

OGONIS PICKET SHELL

The annual shareholders meeting of Shell was picketed by members of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni Peoples. They called for the release of 19 Ogoni activists who are being held in Nigerian prison. The Ogoni prisoners who are being held on trumped up charges of murdering four tribal chiefs face squalid conditions and torture.

Last year nine Ogoni activists including Ken Saro-Wiwa were executed by the Nigerian military government after being railroaded on these same charges. The Nigerian state is kept in power through money supplied by Shell which has exploited and poisoned Ogoniland for decades.

In Galway, the Ogoni Solidarity Group has been active for some time in highlighting the chaos and destruction which Shell has caused in Ogoni. The groups actions to date has gained a massive amount of publicity in both the local and national media.

At present the Ogoni Solidarity Group are planning to launch a fresh campaign and

appeal to all those who would like to get involved and show their support, to attend their public meetings.

For more information on the Ogoni Peoples and Ogoni Solidarity Group meetings in Galway
TEL: 091 - 565589



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Ainriail

No.6 An Irish Anarchist Bi-monthly Oct/Nov '96 50p

WE'VE GOT THE



POWER

UNCENSORED POLITICS

A n I n t r o d u c t i o n

Welcome to issue 6 of Ainriail, the second publication to come out in this format.

Both the layout and the content of the last issue got a fantastic reception. As a new addition we thought it would be of interest to reprint some letters of Feedback which we receive in the Mail bag. We also receive articles for publication, some of which are of great length and due to the new format, will obviously need editing, so please keep them short.

Most of our activity centred around Strike Support as Dunnes workers fought back yet again - the full story is covered within. Our comrades in Organise put on an exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, which was held in Belfast and was well attended.

This magazine has been produced by Ainriail. It's purpose is to promote anarchist politics by providing coverage of local, national and international class struggle, anarchist actions and resistance.

We welcome contributions of ideas, artwork, articles and any other relevant information from like-minded groups or individuals, for possible inclusion in future issues of this publication. If your group produces any publications, why not send it to us.

The deadline for our next issue will be November 20th 1996.

Donations of money and stamps are badly needed as production and distribution of this magazine will be impossible without them.

All correspondence to Ainriail can be done by writing to our national address:

**Ainriail
P.O.Box 505,
Belfast,
North Ireland.**

Rat Trap

The Loyalist Billy Wright has recently been promoted to 'Hero' status amongst many young loyalists, with thanks to the inherent incompetence of the squabbling northern political parties, and both British and Irish Governments. Until the events at and surrounding the Drumcree stand-off between the Orange Order and the Cops in July, Wright, though a well known paramilitary figure in the 6 counties, was mostly supported by a small clique of ass-lickers in and around Portadown. Now this Rat is widely idolised by young protestant hardliners who regard him as a champion, of the Loyalist 'Cause'. Wright, a critic of the Loyalist ceasefire, who wallows in his notoriety, simply stepped into and commenced exploiting the political vacuum which has been created by the

pathetic bricking and failings of the north's politicians in their 'attempt' to bring a lasting 'peace' to Northern Ireland. He could well soon be in a position to mount a serious challenge to the UVF leadership and if successful he could help plunge the 6 counties back into sectarian warfare. That's what this fanatic has to offer - Tit for tat killings to polarise us through fear. But where has that got us in the past?

Wright is a representation of what we as a class have to battle against in Ireland, and a clear example of how nationalistic hatred can brutalise and warp the minds of people. Far from being a hero, Billy Wright is just a self-appointed mouthpiece for Loyalist fanaticism and British Nationalism. He is no friend of our class, and like all of his kind he ultimately serves his own narrow interests only and those of the ruling class and the state who created him.

WE'VE GOT THE POWER!

COP ATTACK

Residents of Summerhill in Dublin, who have been actively tackling the drugs trade in their community, were subjected to an unprovoked vicious onslaught by 40 gardai in September. In full riot gear and carrying batons and riot shields, the cops attacked the Summerhill residents with police dogs as they gathered for an anti-drugs protest. 12 people were injured in the attack, including several children and a pregnant woman who subsequently suffered a miscarriage.

The brutal assault by cops on peaceful protesters was set against a backdrop of deteriorating relations between north inner city residents and gardai, who have been targeting and intimidating anti-drugs activists in the area on top of their usual harassment of local communities.

LIMERICK RIOT

Seventeen youths, amongst them a 16 year old boy, were arrested by cops after a riot in Limerick on September 8th involving 200 people. As usual, the authorities have tried to put the whole thing down to the consumption of alcohol in nightclubs by those involved, rather than the provocative heavy-handed tactics employed by the gardai at closing time.

ELSEWHERE

The Australian Liberal Government bore the rath of class warfare as over 25,000 people merged in Canberra to express their anger which was the largest ever anti-government protest seen in Australia for over 20 years. Class anger boiled on to streets after continuing laws enforced against union activity. Not to mention billions of dollars in budget cuts effecting all areas of working class life, including the dockers, miners and construction workers.

Near the end of the demonstration, as thousands gathered around the Parliament building, hundreds more where on the attack storming the building screaming to the Prime minister, who was hiding with other government ministers, "Johnny we're coming to get you".

Their Riot cops were put to the test, being beaten back by working class anger, both here in Ireland and elsewhere as what little rights we have are taken away by the Rich.

As anarchists we fully support the right of all our class to go on the attack. It not only scares those who seek to keep us in line but it also gives a boost to class unity and class pride, showing all those who stand in our way that...We've got the power!



The world is our picket line



Workers nationwide have been getting organised and fighting back against the ill treatment that is continually dished out by the bosses. World-wide, strikes have always been the means of attack by which workers have said *enough is enough!*

Dunnes stores, one of Irelands largest family employers, has been at the centre of yet another strike which resulted in the temporary closure of it's branches. Roughly 7000 workers took strike action following the betrayal of promises by Dunnes management to improve bad work conditions and low pay along with other demands from the previous strike held last year.



North and South, England, Ireland and the world over, workers have to continually fight for better treatment and conditions. All workplaces are run by the Rich for the Rich, so its no wonder workers' interests are not on the agenda, no matter how small the business. The Rich is organised international and so too must be worker's unity. The Liverpool dockers' strike is a good example of international solidarity as dockers in various countries have successfully boycotted the company's vessels.

Strikes are an extremely powerful source in which to express working class anger.

France saw a

complete 'shut-down' of public transport in Paris along with an economy crisis as shops and businesses were temporarily closed down, and South Africa saw 180,000 civil servants in Zimbabwe on strike due to false promises and ill treatment carried out by the State's government. After just 2 weeks, the strike had proved victorious as workers demands were met.

At some stage, workers internationally will be pushed too far and will realise their power as a united force to combat bosses. We have the potential to run all industry for the needs of all our class, which is what we as anarchists aim to do as the world is our picket line.

Workers from the 'Royal Dublin', a high class hotel, came out in strike after having put up with years and years of shit pay and bad treatment. In the 6 counties, postal workers also went on strike along with Britain's postal workers as bosses were enforcing crap rules and regulations.

'Welman International' in Kells, Co.Meath, was closed for 12 weeks as the company's 260 workers decided to go on strike, and a strike in Bus Eireann looks likely to begin on October 14th as an overwhelming majority of workers voted 'yes' to industrial action.

Law Reform & Inequality

With the Coalition Government Labour Minister for Equality & Law Reform Mervyn Taylor putting together the new laws on Equality, a first for the 26 counties since its formation in the twenties, you've got to ask what has actually prompted them into developing such an Act ?

Some say its all down to the high level of inequality within Irish society from the home, to school, to the workplace and to the grave, brought on by the influence the Church has in the running of the country. That could well be the case as their wealth and their sordid values are widespread. Super Unions like SIPTU have stated that such an Act would take pressure off Management (& workers) as Sexual Harassment in the workplace wasn't uncommon in Ireland. *How kind of them to notice!*

Nevertheless Mervyn Taylors' actions have been prompted by the growth in racism shown towards Travellers here in recent years. He visited Galway's (Third World) Hillside earlier this year amidst the TV hype as he was greeted by members of Galway Traveller Support Group. After the cameras left, the group booked a room at the Atlanta Hotel on Dominic Street in May, to host a meeting of Traveller Primary Health Care workers, the Western Health Board and Travellers in the Galway area. The following day GTSG were informed that the room was already booked. The Group then changed the time of the meeting and were told that the room was definitely free. The person from the hotel asked would there be Travellers at the meeting and appeared displeased to hear that there would. Then as the room was definitely free the booking went ahead. The following day the Atlanta Hotel cancelled the booking saying that they had double booked.

The Galway Traveller Support Group were in no doubt as to why the booking was cancelled. Travellers face this kind of discrimination every day of their lives. The group then called on all community organisation to boycott the hotel to show solidarity with Travellers. Travellers are also discriminated in school and in the workplace. Mervyns Bill is said to be an attempted to curb the increase in this racism and put an end to pubs and nite-clubs banning Travellers from their premises. We are in no doubt that this racism will continue as long as any section of our class is alienated in this way. The Church and the Government can't promote equality when they're the ones who created it. Our class alone, united in one movement, hold the key to ending such prejudice - not the Church and the State as they'd have you believe.

ANARCHISTS MEETINGS



If you think you're a bit of an anarchist then why not come along to Ainriail meetings & get involved !
Write to our address for details

ANARCHISM AND ORGANISATION

The Local Group

The past number of years or so has seen an upsurge of interest in Anarchism in Ireland, and one of the results of this has been the formation of city and town based local anarchist groups. Some have flourished while others have come and gone without anyone noticing.

Ainriail though essentially a local anarchist group, is a firm believer in the value of National organisation, in anarchists throughout the country being able to unite around a set of ideas and from there develop agreed policies, strategy and tactics. It is the aim of Ainriail to help build a National anarchist organisation in Ireland. However Ainriail still believes that when working properly, Autonomous local anarchist groups have an important, if not vital, role to play in the wider anarchist movement.

The Local anarchist groups should be broad based enough to allow newcomers with little knowledge of anarchism to participate, but defined and co-ordinated enough to bring peoples politics on. In short, local groups should be seen as a staging post and a contact point for new people - not the be all and end all of anarchist organisation. Their primary function must be to spread the basic ideas of anarchism in a coherent manner and to give newcomers an entry point to the movement as a whole.

For this to be able to happen, local groups must have a bottom line - a basic requirement for acceptance. This must be that the group as a whole and each individual within it believe in **Class Struggle Anarchism**. Anarchism has always been a working class movement and can only be put into practise with the participation of the mass of working class people and after a successful struggle against the ruling class.



Class struggle must therefore be the central plank of any anarchist's ideas, with everything else secondary. From there it follows that no anarchist organisation can function (Let alone be effective) if it includes people who don't accept this basic belief.

Pursuing an 'Open Door' policy where anyone using the term 'Anarchist', regardless of their politics, is allowed to participate is one of the main reasons that Anarchist groups fail. It means that the group can only agree on what it is opposed to (if even that) and cannot carry out its main job - telling people what anarchism is. This is why Ainriail has adopted the basic 'This is Ainriail' statement which appears in each issue of our publication, as the minimum agreement necessary for joining our collective, which has built up quite a number of anarchist contacts in many parts of the country.

It's unfortunate that groups should have to do this, but it stems from the fact that it's easy for people to call themselves anarchists without understanding what the word actually means. So, a bottom line has to be established - so as not to exclude anyone who's genuinely interested and so that we can collectively state our class struggle anarchist beliefs. At the end of the day what matters is that the movement is able to put across genuine anarchist ideas clearly. 'Open Doors' make this impossible.

Local groups can also suffer from over-organisation; for instance, via the setting up of a formal membership scheme usually with strict adherence to a set of 'rules and regulations'. Such a formal structure tends to 'demand' active involvement, though not in the context of such activism being essential to the class war (as indeed such involvement is) but solely because the 'rules' dictate it. It can lead to the unintended suppression of individual initiative within the group, possibly resulting in a waning of enthusiasm amongst members and a likely fall in group membership. If you want to define your anarchism and build a strong organisation then help create a national anarchist organisation in Ireland. Let local groups be what they're best at - loose and activity based, and linked to the international anarchist movement.

A serious problem with broad-based anarchist



groups is lack of direction. There are so many causes and campaigns to get involved in that activists can quickly become burned out or disillusioned. However, sheer lack of time and energy usually forces local groups to eventually concentrate on a few of the many worth while areas such as community based actions, solidarity with prisoners as part of the 'Anarchist Black Cross', aiding workers during industrial disputes and producing a regular bulletin. While all this activity is good, local groups must combine it with education and debate on anarchism itself, otherwise we just end up as do-gooders tail ending a million worthy causes (bob-a-job anarchism), or a rent a mob charging around every demo, without any clear idea why (this produces adrenaline addicts, not anarchists). Activity is pointless without education and visa-versa.

During discussions and debates before and after the Ainriail/Organise Conference this year, the collective discussed the possibilities of the anarcho-syndicalist strategy of community 'Locals' and workplace 'Networks'. We intend to produce the

To summarise, local anarchist groups in Ireland are, as elsewhere, vital to the wider anarchist movement. They have, and will continue to have, an essential role in spreading the basic concepts of anarchism in a given area of the country - and often, beyond. They are an important initial focal point for newcomers to anarchism, and together constitute the foundation of the wider anarchist movement. Though remaining autonomous, through the formation of a strong, national organisation in Ireland, the local Irish anarchist groups will be able to speak with one voice, be heard and be effective. This is the desired aim of Ainriail. We see it as an essential step in the struggle for social revolution.

**INSIDE NEXT ISSUE:
Anarchism and Imperialism
Anarcho-News on the Internet
Class Warfare and lots More in
your X-Mas edition !**

ABC

Anarchist Black Cross

The ABC is an International Network of local, autonomous groups, meaning that each group is free to carry out work demanded by their local situation. However, each local group is, as part of the collective, responsible and accountable to the other member groups. The Collective supports the work of ABC through our paper Ainriail.

Last issue, we reported on the possibility of the government proposing a referendum on the bail laws in the 'Republic'. As we go to press, John Bruton commented "*that due to no differences among the parties in government, legislation for the referendum is to be published in weeks*".

Injustice minister Nora Owen has been telling us that the incoming laws on bail will only be used against crimes such as dealing in drugs, murder, and rape, which is already low for offences that people commit in this country while out on bail.

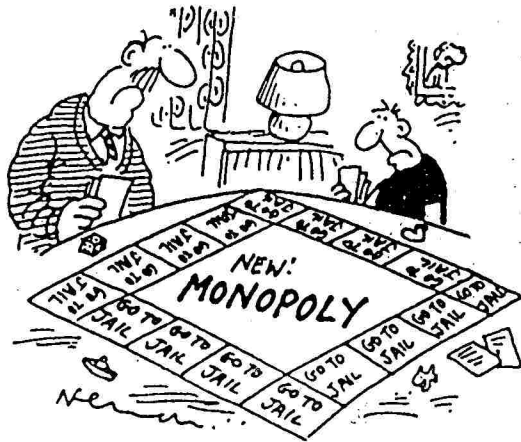
Around 20% of circuit court cases are already used to lock up our class for not being guilty or because they 'could' interfere with juries.

TAKING LIBERTIES

Magazine of the Anarchist Black Cross
which supports
class-struggle prisoners.
121 Railton Rd, London, SE24 England
Priced 50p donations welcome

Almost half of new prisoners are on remand, according to the recent prisons report. The new bail laws will be brought in "*to punish prisoners not for what they may have done but for something that the Gardai and the court believe they will do in the future*", the Irish Council for Civil Liberties said.

The referendum to change the laws on bail is now set to be held on Thursday, November 28th and going by what has been said so far in the media - all political parties including the new 'Socialist Party' are in favour of it and they expect it will be passed.



If the removal of bail passes, it will mean the cops can hold people for months on end or even up to a year without having been on trial. The cops will also be able to use new laws to scare people with detention,

which can lead to innocent people incriminating themselves, family and friends. This year alone has seen an increase in suicides while in custody, and if it passes, prison suicides will certainly increase dramatically. Recent figures show that in Britain, remand prisoners are over four

times more likely to kill themselves than those who are convicted. This uncertainty will also give rise to stress, along with the added anger at the thought of being locked up even if you're innocent and this is just one of our reasons to vote NO. Contacts, supporters and friends of Ainriail are already organising to create as much knowledge, information posters and propaganda around how important it is to smash the nice idea of how good a 'yes' vote would be. It may be impossible, given the continuing anti-working class hype in the media recently and leading up to the November 28th referendum. Some say it will only be a matter of time before the government push it through as law, even if the referendum doesn't pass this bill - but

the chances of that happening is slim. Whatever happens, the fact remains that the right to bail is a Civil Right.

On November 28th
**VOTE
NO**

LETTERS

Dear Ainriail,

I bought a copy of your magazine recently and enjoyed it. It was a breath of fresh air to at last read an anarchist publication with a down to earth, solid working class approach. The contents of Ainriail is relevant to our class and its' struggle against the Rich. Many anarchists dwell to much on historical events in anarchist history and tend to ignore a lot of what matters now to our class. I look forward to further issues of Ainriail. Keep up the good work.

In solidarity
Dermot/ Limerick

Dear Ainriail,

The article carried in issue 4 'Anarchism and the North' was a positive stance to take on the National Question. I had wondered if I was the only person within the 'left', both in England and of course in the 32 counties who felt that neither Loyalism or Republicanism benefit the working class.

It's about time that all anarchists woke up to the reality of the North. Like Loyalism, Republicanism is statist and cannot be supported in anyway by true anarchists. The Republican movements 'middle class' political thought has always contained the ideals of a united capitalist Ireland and as for Loyalism, well, its just shit. No to Republicanism/Loyalism - No to Statism!
Chris/London.

Ainriail replies: *As one of our immediate aims as an Anarchist Collective on the issue of the North, is to change the minds of Anarchists in Britian, Europe etc. who support to a degree the Republican movement. As anarchists, we reject links with all bosses, Orange & Green. A divided working class only serves the interests of statists - Republican or Loyalist, Israeli or Palestinian, Greek or Turk Cypriot or Serb and Croat, the list is endless. We are not Marxist/Leninists but Anarchists. Our slogan remains for all to see, 'NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR'.*

We welcome letters on all subjects which you fine maybe of interest to our readers

PROMINENT ANARCHISTS

Past & Present

Nestor Makhno
1889 - 1935



Nestor Makhno was a militant anarchist from the Ukrainian. At the time of the Russian Revolution of 1917 he and other anarchists found themselves pitted against

both the capitalistic Whites as well as the 'state' capitalist Bolsheviks (from which Makhno initially hoped for help). While Makhno was a supreme military officer, his forces were eventually overwhelmed by the combined strength of the White and Red armies. Neither Bolshevik or White, Makhno resisted the false solutions of centralization and authority until the bitter end.

If you enjoy what you've read so far, then why not check out these publications

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Movement'*

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'My Visit To The Kremlin'

By Nestor Makhno Priced £1.00

The above books are available by mail
order from AK Press at:

AK DISTRIBUTION
P.O.Box 12766
Edinburgh
Scotland

THIS IS AINRIAIL!

Ainriail is a class struggle anarchist collective, organised by and for working class people.

As Anarchists we are opposed to all states and institutions, and all attitudes and ideologies that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment. The working class has no country. The class struggle is world wide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The Armies and Police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the Ruling class.

OUR AIM

Our aim is to abolish world-wide, the state system, governments, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them with a free and classless society based on self-managed communities and industries where production is for need not profit.

In order to bring about an anarchist society the working class must take over the means of production and distribution, along with the day-to-day running of their communities.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

As Anarchists we believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by indepen-

dent organisation in the workplace and the community, in federation with others in the same industry and locality, Independent of and opposed to all political parties and Trade union bureaucracies. Industrial and community federations must be controlled by the working class themselves and must unite rather than divide the working class.

Dividing the working class by skin colour, sex, nationality, religion, sexual preference, etc. is one of the main ways that the ruling class keeps us fighting amongst ourselves instead of against them. In creating a free society we must combat and destroy these divisions which the ruling class fosters within the working class.

GET INVOLVED

Ainriail exists in order to further our aim for the creation of a Social System where the working class alone controls industry and the community, free from the Dictates, Rules and Laws of Politicians, Bureaucrats & Bosses. If you share the ideas contained in this statement then get involved with us. All you need to do is fill out the form below and forward it to our P.O.Box address and we'll be in touch.

GOVERNMENTS DON'T FALL BY THEMSELVES THEY NEED YOUR HELP!

If you would like more information about our politics, activities or how to get involved in your area then fill out the form below and send it to our National secretary.

I'd like more information about Ainriail

Here's £5, please send 10 copies of the next issue to sell in my area

I've just won the Lotto, here's a donation for £ _____

I would like to get involved in my area.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Title: Ainriail, No. 6

Organisation: Frontline Collective

Date: 1996

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