by the Spanish and French states. The Basques fought on the side of the Republic during the Civil War in Spain, and suffered heavy losses fighting against Franco. After Franco's victory, the Basques were heavily persecuted, with the Basque language banned from public use, Basque indigenous customs suppressed and Basque industry exploited for the economic gain of the Madrid regime.

In response to the denial of basic national rights, the Basques formed a militant separatist organization, Basque Homeland and Freedom – ETA. ETA was originally formed to promote the suppressed Basque culture but later grew to launch a military campaign for Basque independence.

It is supported by the Batasuna (Unity) party. ETA had several early military successes against the Franco regime, such as the 1973 assassination of Franco's prime minister, Luis Carrero Blanco.

However, after the fall of the dictatorship and the emergence of a somewhat representative system, ETA's success and support waned. In response to ETA, the Spanish state covertly supported the GAL (“Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups”) which were death squads responsible for murder, torture, kidnapping and intimidation with the sponsorship of the Spanish government, not unlike the British state's collusion with Loyalist para-militaries in Ireland. The GAL is believed to be responsible directly for 27 deaths during this period of counter-terrorism.

The Basque people have faced much repression from the Spanish state, even after the ostensible establishment of democracy. One of the main tactics used by the Spanish state is that of dispersal.

This policy is the locating of Basque political prisoners in prisons far away from their homeland, in isolated facilities. There are currently over 450 prisoners in 77 prisons across Spain and

France.

Some prisons hold as few as 1 or 2 prisoners, some prisons are as far away as 1,000kms away from Euskal Herria. There are currently only 6 Basque prisoners held in the Basque country, with the remaining 457 prisoners located outside it. This places huge strain on prisoners' families, as they have to carry out week-end trips for a 45-minute visit with their loved ones. There also is a significant financial strain on families due to the travelling. Visits are cancelled for flimsy reasons or cut short by the prison administration. These are clear attempts to further isolate the prisoners and reduce their morale.

There are regular, monthly vigils held for the re-location of political prisoners to prisons nearer home. On January 9, a rally of 70,000 was held in Bilbao, capital of the Basque country, with protests of thousands elsewhere in the region, for the re-location of prisoners. The Spanish states' intransigence only prolongs the conflict as ETA is forced to continue its existence in order to provide for its prisoners, preventing a definite ceasefire and amnesty for prisoners taking place increasing the resolve of the Basque people to defy the Spanish state.



The most famous Basque political prisoner is Arnaldo Otegi, leader of Sotu(Create) who has been key in the peace talks between ETA and the Spanish government. He was arrested in 2009 and charged with membership of the Batasuna party, which the Spanish state classifies as inseparable from ETA. An Irish campaign to free Otegi and re-locate Basque prisoners was launched in Leinster House in 2015, with support from Tds, trade unionists, writers, academics and assorted personalities, with international support from peace campaigners such as Desmond Tutu. The Spanish state pursues several an-

ti-democratic policies in denying the Basque right to sovereignty. It outlaws parties that it sees as supportive of ETA, which basically means any party that is pro-independence. This includes parties that have received democratic backing from the Basque people, with names of parties regularly changing to over-ride the consistent bans. This includes the Communist Party of the Basque Homelands(PCTV) which, despite winning 12.5 percent in the Basque Regional Parliament in 2005, was outlawed in 2008, on the grounds it refused to condemn ETA's armed campaign and was a part of the military group.

These policies also coincide with the Spanish state's "gagging law" and banning of rallies of more than several people, in an attempt to destroy dissent, not unlike the former fascist state's tactics.

These tactics of repression do not curb the Basque demand for freedom and do not win the Spanish state's much respect in the Basque country. The state fears the rise of a Basque independence movement growing undisturbed from repression, especially with a similar mass movement for sovereignty gaining ground in Catalonia and opposition to austerity growing.

## Communist Party Banned in Ukraine

The World Federation of Democratic Youth condemns the permanent banning of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) which it was decided yesterday by the Administrative Court of Kiev, after a judgment that sealed essentially a purely political prosecution, which emanated from the reactionary government of fascist and nationalist forces, who seized power in a coup d' etat against a democratically elected government, with the support of USA, the EU and NATO.

The decision of the Administrative Court comes to join the support of fascism and fascist groups by imperialism which is hysterically elevating, trying to create pressure in one hand and to insure a tool of chaos in another in the country of Ukraine, on the same time that highlights once more the anti communism propaganda which is promoted by the EU in its attempt to equate communism with fascism, to overwrite the decisive contribution of the Soviet Union in the Peoples victory against fascism, and to weaken the

organized and massive struggle of the popular strata.

WFDY confirmed several times its solidarity and support towards its member organization "Leninist Communist Youth Union of Ukraine", and also towards all the democratic and progressive people of Ukraine that are under attack. Further, especially now,

WFDY express its deepest support and solidarity towards the Communist Party of Ukraine. WFDY also express its satisfaction for the message of CPU stating that it will continue its struggle for the rule of law and democracy, for the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

On behalf of WFDY



# Attack On Democracy

The Connolly Youth Movement extend our solidarity with the members and supporters of the Ukrainian Communist Party and the working class of Ukraine.

On December 16th, a Ukrainian court ruled that the Ukrainian governments' efforts to ban the Ukrainian Communist Party( the KPU), as well as officially banning communism as an ideology, was lawful. This is a severe blow to progressive forces in Ukraine. This decision follows the Ukrainian governments' initial attempts to ban the KPU in July, 2014, with the judge responsible removing himself from the case as he judged it to be politically motivated by the government. Other judges followed suit and were persued by the authorities as a result, with the authorities searching court premises and harassing KPU members. This exposes the extent democracy has been eroded in Ukraine.

In Spring 2015, the government introduced the de-communization laws. These laws prohibited the display of Soviet symbols, the hammer and sickle, the Soviet flag, streets named in the socialist era were re-named, statues were destroyed. The Ukrainian government has introduced these laws in an effort to criminalize the communist ideology. In July, the Justice Minister signed a decree which prevented communist parties from contesting elections in Ukraine.

However, despite their attempts to criminalize communism, the Ukrainian authorities have been as quick to re-habilitate forces which collaborated with the Nazis, such as Stepan Bandera, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which were responsible for tens

of thousands of deaths and assisting the Nazis with ethnic cleansing. These bills in parliament were passed without any debate.

These actions can hardly be seen as surprising, given the Kiev regime's rise to power in the Euromaidan coup in early 2014, backed by ultra-nationalists and the EU and United States. The Kiev regime has been involved in shellings of civilian and urban areas, massacres, such as in Donbass, using groups of armed para-military thugs such as the openly fascist Right Sector as its attack dog. It has broken cease-fire arrangements and murdered civilians in its attempt to crush the resistance of the anti-Maidan majority Russian-speaking communities in the East of Ukraine, in areas such as Donetsk and Donbass. Since the citizens of Crimea chose to join the Russian Federation in order to be protected from Kiev's belligerence, the regime has taken a hard line on areas with a strong opposition to it. In many of these areas, the Communists have been to the fore in organizing anti-fascist committees of resistance and organizing citizens in self-defence to protect themselves and their loved ones from the regime's attacks.

The resistance to Kiev's military on-

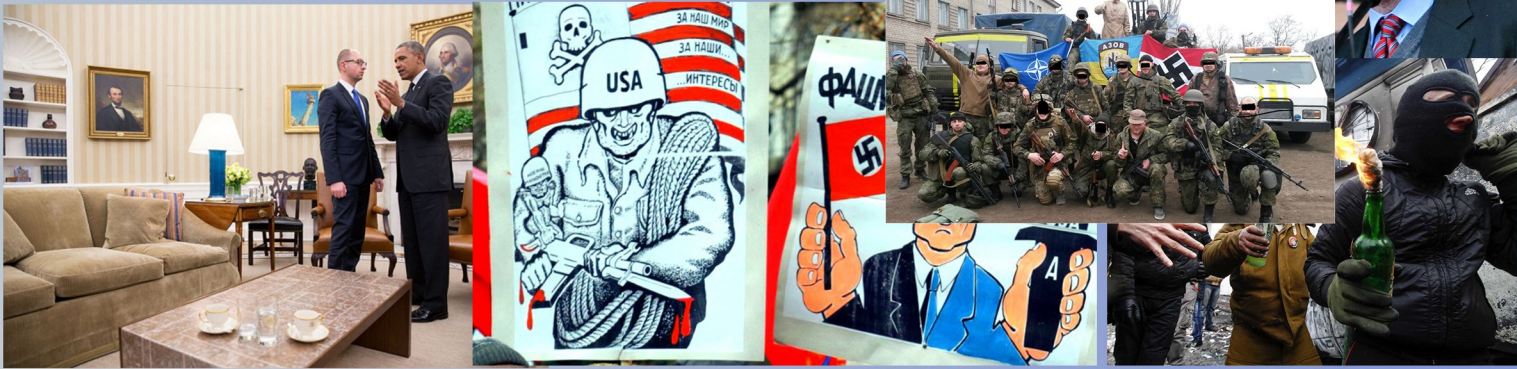
slaught in Eastern Ukraine has taken its toll, with forces fighting against the government gaining victories and thousands of Ukrainian army soldiers deserting, with protests in the firmly pro-Maidan centre of Kiev against the government. These military setbacks explains the government's desire to inflict an ideological blow against the most dangerous – as they see it – wing of the anti-fascist resistance. The government have even taken to calling the Great Patriotic War “World War II” and have criticised the Soviet Union “for illegally invading Germany” in an attempt to de-legitimise the victory of Communists in beating the current regime's ideological predecessors. In Ukraine, it was the Communist Party that spearheaded the defence against the Nazi onslaught, making it no surprise why it is currently being targeted.

The charge officially laid at the KPU is on the grounds of allegedly supporting separatism and promoting inter-ethnic conflict. Beside the obvious and glaring hypocrisy of Kiev in laying the latter charge against anyone, both accusations are, predictably, nonsensical. Even before the Maidan protests, the Communist Party of Ukraine supported the decentraliza-



tion of government in an attempt to stabilize the tensions present in Ukraine. The KPU also campaigned against corruption and called for democratic reform in several areas, such as in judicial appointments, and was the only party standing against foreign intervention by any power in Ukraine's affairs. The growing anarchy and lawlessness in Ukraine and the rise of far-right forces, even in governmental positions, was opposed from the start by the Ukrainian Communists and by Communists internationally, including us here in Ireland. The Communist Party of Ukraine is a

party of tens of thousands members, and many more supporters. It had, until persecution, elected positions in the Ukrainian parliament. Its banning is a clear attempt by the junta and its foreign backers to neuter what they see as one of the most dangerous wings of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist resistance in the region. The Ukrainian party, has always stood for democracy, human rights and social progress with sovereignty for Ukraine. Regardless of the outcome of this ban, it will still continue to work for these aims. Thus the CYM sends it our fraternal solidarity.



# CYM Activism in front of the Ukrainian Embassy in Dublin



## That is Why They Need Fascism: Georgi Dimitrov

*Dimitrov was born in Bulgaria and from the Social Democratic Party helped found the Bulgarian Communist Party in 1919. As secretary of the Trade Union Federation he also became a leading member and figure of the Communist International, Comintern. Dimitrov achieved world renown for successfully conducting his own defence when on trial in Germany, 1933, in the famous anti-communist Leipzig trials. Dimitrov made an invaluable contribution to the study and analysis of Fascism and to the tactics of popular resistance. Dimitrov died outside Moscow in 1949.*

With the development of the very deep economic crisis, with the general crisis of capitalism becoming sharply accentuated and the mass of working people becoming revolutionized, fascism has embarked upon a wide offensive. The ruling bourgeoisie more and more seeks salvation in fascism, with the object of taking exceptional predatory measures against the working people, preparing for an imperialist war of plunder, attacking the Soviet Union, enslaving and partitioning China, and by all these means preventing revolution.

The imperialist circles are trying to shift the whole burden of the crisis onto the shoulders of the working people. They are trying to solve the problems of markets by enslaving the weak nations, by intensifying colonial oppression and repartitioning the world anew by means of war. They are striving to forestall the growth of the forces of revolution by smashing the revolutionary movement of the workers and peasants...

That is why they need fascism.

It is characteristic of the victory of fascism that this victory, on the one hand, bear witness to the weakness of the proletariat, disorganized and paralyzed by the disruptive Social-Democratic policy of class collaboration with the bourgeoisie itself, and, on the other, expresses the weakness of the bourgeoisie itself, afraid of the realization of a united struggle of the working class, afraid of revolution, and no longer in a position to maintain its dictatorship over the masses by the old methods of bourgeois democracy and parliamentarism.

Fascism is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic and most imperialist elements of finance capital. Fascism is the power of finance capital itself. It is the organization of terrorist vengeance against the working class and the revolutionary section of the peasantry and intelligentsia.

The development of fascism, and the fascist dictatorship itself, assume different forms in different countries, according to historical, social and economic conditions and to the national peculiarities, and the international position of the given country.

The accession to power of fascism is not an ordinary succession of one bourgeois government by another, but a substitution of one state form of class domination of the bourgeoisie – bourgeois democracy – by another form – open terrorist dictatorship.

Before the establishment of a fascist dictatorship, bourgeois governments usually pass through a number of preliminary stages and adopt a number of reactionary measures which directly facilitate the accession to power of fascism. Whoever does not fight the reactionary measures of the bourgeoisie and the growth of fascism at these preparatory stages is not in a position to prevent the victory of fascism, but, on the contrary, facilitates that victory.

Fascism is able to attract the masses because it demagogically appeals to their

most urgent needs and demands. Fascism not only inflames prejudices that are deeply ingrained in the masses, but also plays on the better sentiments of the masses, on their sense of justice and sometimes even on their revolutionary traditions.

In practice it converts the workers and unemployed into pariahs of capitalist society stripped of rights; destroys their trade unions; deprives them of the right to strike and to have their working-class press, forces them into fascist organizations, plunders their social insurance funds and transforms the mills and factories into barracks where the unbridled arbitrary rule of the capitalist reigns.

Whether the victory of fascism can be prevented depends first and foremost on the militant activity of the working class itself, on whether its forces are welded into a single militant army combating the offensive of capitalism and fascism. By establishing its fighting unity, the proletariat would paralyze the influence of fascism over the peasantry, the urban petty bourgeoisie, the youth and the intelligentsia, and would be able to neutralize one section of them and win over the other section.

Unity of action of the proletariat on a national and international scale is the mighty weapon which renders the working class capable not only of successful defense but also of successful counterattack against fascism, against the class enemy.

It should be stated categorically that any Communist worker, any revolutionary worker who does not belong to the mass trade union of his industry, who does not fight to transform the reformist trade union into a real class trade union organization, who does not fight for trade union unity on the basis of the class struggle, such a Communist worker, such a revolutionary worker, does not discharge his elementary proletarian duty.



## The Bigots Are Right: Why Don't We Care About Our Homeless?

Find yourself a homeless person and purposefully drop your wallet in front of them as you walk past, and make sure you have a friend there to film the whole thing from afar. Then when the homeless person shouts your name and gets your attention to inform you of your dropped wallet you can begin to play some sad piano music, throw him a tokenistic 20, upload it all to YouTube and start counting the money from the ads that you play over it. This is what is called a 'Social Experiment'.

Take a quick look online and you'll find hundreds of 'experiments' just like this that capitalise on the way we dehumanise the homeless so the Mirror

can run headlines along the lines of 'The Fact That This Homeless Person isn't a Sub-human Heartless Junkie Thief Will Change the Way You See the World' – or some equivalent, when sharing your video.

Should you need more proof beyond the tuts and grunts found in your typical grimaced face of someone not usually burdened by the reality of inequality, there actually is science proving how ingrained our culture of dehumanisation is.

Research of Harris and Fiske (2010) showed that many people don't see homeless people as real human beings. Harris and Fiske took brain scans of regular people looking at objects and human beings. When looking at human beings, the medial prefrontal cortex was activated, which is involved in social cognition. When looking at objects, the medial prefrontal cortex didn't lit up, and the same happened when they saw pictures of heavy marginalized groups like substance dependent or homeless people. Homeless people are often portrayed as professional beggars who make tons of money collecting our 50 cents. And they don't use their fortunes to improve their lives, but to buy drugs or alcohol. So when they tell you that you've dropped your wallet you can't

help but be amazed.

Homelessness was an issue that was brought to the spotlight in the past few months due to the Syrian refugee crisis. Not because it made us realise the extent of our own injustice, but because it was a convenient idea to throw under the bus in an attempt at not wanting to take in any more scrounging, ISIS infiltrated, filthy 'foreigners'. That pseudo-altruism is a bigots goldmine, one in which tabloids have been using as far back as letting refugee's from Nazi Germany into the the UK and Ireland.

Not only do most of the people using this rhetoric not care about homeless people during every other month of the year when immigration isn't discussed, but they go even further by dehumanising them.

Although recent Irish legislation involving Injection Rooms seeks to help those burdened by drug addiction and to reduce the stigma, and maybe after Bressie's 4th or 5th book about depression and mental health, the country might be a little more empathetic for the homeless suffering from any of those issues. But ultimately, that is not the root cause of our culture of dehumanisation.

Too many of us believe the myths of social-mobility and meritocracy that we are being fed from the top down. The belief that we are where we are because we worked hard to get here, or in the case of the poor and homeless, that they didn't work hard enough. An entrenching American Dream capitalist fallacy that claims we all have equal opportunities to be great and rich and successful – regardless of circumstance.

In a capitalist state, ultimately, the social system you're born into is the one you die in, regardless of how hard you work. In a 2007 US Treasury Department study of inequality, only .2 percent of those who began in abject poverty made it into the top 1 percent. In contrast, 82.7 percent of those who began in the top 1 percent remained in

the top 10 percent a decade later. This study shows that wealth accumulation is the only goal in our current system. There is no meritocracy, there is not a higher elite that simply work harder than those born into poverty.

Let's even take a more local example from Ireland's Higher Education Authority. A study from 2014 looking at those going from secondary to third level education found in Dublin 6, participation by young people is at 99%, compared to just 15% in Dublin 17. Areas like Dublin 6w and Dublin 4 also show high participation rates. Is this because working class kids are just not as smart or does it have anything to do with private education in the area and those born into enough wealth to afford private tutors and other educational aids? There is an educational inequality in our society that filters the poor from ever achieving the success and riches that we're constantly told are within reach.

Bust the myth of meritocracy and we can return the humanity to the homeless, the unable and the impoverished. Then at least when we say we need to take care of our homeless, we don't do

it to justify our own prejudice about refugees, but we do it because they're human beings, just like us.

A.C.

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## Samhail ardoideachais nua de dhíth

Is cosúil go bhfuil plé éigin faoi lán seoil i láthair na huaire maidir le dul chun cinn mic léinn na linne seo nuair a shroicheann siad an tríú leibhéal. Is léir go bhfuil an-chuid daoine ag tarraingt amach as cúrsaí sula gcríochnaíonn siad an chéad bhliain, agus meastar go ndéanann 60%-70% amhlaidh i gcúrsaí teicneolaíochta agus innealtóireachta sna hInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta, cur i gcás. De réir an

acadóra Greg Foley ó Ollscoil na Cathrach, Baile Átha Cliath, níl ionchais réasúnta ag mic léinn faoin oiread oibre a bhfuil de dhíth chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh. Deirtear nach bhfreastlaíonn mic léinn ar léachtaí toise gur féidir leo na nótaí a léamh ar líne níos déanaí ar aon chuma. Cuireann poist páirt-aimseartha agus timaistir fhada bac orthu teacht ag uaireanta teagaise go rialta.

D'ainneoin é sin ar fad, admhaíonn Foley an fáth eile leis an gcruachas ina bhfuil mionlach mór na mac léinn: tá iliomad ciorruithe ag déanamh dochair do chaighdeán an oideachais a chuirtear ar fáil dóibh. Níl na tacaíochtaí cuí ann nuair a thagann siad chuig an tríú-leibhéal, ó thaobh seirbhísí sláinte meabhraí agus mar sin de. Is minic go dtagann mic léinn ag an tríú-leibhéal mar gheall nach bhfuil printiseachtaí oiriúnacha ann dóibh lasmuigh de sin.

Deir saineolaithe go gcuirtear iachall ar mhic léinn freastal ar an ollscoil de bharr brú comhaoise agus ganntanas gairmthreoirachta sna meánscoileanna, réimse a d'fhulaing go mór le linn na géarchéime.

Tá thart fá 85% do phobal scoile an Stáit ag dul ar aghaidh ag an ardoideachas, i bhfad os cionn an mheáin Eorpaigh. Luaitear tosca cultúrtha leis an staidreamh seo, an tuairim nach bhféadfaí dul chun cinn a dhéanamh sa saol gan freastal ar choláiste go lánaimseartha ina measc. Sa Ghearmáin, leagtar béim níos fearr ar intéirneachtaí ar turastal agus leaganacha eile foghlama a chuireann le hinfhostaitheacht. Is údar uafáis é go n-éiríonn i bhfad níos fearr leis na daoine óga seo, idir siúd a bhfreastlaíonn ar an ardoideachas nó a roghnaíonn conair éagsúil araon, cé nach n-íocann siad na táillí céanna lena gcomhleacaithe Éireannacha.

Anuas ar sin ar fad, is ábhar buartha é litearthacht agus uimhearhacht na mac léinn freisin. Conas go n-oirfeadh timpeallacht theoriciúil mar seo do dhuine nach bhfuil suim nó cumas sásúil acu sa scríobh? Gan amhras, ní dhéanann údarás na n-institiúidí seo gearáin mar go bhfuil sé ar son a leasa féin na táillí seo a ghearradh. Faraor, is léir go bhfuil muid ar fad thíos leis. In áit na saincheistanna seo a phlé, molann páirtithe polaitiúla um thogh-cáin gur gá dúinn breathnú ar shamhla maoinithe, cosúil le córás iasachtaí. Ardóidh seo costas an ardoideachais agus ní réiteoidh sé an fhadhb. Nuair a thugtar na costaisí a bhaineann leis an ollscoil san áireamh, cíos go háirithe, nach gá le mic léinn a n-aird a thabhairt ar an gceist seo? Is dócha nach mór do na haontais feachtas a thosú leis na caighdeáin mífheiliúnacha seo a fheabhsú. Tá samhail oideachais nua ag teastáil gan mhoill.

SÓD



Justice

## The Special Criminal Court: A Human Rights Issue

In December both print and social media exploded when it was revealed that three TD's attended a bail hearing by a man held on IRA related charges. The three TD's, Maureen O'Sullivan, Clare Daly and Mick Wallace, who all have a proven track record on highlighting human rights issues came in for a storm of attack on blogs and other media outlets. Not surprisingly these politically motivated attacks rele-

gated the TDs' human rights concerns over the hearing into the background. However it is exactly these concerns and the eventual refusal of bail in this case that should worry all the so called 'progressives' and 'human rights activists' who are so often very vocal on a wide range of issues but have so far remained silent on this.<sup>i</sup> The young man at the centre of the hearing is a twenty four year old native of Dublin who was arrested in May 2015 and subsequently charged with IRA related offenses. Since the man's arrest he has been held on remand in the maximum security prison at Portlaoise. It is the time people are spending on remand before being brought forward to trial that is a key concern for the three TD's, speaking about this Maureen O'Sullivan said, 'It can be three years, if not more, that people spend in Portlaoise (jail) waiting to go on trial. We

have met people who have been two and three years on remand in jail and subsequently found innocent but in the meantime - they have lost their jobs and their livelihoods.' The duration of the lengthy remand periods has led to accusations from some quarters that a policy of interment by remand is currently in operation. During the bail hearing which was held at the three-judge non-jury Special Criminal Court, it was revealed that the accused was the only prisoner on his wing (non-aligned) not to have been granted bail; which, when granted, represents a recognition by the courts that a person is presumed innocent pending trial. This refusal was issued despite the accused's willingness to adhere to strict bail conditions set by the court at previous bail hearings. Contesting the bail application on behalf of the State, the Detective In-

spector involved in the man's arrest presented the view that the accused was a flight risk. The member of the Special Detective Unit told the court that the accused 'has no huge ties to this jurisdiction as his girlfriend is Eastern European and he has no mortgage and no children.' In addition 'He studied the Russian language and it is my belief if he is granted bail he would not appear before the court.' It is these comments that the CYM find particularly disturbing; to say that a twenty four old man who was born and has lived his entire life in Ireland, whose parents are Irish, who went to school, college and at the time of his arrest was in full time employment here has no ties to this jurisdiction is laughable.

The Detective Inspector's argument also demonstrates a lack of understanding of the situation for young Irish people today; the last Census showed that just 5.8% of under 24 year olds have a mortgage, while the vast majority (74.2%) rent from private landlords.

A further objection to bail came from the Detective Chief Superintendent under Section 2 of the Bail Act. This

section allows a Chief Superintendent to give evidence that the refusal of bail is necessary to prevent the commission of a serious offense. The gravity of the DCS's appearance at this case however can be contrasted with the fact that three elected representatives had attended the hearing in support of the man and were even willing to act as independent sureties along with others in the event the young man secured bail. It is questionable just how significant a threat the accused man poses when at the same time three publicly accountable and respected representatives were willing to put themselves forward in support of him and he was still refused bail.

Detention, through unjustifiable denial of bail is a suppression of this young man's legally-innocent status and has huge implications for his life and well-being. This is unlikely to be a speedy trial; the one year anniversary of his imprisonment is fast approaching and there is no trial date in sight as of yet. The time lost during remand cannot be undone and is completely at odds with the concept of a fair trial.

CMAT

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**"I am pledged as a rebel, an unconvertable rebel, to the one thing - a free and independent Republic"**

- Constance Markievicz



WWW.CYM.IE

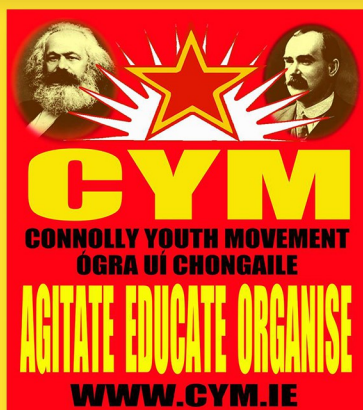


**"As long as Ireland is unfree the only honourable attitude for Irish men and women to have is an attitude of rebellion"**

- Pádraig Pearse



WWW.CYM.IE



## WWW.CYM.IE

The Connolly Youth Movement is a youth organisation committed to fighting for democracy, freedom and unity in this country. The CYM takes part in the struggle to build socialism in Ireland and everywhere around the globe.

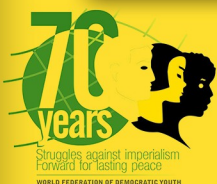
Since 2008 the crisis in Ireland has deepened which has seen many talented and gifted young people leave this island in search of a better life abroad. We as a youth organisation are fundamentally opposed to any government using its youth as a safety valve in trying to ease economic and political tensions. So we are determined to stay and fight the injustice brought on this and future generations.

Working with progressive movements to develop young workers' and students' consciousness in their own proud history and culture. As a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth we struggle in opposition to imperialism and for liberation around the globe of all oppressed peoples, including ourselves.

The CYM has branches in Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

@ConnollyYM  
connollyyouth@hotmail.com

CYM, 43 East Essex Street, Dublin 2  
CYM, PO Box 85 Belfast BT1



CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT  
ÓGRA UÍ CHONGAILE