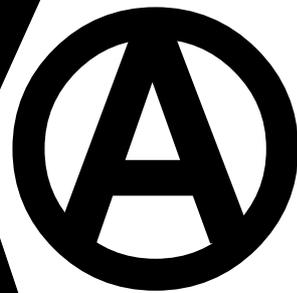


resistance

anarchist bulletin

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AF (IRELAND) ON THE WAR

STATEMENT BY ANARCHIST FEDERATION (IRELAND) ON THE EVENTS OF 9/11

THE ATTACKS on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11th immediately led to the acceptable conditions for an all out 'war' on global terrorism. Security organisations within the United States, which were unable to prevent the simultaneous hijacking of four civilian airliners and their seemingly undetected flights through U.S. airspace, somehow within hours, were able to finger those responsible for the attacks.

The current 'usual suspect' is Osama Bin Laden, who like Saddam Hussein before him, used to enjoy C.I.A. military backing. That was in the early 1980's during his struggle, alongside the Mujahadeen, against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. (The setting up of so called 'training camps' there by Bin Laden using C.I.A. money and expertise is highly improbable since such camps apparently do not exist! Which begs the question -what exactly are the Americans going to bomb?)

But like Saddam, he has fallen out of favour. This may have something to do with Bin Laden's anger and frustration at the U.S. presence in the Gulf region – a presence which has sanctioned a 34 year illegal occupation of Palestine by Israel, their subsequent invasion of Lebanon in 1982 which led to the deaths of 17,500 people, and their continuing military onslaught against the Palestinian people, land and culture. It may have something to do with the 200,000 Iraqis who perished during the Gulf War in the early nineties, or quite possibly because of the knowledge that since then one million Iraqis (half a million children) have died as result of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The more likely reason, of course, is that, like the so-called western 'democracies', the militant, fundamental face of Islam has no time for the physical well-being of the people it claims to represent. It has no time for those it views as military fodder while it pursues its own policy of channelling anti-American sentiment into rabid pro-fundamentalism. The suffering of people under capi-



talism, in whatever guise it chooses to reveal itself, is the same the world over, and usually, it is the working class that pay the price –it is they who eke out their miserable existences that end in starvation, disease, or, in the case of the Iraqis, face down in the desert sand. Like in the west, it is the leaders who carry on regardless.

Which brings us back to the events of 9/11. The Anarchist Federation (Ireland) is utterly against the use of terrorism regardless of the pretext terrorism uses to defend itself. It is completely opposed to the atrocities perpetrated against the American people in the same way as it is opposed to similar terrorist acts carried out by the US government in the name of those same American people. The victims of September 11th were the janitors, secretaries, firefighters, in short, the 'ordinary' people of the U.S., who like there counterparts in the Arab world, were innocent bystanders on the world stage where capitalism competes. The victims will be the Palestinian people who will no doubt undergo an even greater military clamp down at the hands of the Israeli authorities. They will be all those the military leaders of the U.S. decide have 'unfriendly' intentions against the U.S. – which, of course, could mean anybody!

But the victims will also be us. As anarchists, we must be ready to defend ourselves against the attack on our 'civil' liberties that the likes of Tony Blair in the U.K. have in store. We must defend our right against the cronies in the Bertie Ahern administration, not to have Irish airstrips used as refuelling centres for U.S. jet planes. We must defend our right, as workers, to fight against the economic

fallout of September 11th –the sacking of workers, for example, all across the aviation industry, from Aer Lingus to British Airways. And as the upcoming war economies begin to impose themselves, we must continue the fight in our communities and workplaces. The stock markets after September 11th, we must remind ourselves, did not stay closed for long. Normal service has been resumed by the capitalists. The ongoing fight against global capitalism must also be resumed. ★

More Serious Matters...

The rescue operations to find victims of the atrocity on September 11th had barely clicked into gear when the world's media began to tune into more serious matters –the effect of the disaster on the global economy. Since then, sackings in the aviation industry have gone through the roof. 30,000 at Boeing, 20,000 at United Airlines, 600 at Aer Lingus, 7,000 at British Airways...to name just a few. The fact that the industry has been in sharp decline for months is apparently nobody's business. The effects have also been felt at Short's in Belfast. 2,000 workers are expected to lose jobs over the next 18 months, around 900 before next February. These are part of the 6,500 sackings planned by Short's parent company, Bombardier, to protect their own and their shareholders' profits. The suspicion around town, however, is that cutbacks were already in the pipeline.

Not so, for Lockheed Martin (LM), one of the companies Short's does work for. Along with other weapons' manufacturers, for example, BAE systems (UK), Boeing (US) and Raytheon (US), LM are expected to enjoy a sales bonanza in the next few years as the so-called 'war against terrorism' drags on. Shareholders at LM must have been delighted by the dramatic increase in their shares' value immediately following September 11th. Let's hope they, like the rest of their cronies in the weapons' industries, do the decent thing and donate all profit made on that day to a special fund for victims worldwide. Somehow, we at Resistance (Ireland), don't think so! ★

TRIBES AT WAR!



Origins

The civil rights movement and the 'troubles' that followed had and have their roots in social and economic inequality: poor housing, low-paid and low-status jobs; second rate schools for Catholics, the reverse for Protestants. Catholics also had to endure the full range of experiences that the powerful inflict on the powerless: indifference, contempt, bureaucratic neglect, patronising speeches and political exclusion. Nationalist leaders colluded (from weakness) with their loyalist masters at Stormont.

Now

Today the boot is on the other foot with young Catholics supporting the peace process in the hope of political and economic gain, while Protestant and loyalist youth face an uncertain future. The days of jobs for life in Shorts or the RUC are rapidly coming to an end. The fear of loss of power and privilege is fuelling extremism at the polling stations, pipe bombs and drive-by shootings on the streets.

In Northern Ireland today, the war against the working class is taking familiar forms: struggles for turf and security, dominance-seeking through terror and intimidation, religious and ethnic differences, and sectarian attacks. The Anglo-Irish and Good Friday agreements are sordid deals to share out power, wealth and social status among a new ruling class on both sides of the divide. Behind closed doors, the talk is not of 'reunification' or 'maintaining the union', but how best facilitate the normalisation of a society in all the worse traditions of capitalism, an opening up of the economic infrastructure of the north, so that it too can suffer the consequences of globalisation. Why have a new police force, the armed wing of the state, so that it can trample its jackboot over the WHOLE working class?

Divided

The irony, of course, is that both our communities are competing for the scraps that fall from capitalism's table. Communities, here like elsewhere, are running the risk

labour. Turf is marked out, and barriers are raised. And naturally, this is exactly what the bosses want—a society divided against itself,

where working class consciousness is undermined by local leaders and elites, who while feathering their own nests, are colluding in the ghettoization of their communities.

The tragedy of the North of Ireland, and anywhere else where the intensity of oppression and exploitation are greatest, is that capitalism creates the reasons and conditions under which conflict is possible, rationing wealth among competing and conflicting groups. And yet, we continue to ignore the lessons of our history. We

fight each other, and in consequence, achieve nothing.

AF Ireland

The Anarchist Federation (Ireland) is completely opposed to all forms of so-called 'national liberation' organizations,

which seek to either maintain one state (the British) or replace it with another (the Irish), and who would have little interest in changing the capitalist status quo. In short, we seek the abolition of the state, and to put in its place, a non-hierarchical anarcho-communist society, a federation of communities based on individual freedom, mutual aid and voluntary cooperation. To this end, we hope to work with all other anarchist and libertarian groups in Ireland. Revolution will not happen overnight, but it will happen. ★

ARDOYNE VIOLENCE

THE AF (Ireland) is disgusted by the verbal and physical attacks made against the Catholic pupils of the Holy Cross school in the Ardoyne, N. Belfast, as they go to school each morning through the so-called 'walk of shame'. Equally, we are appalled by the political capital being gained by local elites who are using the impasse to pursue their own particular agendas. It seems using children as a political tactic is okay in the morning, while at night, others not much older, are driven onto the streets to fuel even greater tension. But, after all, I suppose the working class at each other's throats is just what the bosses and their political henchman want. ★

ON THE FRONTLINE

THREE HUNDRED people marched through Athy recently in support of workers at Peerless Rugs (PR) who have been on strike against bosses since July. PR had announced the closure of their plant in Athy, and then refused to pay out promised redundancies to workers, declaring itself bankrupt. This in spite of the well-known fact that work has been transferred to plants elsewhere.

Workers responded however by occupying their factory, catching their frightened union by surprise. In the process, PR boss Martin Buckley was trapped inside his office for several hours before being rescued by local gardai.

As seen by the demonstration, the occupation has widespread support from local people. In the meantime, worried union leaders, while publically expressing support for the occupation, are no doubt contriving with bosses for a more 'sensible' resolution to the stand-off, one which will inevitably involve persuading workers to end their occupation, in return for meaningless concessions that will never be made. ★

FOR WEEKS 27 Dundalk workers have been on strike against Italian multi-national Diagio who now control United Beverages. The reason being that they are paid £130 less than their Dublin counterparts. Anarchists everywhere know the exploitation of Ireland's workforce by a continuing band of boom and bust multinationals, using cheap Irish labour, is raking in massive profits for the boss class. Only widespread community support for our workforce can stop them in their tracks. ★



THE CAMPAIGN against bin charges imposed on residents by Dublin City Council is still ongoing, and has reached a vital stage. The collection of refuse is a service that has already been paid for by the people of Dublin. Until now, the campaign has successfully created a culture of resistance with reportedly only 10% of the local population having repaid for services.

As in other sectors, local government is seeking to privatise as much as it can in the never-ending pursuit of profit. The Anarchist Federation (Ireland) supports all individuals and groups who, via direct action, seek to release the stranglehold the bully boys (and girls) in councils throughout Ireland impose on local people. We support the tactics of Householders Against Service Charges (HASC) who, in Cork, have taken measures into their own hands and have dumped rubbish outside the town hall there. ★

TIME BOMB



IT IS said that history is written by the victors. That being the case, it is clear that what we know of our past is usually quite close to what the powers at be want us to know. Information, after all, is a commodity like everything else. It can be bought and sold, entered into or withdrawn from the 'media market' that controls most of our lives. Our past is constantly being given new slants, reinvented, or more usually, airbrushed altogether from the pages of history.

Such is the case with our own country. From school onwards, we read about the continuing struggles between republicanism and loyalism, nationalism and unionism, add a couple of world wars ...and hey presto! think we know the history of the last hundred years. It is hard to imagine that the working class in Ireland, up to their necks in knee-jerk isms of one form or another, have ever been conscious of themselves as a class struggling against the forces of capitalism which recognizes neither state nor religious divide.

But there have been occasions, normally at times of economic turmoil, when free of sectarian hatred and mistrust, the working class have come together as workers, have refused to be manipulated like pawns in the stalemate that is religion here. The famous Dublin lockout (1913) and the fierce resistance to the economic deprivation caused by the Outdoor Relief Project (1932) are examples of how, driven on by their common needs, the working class has indicated real revolutionary potential.

The so-called Munster Soviets (1919-21) had their roots in what passed, and passes, as the normal economic life of workers everywhere –capitalist exploitation – but in this case, reaching such extremes, that the working class had nothing left to do but go for broke. So, when the British army declared martial law in Limerick in 1919, denying travel permits to workers outside the city, the United Trades and Labour Council responded by holding a general strike and taking control of the city and its printing presses. It regulated the food supply to prevent exploitation. But this was just the start.

To say that the Cleeves family of Limerick owned a lot would be an understatement. Mills, bakeries, the 'Limerick Chronicle' (and thus information) and 14 creameries. For their efforts, their 3000 employees received a measly 85p a week. They set up a 'council of action' to strike for higher wages, and then led by Sean O'Dwyer (1920) drew up a plan to occupy the creamery at Knocklong and 12 subsidiary depots. This being done, workers at local co-ops agreed to refuse the milk from

Cleeve's normal suppliers which meant that farmers had to send their milk to the new 'soviet' creameries, or destroy it. Immediately, under workers' control, the production of butter increased. Orders were easily filled. Cleeves was thunderstruck, and after only 11 hours gave in to the workers' demands for more pay, less hours and more holidays. Demands were also won in other parts of the province, while occupations occurred at mills and creameries in 15 other locations throughout 1920-21.

However, the 'soviets' were eventually smashed by the IRA, who forced republican land courts to order an end to illegal seizures. Later, they evicted strikers at Quarterstown, and undermined a strike in Bulgaden. Over 400 landowners who had their property dispossessed had it returned to them.

But what, as participants in the class struggle, can we learn from this particular historical event? First of all, the complete ineffectiveness of unions that are always, and will always, be ultimately reformist. Secondly, the urgent need to move away from such permanent structures like the unions, paralysed as they are by their own bureaucracy, to create instead a culture of economic resistance from outside, in the form of workers' resistance groups. Semi-secretive, and non-permanent, they would advocate class war and direct action, in and beyond the workplace. By these methods, workers can never lose sight of the fact that it is they who are struggling not the unions, and during agitational ferment, as in the case of the Munster soviets, can transform their struggles into the beginnings of social revolution. ★

Esperanto and the libertarian movement

IN MANY countries, poor social conditions and political oppression prevent individuals from reaching their full potential and psychological well-being. Through Esperanto, and its non-nationalist organisation SAT, the people of the world are more able to communicate and share their experience. It helps them develop a sense of understanding in which every individual is respected and valued, and has the same rights. Esperanto is based on principles of understanding and of solidarity and is opposed to all forms of oppression.

But why learn Esperanto?

*Esperanto does not belong to any nation, and therefore all its speakers communicate on equal terms. With any other language, it is always the native speaker who has the advantage.



*Esperanto encourages freedom and freedom of expression across frontiers regardless of race or creed.

*Esperanto is the easiest language you can learn, due to its regular grammar and pronunciation. 10 minutes a day for 3 months will give the learner all the Esperanto s/he needs to write and speak effectively

*Esperanto is spoken in over 80 countries in the world.

*Esperanto is the most common-sense and cost-effective solution to translation problems in large world organisations.

*Esperanto does not threaten a countries' individual culture or language, but offers a common means of communication for all.



About SAT

SAT was formed in 1921 with the aim of creating a worldwide dialogue for the working class. Since then, in spite of persecution by both by Stalinist Russia and Hitler's Germany, it has survived to set up a network of class struggle anarchists and communists throughout the world. Apart from having libertarian and communist factions, SAT has, among others, an ecological and a 'free-thinking' faction. The organisation of SAT, its journals, magazines, annual congresses is run on a strictly libertarian basis. As article 1.3 of the SAT statutes declare,

'...it is for the freedom of its class and the leading of mankind to the highest possible level of civilisation and culture.'

For information about Esperanto and SAT in Ireland, contact satireland@yahoo.ie ★

INSIDE INFORMATION



Genoa News:

THERE are a number of Italians and 15 Germans facing serious charges under the Italian anti-terrorism act. They have all either been released on bail, or are expecting to be bailed soon. Donations towards their defence should be paid into the EA Berlin Sonder-Konto, account holder: Klaus Schmidt, Postgiro Berlin bank, sortcode 100 100 00, Account number 206-10-106.

For more info: Anarchist Committee for Defence and Solidarity (based in Genoa) email: anarcos@ghostmail.net

Gothenburg:

THERE are several anti-fascists in prison in Sweden at the moment. Swedish AFA are calling for donations towards their support: PostGiro account 276 02-2, account holder Nisse Laets Minnesfond, label the payment, Antifa Solidaritet, sortcode: PGS ISESS, address:

SE-105 00, Stockholm, Sweden. Contact them for further information via Solidarity group GBG, c/o Syndikalistiskt Forum, Box 7267, 40235 Gothenburg, Sweden.

Other News:

JEFFREY LUERS, aka Free, who was arrested last year with Craig Marshall (Critter) in Eugene, Oregon, on various charges relating to arson, received a sentence of nearly 23 years. An appeal is underway. Support is vital so write to him: #13797671, 82911 Beach Access Road, Two Rivers Correctional Facility, Umatilla, Oregon 97882, USA, or contact the Legal Defence Committee, PO Box 11922, Eugene Oregon 97440, USA and make a donation towards the appeal.

CRAIG MARSHALL (Critter), #13797662, EOICI, 2500 Westgate, Pendleton, OR 97801, USA. (Serving 5 years, 5 months).

EDUARDO GARCIA MACIAS: Eduardo will have been in jail for a year in November. A Spanish member of the Anarchist Black Cross (ABC), he is being framed for

sending letterbombs to right wing newspapers and for some bomb attacks. Three of the four judges dealing with the 4 different cases have already dismissed them, and Eduardo would be free except that the fourth judge is insisting on remand and trial. The campaign to set him free is growing, so show your support. Contact him at: Modulo 3, C.P., Madrid V Voto del real, Real, Madrid, Spain. And his support campaign via: edulibre@yahoo.es or at Spanish ABC

MARK BARNSELY: after being shunted to HMP Wakefield, (getting into trouble for refusing slave labour, and a number of noise demos outside the prison) Mark's been moved to HMP Armley, 2 Gloucester Terrace, Armley Leeds, L5 12 2TJ.

For more info on prisoners' support contact: **Brighton ABC**, c/o 6 Tilbury place, Brighton, BN2 26Y, or visit www.schnews.org.uk/prisoners

see also the AF prisoner support pages

<http://burn.ucsd.edu/-acf/prison>



Subvert and resist

Take precautions when going on demonstrations and don't take cameras, booze or drugs. If you're nicked give your name and address then say 'no comment' to any other questions.

October 13th: Anarchist anti-war gathering 1.30 p.m. Teacher's Club 36 Parnell Sq. Dublin. Discussions on US foreign policy, fundamentalism and building an anti-war movement.

October 16th: Worldwide Anti-McDonald's day -occupy a MacDonalds near you!

October 20th: Rally in solidarity with the Turkish hunger strikers. Belfast.

October 20th: Anarchist Bookfair 10a.m.-7p.m. The Camden Centre, London (opposite St. Pancras Station) with extra meeting in the Friend's meeting House. Anarchist Bookfair, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 email: anarchistbookfair.org

October 22nd: Blockade of Faslane Trident nuclear submarine base. Tel 01414231222 or visit www.gn.apc.org/tp2000

November 16-18th: Marxism 2001. Trinity College, Dublin.- Go along and annoy the t rots!!!

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- I enclose £4 (£6 EU, £12 Rest of the world) for the next 12 issues of **resistance** bulletin (cheques payable to "AF") and send to **AF**, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL
- I enclose £3 for a year's subscription to **Organise!** the magazine of the **AF**.
- I am interested in the **Anarchist Federation** and would like more information.
- Here's a fat wad of lovely lolly for the press fund of your pucker publication.

Name

Address

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Join the resistance

The **Anarchist Federation (Ireland)** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is **Anarchist Communism**.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: **the ruling class** which controls all the power and wealth, and the **working class** which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the **direct action** of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact:

Anarchist Federation(Ireland)

www.afed.org.uk

e-mail ireaf@yahoo.ie

Tel 07951 079719

Po Box 505 Belfast

BT12 6BQ