

**BUDGET 2011**

**6 BILLION**

**REASONS**

**TO JOIN THE**

**FIGHT BACK!**

**[www.eirigi.org](http://www.eirigi.org)**

# 2011 – The Blood Budget

When Brian Lenihan reveals the details of the 2011 Budget on December 7th he will be signing the death warrant of thousands of Irish citizens. It is widely expected that he will take up to one billion euro out of the public health system. It is simply not possible to cut funding on this scale without affecting the quality of healthcare provided to patients.

This massive cut to the health budget will result in longer waiting times for vital medical procedures, more ward closures, reductions in quality of care and ultimately in more people suffering and dying unnecessarily. It is for this reason that Budget 2011 is rightly being described as a *Blood Budget*.

And it isn't just the health budget that is being targeted by Fianna Fail and the Green Party. Education, housing and social welfare are also going to have their budgets dramatically reduced. Once again it will be the unemployed, the sick, the young, the old and ordinary workers who will be made to take the pain of the cutbacks, while the wealthy and the powerful will escape virtually unscathed.

This budget won't be the last cutback budget. The government have already promised the European Union and the International Monetary Fund that they will keep slashing spending on public services until 2014 at the earliest. The Irish people will suffer the consequences of these 'slash and burn' policies for generations to come. The 2011 Blood Budget must be stopped. Read on to see how the cutbacks can be avoided and what you can do to make a better future for you and your children.



Harney: Blood on her hands

## Wealth Inequality and the 1%

# 10%

OWN 34% OF THE WEALTH

MAKE THE RICH PAY

[www.onepercentnetwork.org](http://www.onepercentnetwork.org)

The political establishment would have us believe that all the wealth of the Celtic Tiger magically disappeared in the space of less than two years. But this is a lie. The Twenty-Six Counties remains one of the wealthiest states in the world. It is also one of the most unequal. The problem is not about the lack of wealth, it's about how that wealth is distributed.

It has been estimated that just 1% of the population – roughly 33,000 millionaires – own 34% of the wealth in this state. Together they are worth a staggering one hundred and twenty one billion euro! A stable, fair society cannot be built on such an unequal economic foundation.

So who are the 1%? Property developers, landlords, barristers, media tycoons and tax exiles are all members of the super-rich 1%. Is it any wonder that we very rarely hear politicians or journalists talking about the massive wealth of the 1%?

All of the economic problems that Ireland currently faces could be resolved if the political will existed to take the wealth of the super rich and use it to fund our public services and an economic recovery. The 1% only got their wealth in the first place off the backs of the rest of us, so we have every right to take that wealth back now that it is needed to fund our hospitals and schools.

# Capitalism Vs Socialism

The current capitalist economic system was created by the rich and powerful to protect their own interests. Socialism is an alternative economic system. Under socialism the wealth and wealth producing resources are owned and controlled by all of the people, not just the privileged few.

## Capitalism



### Boom & Bust Economy:

Capitalism leaves the development of the economy in the hands of private individuals and the 'markets'. This chaotic, greed-based, approach leads to a never ending cycle of 'boom and bust'. Even if this recession ends it will only be a matter of time before the next one hits.

### Permanent Unemployment:

Under capitalism bosses use redundancy to undermine workers' conditions and keep wages down. For this reason there must always be a large pool of unemployed people ready to take the place of workers have that been fired.

### Wealth in the Hands of the Few:

Under capitalism the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. Just look at our own country, where 1% of the population of the Twenty-Six Counties owns 34% of the wealth.

### Class Division:

Capitalism divides society into two classes; the working class and the ruling class. Children born into the ruling class will generally be able to access the best schools, hospitals and employment opportunities, unlike the children of the working class who are forced to make do with the crumbs that fall from the table of the rich.

## Socialism



### Stable Economy:

Under socialism the economy is developed in a planned manner, with resources and wealth being used to meet the needs of all of the people. As a result the 'boom and bust' cycle is replaced by relative stability and certainty.

### Jobs for All:

Socialism recognises that people are not mindless economic units and that employment provides dignity and purpose as well as a wage. Every effort is therefore made to find a suitable job for everyone in the workforce.

### Fair Distribution of Wealth:

Under a socialist system citizens are not able to use the labour of others to accumulate vast amounts of wealth. More importantly the means by which wealth is created are owned and controlled by the people collectively.

### One People Without Division:

Socialists believe that all human beings are born equal, regardless of wealth, gender, colour or religion. Under a socialist system everybody is given the same opportunities to fulfil their own individual potential. By distributing wealth and power in a more equal manner socialism eliminates the class division that lies at the heart of the capitalist system.

## Which side are you on?

The rich and powerful in Irish society have already declared war on the rest of the population. As far back as September 2008 it was clear that the government were going to protect the private banks, no matter what it cost in terms of taxpayers' money, public services or human lives.

So which side are you on? Are you going to support the current system which is designed to keep you and your family down; or are you going to support a socialist system which will deliver the future we all hope for?

[www.eirigi.org](http://www.eirigi.org)



# BUDGET DAY PROTEST

December 7<sup>th</sup>, Leinster House.

Check Website for Details.

[www.eirigi.org](http://www.eirigi.org)

## Bígí linn leis an troid ar ais in aghaidh an Bhuiséid Fhuilteach

Nuair a nochtann Brian Lenihan sonraí an Bhuiséid 2011 ar an 7ú Nollaig beidh sé ag cur síniú le barántas báis na mílte saoránach Éireannach. An toradh a bheidh ar an gciorraithe 1 billiún euro ionchais ar an mbuiséad sláinte ná, go cinniúnach, daoine ag fulaingt agus ag fáil bháis gan ghá. Seo é an fáth go bhfuil insint scéil air mar Bhuiséad Fuilteach.

Ba mhaith leis an mbunafocht pholaitiúil go gcreidfidh muid go bhfuil muid gan chianóg rua, ach tá a fhios ag cách go bhfuil neart saibhris fós sa tír. Is le ach 1% den daonra 121 billiún euro measta fós. Ba chóir an saibhreas seo a úsáid chun ár seirbhísí poiblí a chosaint agus an geilleagar a chur ag gluaiseacht arís. Glac do pháirt ag cur in aghaidh an Bhuiséid Fhuilteach agus i dtógáil rogha sóisialach i gcoinne an chórais chaipitleach theipthe.



The political parties in Leinster House and the Trade Union leadership have all failed miserably. So what are the people to do? The answer is simple – fight back! In France and Greece millions of citizens have taken to the streets to protect their way of life and to defend their public services. We in Ireland need to do the same and we need to do it now. Together the people can win.

éirígí has consistently campaigned against the bank bailout, NAMA and the cutbacks. In recent times éirígí activists have protested outside of the homes of those who created the current crisis, occupied Anglo Irish Bank's headquarters and held Mary Harney directly to account for her disastrous management of the health system. Why not join us in the fight back against the blood budget.

## Join éirígí

éirígí is made up of ordinary people who have decided to take a stand and fight for a better future for their families, their communities and their country. People just like you. If you are interested in joining éirígí or helping us in some way please:

**Email:** [erigimembership@gmail.com](mailto:erigimembership@gmail.com)

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