

TROTS GO FULL CHUCK: THE IRISH LEFT'S 'NEW' OBSESSION

HOVIS STRIKERS: BRINGING HOME THE BREAD

QUB CRÉCHE WORKERS - 'not accepting this any more'

BLACK STAR



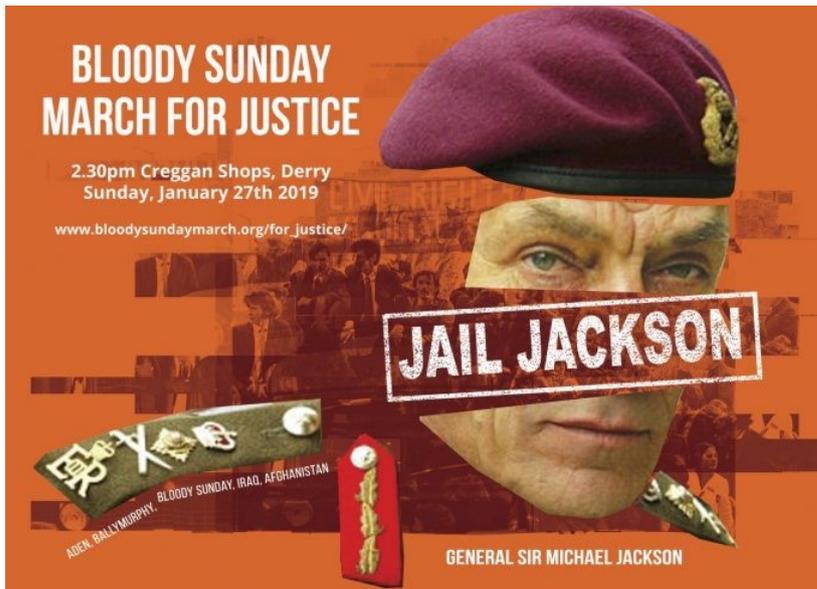
BALLYMURPHY FAMILIES VINDICATED

Finally after almost 50 years of campaigning for answers into the murders of their loved ones at the hands of the state, the Ballymurphy massacre families received an acknowledgment of their innocence and the culpability of those who killed them. Naturally, the subsequent apology besides being fucked up in true Boris Johnson fashion, rang completely hollow with almost everyone here, not least the relatives of those killed in 1971.

‘The world knows they’re innocent’
Eileen McKeown,
daughter of Joseph Corr
who was murdered by
the Paras in 1972

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Ballymurphy Families Vindicated



Poster produced by Bloody Sunday March for Justice seeking the prosecution of General Sir Michael Jackson

Bloody Sunday families for years that those ultimately responsible among the army brass, Mike Jackson and Frank Kitson and former prime minister, Ted Heath would be held to account proved hopeless. Much easier by halves to throw a trigger-happy Brit into jail (or so we thought), than put their masters in the frame.

It comes against the backdrop of feverish attempts by the Tories to not only exculpate the guilt of the Paras, many of whom went on to shoot down protesters on the streets of Derry just a few months afterwards, but to ensure no soldier guilty of war crimes ever stands in the dock again. That includes those like Royal Marine, Alex Blackman, convicted by filming himself murdering a prisoner of war in Afghanistan whilst stating 'I just broke the Geneva Convention'. He was subsequently released after a massive campaign by something the right-wing press referred to as the 'armed forces community' and a successful appeal in 2017.

Most people think it therefore highly unlikely that in a climate of amnesty for all, including paramilitaries, that anyone will stand trial for the Ballymurphy massacre.

We've been down this road before and the hopes of the

Stop The Slaughter!

Protests and demonstrations have taken place across the globe in solidarity with the victims of the Israeli states latest bombardment of Gaza. Members of Organise! joined hundreds in Derry and Belfast who had gathered in opposition to the renewed slaughter. In the most recent concentrated attack in an aggression that has gone on for decades, the Israeli state bombed Gaza for 11 days. At least 248 people were killed in Gaza, including 66 children. Close to 2,000 were wounded, hospitals were bombed or inaccessible. Tens of hundreds of homes were reduced to rubble.

These demonstrations of solidarity were a few among the many that took place all across the globe. Giving physical form to the opposition to the genocide being carried out by the state of Israel there was, as many speakers pointed out, also a sense of powerlessness in the face of the naked aggression of the state of Israel - backed by powerful western governments and international capitalism. Speakers went to great lengths to reassure those gathered that they could indeed do something to stop the slaughter.

Support for the boycotting of Israeli labelled produce was the hot favourite tactic for halting Israeli aggression. While the targeted boycott of Hewlett Packard could actually succeed in bringing pressure to bear on Israel's government, one speaker in Belfast mistook the paper resolution of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions to boycott them for Trade Union militancy. Hewlett Packard free trade union offices are one thing, but how much more effective if the membership of every union actively boycotted Hewlett Packard? And here we come up against a very real problem, not just in terms of stopping this slaughter, but in terms of opposing the violence of capitalism and state everywhere. Out trade unions are not only detached from their membership, they prefer to be 'non-ideological'.

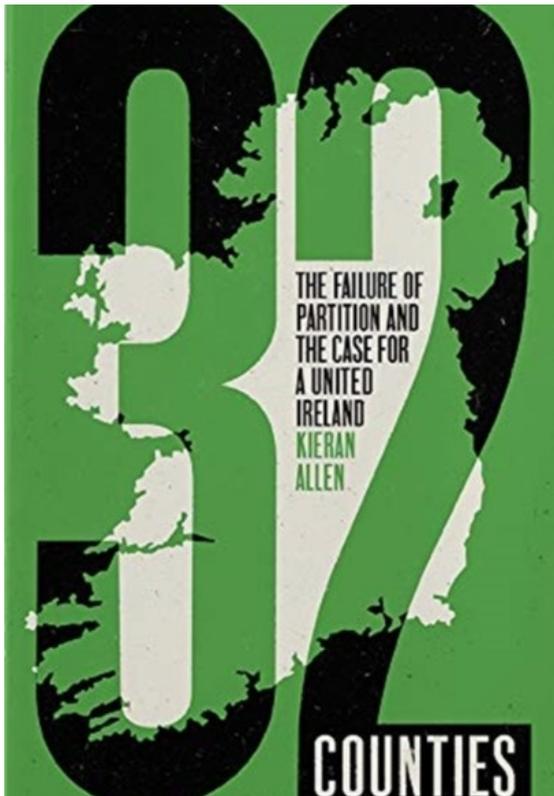
To truly stop this and other genocides and acts of violence by states across the globe, we must face some hard realities. To end this slaughter we need to dismantle not only Israel but capitalism and all states. This is a huge task. But there can be no doubt that the alternative will be ongoing genocides, destruction of the planet and the cheapening of life in the favour of capitalist profit and nationalist fervour in the service of the state. Each and every state.

Nothing short of an anti-militarist, anti-nationalist, anti-authoritarian communist revolution will succeed in eradicating greed and genocide not only in Palestine but across the globe.



Protest against Israel's blockade of Gaza, at the Erez crossing just outside the northern Gaza Strip 26/1/2008

Onwards to the Workers' Republic?



Around the time of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, the group known as BICO or the British and Irish Communist Organisation, a hugely influential but minuscule collection of middle-class academics, made a sharp ideological about face. Previously, a tireless flail of republicanism and supporter of the so-called 'two Irelands' thesis. They consistently trumpeted British over Irish nationalism as the more 'progressive' force but then, bowled over by Sinn Féin's transition, they became more Provo than the Provos. All but the most anoraky trainspotters gave a fuck about this, obviously, but the path beat all those years ago by Lord Bew, Brendan Clifford and their supporters has opened up again recently for the wider left in our post-Brexit times.

Few probably turned up for leading People Before Profit apparatchik Kieran Allen's latest book launch, but his '32 Counties - The Failure of Partition and the Case for a United Ireland' is very much in the born-again republican mode. In fairness, it's not entirely new, the Trots called for a 'Workers' Republic' in the masthead of their paper for years and offered 'critical support' (whether they wanted it or not), to the Provos. The latest embrace of Leninist 'self-determination' is therefore not quite a new development but it is one driven less by Brexit than the altogether less ideological electoral competition they have with Sinn Féin, north and south. Whether that be in the form of direct appeals to SF voters or the much more likely attempts to make themselves potential partners in a grand coalition led by the Provos in Dublin remains to be seen, but they're in full four green fields mode.

Meanwhile, working class Protestant communities are on the streets instead of joining a 'conversation' about Irish unity, what has gone wrong and why the 'disconnect'? The appeal is obvious surely, I mean who wouldn't want to have a choice between two states, only a totally ungrateful bastard could turn their nose up at it! But seriously, you'd have to ask what planet the Trots are on when they think that throwing their weight behind the nineteenth century concept of national self-determination is likely to appeal to working-class Prods any more than unionist and loyalist attempts to convince them that the 'sun-lit uplands' of post-Brexit Britain are the place to be. Both states have a midgie's ball hair of difference between them economically and had Corbyn won over there and Mary-Lou down there (with or without the Trots), we'd still be facing the same owl shite painted in different shades of brown. Those in awe of state power can't or won't see this, they think that change can only come about by means that fundamentally undermine and are incompatible with their stated aims.

QUB Crèche Workers Taking Action

As furlough ended crèche workers at Queens University Belfast were expected to work longer for less pay.

In response, the workers began industrial action in defence of their terms and conditions on International Womens' Day. Failed by the Labour Relations Agency, the workers began with action short of a strike. They soon escalated their dispute to a half days strike action per week and on the 15th of May they walked out to march to the striking Hovis workers' picket-lines in a display of working-class solidarity. The Hovis workers shortly afterwards won their dispute.

In the face of Queen's managements refusal to engage, let alone reverse these attacks, the workers feel they have no alternative other than an escalation of their strike action to two and a half days a week. At the end of May the strikers were still defiant and confident of victory. Up the workers!

Northern Anarchist News from Organise!

DUP Fucked?

So all those, ourselves included, who revelled in 'Fuck the DUP'-ing (particularly following the bizarre attacks on one Pride demonstrator which made the slogan infamous) can now watch contentedly as the DUP well and truly fucks itself. Out with the clever bigot, who noticed it's not so clever to be quite so open about her bigotry, and in with the idiot bigot, who didn't (or refused to) read the memo. With the change in leadership comes the fracturing of the party and a nosedive in the polls. Foster has left, following her close ally Paul Bell. The knighted Jeffrey Donaldson, Lord Nigel Dodds, Diane Dodds, Gregory Campbell and Gavin Robinson walked out of the room before the 'victory' speech. Alliance are now joint 2nd biggest party with the DUP and if they supplant them in the power sharing executive with Sinn Fein working class communities wont be any better served by the sneering 'liberal' middle-classes of their party.

Lets take a moment to celebrate the demise of this party of bigots and raise a new toast as we do: 'fuck the lot of them!'

Join Organise! Build An Anarchist Alternative

Organise! is a small group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but all the alternatives assume the continuation of the present system... and that's even crazier...

The current system isn't working - stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to pay for the natural resources; politicians tell us there's no money - not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', a war on drugs and a 'war on terror' and the same institutions that create war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatise, imprison and deport the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism - an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities - working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

We currently have members in Belfast, Derry, Newtownabbey and Portadown and want to actively build our organisation - on the basis of active involvement and participation.



If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to have a look at our website and consider getting involved. You can find more information about Organise!, including the practical things we are involved in, here:

<https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/>

To talk to us about getting involved send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com

Hovis:

Direct Action Gets the Goods... Again!



After a strike of just eleven days, Belfast's Hovis workers have won an important victory. This follows on the heels of the nurses demanding pay parity last year.

Rejecting a pay offer of 3%, workers held out, shut down production at the bakery at the Apollo Road site in south Belfast and eventually won an 8% increase backdated to January this year.

Empty shelves where bread should have been, solidarity and direct action secured the victory and shows that workers are far from powerless against attacks from the bosses and the driving down of real wages.



The Hovis workers have succeeded in gaining a few more precious, even essential crumbs, from the bosses. Workers everywhere should take inspiration from this victory.

Building on it we should work towards the day we are no longer content with crumbs but take the whole fucking bakery!