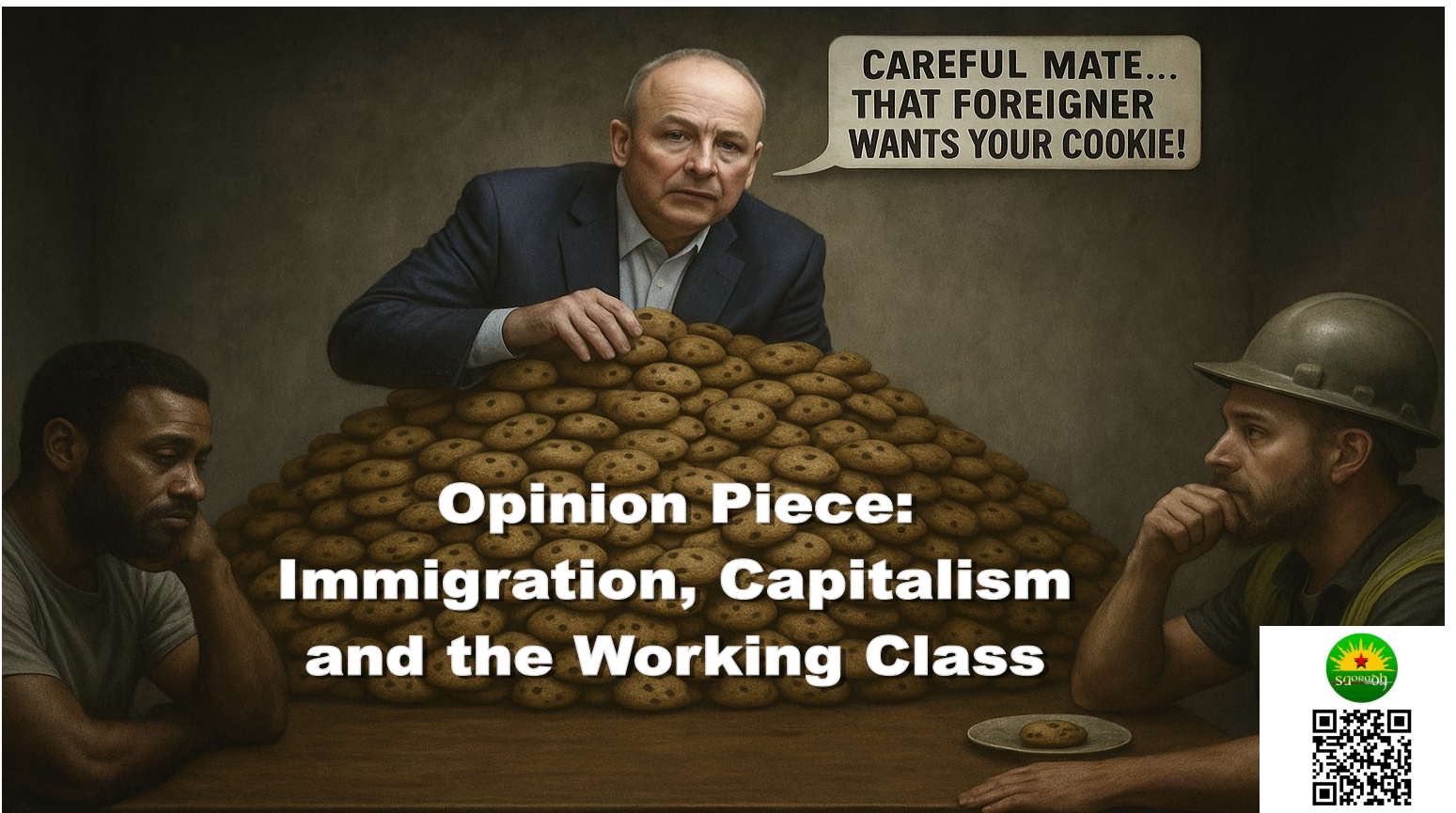




UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Irish Republican News August 2025

Republican Prisoners: Internment to Prison Protests



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Save the GPO from corporate greed and consumerism

The General Post Office in Dublin was the headquarters and focal point of the 1916 Rising. In the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, Pearse declared a Republic free of British rule—words that have echoed throughout history, inspiring generations to continue the struggle against imperialism and British occupation to this day.

In the aftermath of the Rising, the GPO became a powerful symbol of resistance in the collective Irish consciousness. Irish Republicans have paraded past the GPO every Easter, commemorating our martyrs of 1916.

We have honoured the significance of the GPO by using this site to protest against state oppression and to publicise the demands of the 1981 Hunger Strikers. Republicans have gathered there to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to organise protests on key social issues such as water charges. It is no surprise, then, that those in power seek to strip this symbol from the people of Ireland.

The GPO is more than a monument or symbol of protest—it is a reminder that the Republican movement, born in rebellion, has been repeatedly betrayed by a succession of traitors, bland administrators, and self-serving place-hunters. This government now seeks to sever the GPO's link to the history of Republican resistance. They understand, as Orwell wrote, that “Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.”

Irish Republicans believe in the Proclamation. By commemorating the past and realising its ideals, we ensure that the symbolic resistance enshrined in the very foundation of the GPO is not only preserved, but actively used in this and many future fights for justice.

The Free State government's unbelievably crass plan to turn the GPO into a bastardised commercial district is yet another example of their hypocrisy and cynical abuse of history for greedy, self-serving ends. At a time when Dublin's north inner-city communities are being torn apart by gentrification and money-hungry developers, our resistance to this outrageous assault on our heritage must be swift and unwavering.

Our history is not for sale. It is not a commercial or residential playground for the rich. The GPO must be preserved—not as a relic, but as a living monument to the men and women of 1916, and to all who have carried on their struggle.

SAVE THE GPO



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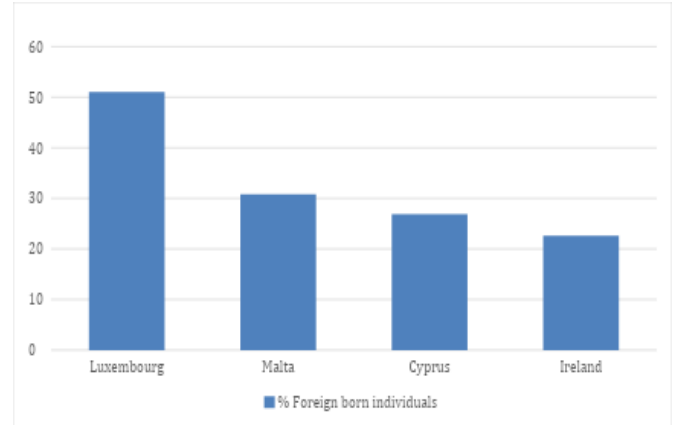
Opinion Piece: Immigration in the Free State

The past thirty years have seen unprecedented social, political, and demographic changes in both the 26- and 6-county states. The Free State is now firmly enmeshed within the fabric of the European Union, with the voting public seemingly oblivious to their country's ever-shrinking sovereignty and control over its own affairs. The Sinn Féin/DUP duopoly now holds sway in the Six Counties, terming any and all opposition as "dissident." Both partitioned states are post-industrial "First World" economies, with all the contradictions and inequality that a capitalist economy entails. Both states have been impacted by the worldwide migration issue. This opinion piece looks at the Free State's response to the issue.

Looking at the issue from a wider perspective, Europe and the wider world are living through a tumultuous migration crisis. The Ukraine conflict, the Arab Spring, the continued colonial plundering of Africa, human-driven climate change, and the EU's open borders policy are just some of the more recent events that have impacted, or are root causes of, large-scale population movement. Ireland's demographic profile has, of course, been profoundly influenced by these events. According to the latest figures from Eurostat:

The highest relative share of foreign-born individuals within the total population was in Luxembourg (51.0% of the resident population), followed by Malta (30.8%), Cyprus (26.9%), and Ireland (22.6%).

In 2023 alone, official statistics counted 141,600 immigrants—a 16-year high. Of those, 26,100 were EU citizens and 4,800 were British citizens. A further 81,100 immigrants were recorded as citizens of other countries, including almost 42,000 Ukrainians.



Marginalised and Demonised: Irish Working-Class Communities

With large numbers arriving in such a short space of time, pressure on public services and housing has disproportionately impacted the Irish working class. For example, buried deep in several official publications, the government has admitted an "over-reliance on disadvantaged areas" for refugee housing and accommodation. Community concerns over access to already stretched and inadequate public services and housing are being used by the government and their puppets in the media to portray such concerns as support for the reactionary right. Essentially, if you don't agree to an IPAS centre in your community, you are a NIMBY, a Nazi, or a combination of both.

Labelled as "chavs, scrotes, skangers, and scumbags," these communities have been marginalised and demonised by their political representatives, by the mainstream media, and have been used by the reactionary right to further their own agenda. Communities have been talked at, not listened to, and this has led to people "raging against the machine." Irish reactionary right morons, who cosy up to the British far right, are trying to co-opt the rage of people from these disadvantaged communities. It might be asked how any Irish person with a brain cell can stand with imperialist British agitators such as Tommy Robinson or his Ulster Unionist friends? The answer is, those who host loyalists today do so not from any political conviction, but from a shared bigotry, united only in their hatred of migrants. It is also a testament to the feeling of abandonment in these areas—and the failure of the entire political class to deal transparently with the issue of immigration.

Complete and Utter Failures: Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil Immigration Response

We criticise the government parties constantly within these pages—and we do it because they deserve it. In all areas of governance, they are failing spectacularly: in crime, in health, and in housing they have failed to fulfil their pre-election promises, or, as in the case where they knew about the shortfall in social housing, they straight-up lied to the electorate. The government has failed to adjust to the challenge of migration—past, present, and future. Successive Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil governments have failed to account for the hostile immigration policies of successive Tory and Red Tory governments. Changes in British immigration policy that impact Ireland have gone unnoticed or unchallenged over the years. The Tory policy of forced extradition to countries like Rwanda has, for example, been estimated to impact migrant flows into the Free State, with the government estimating that up to 80% of asylum seekers entered from across the artificial Six County border in 2024.



The irony is that Britain and the major EU states including France, Germany and Poland have often accused Russia of using migrants to destabilise the borders of Europe, of directing and using migrants towards Poland through Belarus. Now, the Red Tory Bastard Starmer's new immigration's plans, seemingly lifted from the pages of Mein Kampf, will put up another invisible, bureaucratic wall to immigration to Britain. We ask will Irish politicians be prepared for the possible knock-on effects of this hostile act? The answer is probably not. The British through the perfidiousness and self-interest have proved, time and again, that **if you want a fair and secure Irish border that doesn't start/end at Dundalk, then you need to support Irish unity and Irish independence.**

Micheál Martin: Monumental Arsehole

While the centre-right neoliberals of Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil are rightly criticised, the so-called left parties have offered nothing to the Irish working class and are equally as vapid as their supposed opponents across the aisle. In fact, in many respects, they have been even more hostile to the communities they purport to speak for. While there are many excellent individuals who would describe themselves as socialist, communist, trade unionist, etc., the so-called left, as a political mass, are weak, spineless, and ideologically diverted. They have been led down the garden path of aligning themselves with the masquerade of American "leftism," which in reality is neoliberalism with a social conscience, aligned to whatever happens to be trending on TikTok, Reddit, or Facebook. Think of companies such as Meta flying a pride flag as a banner while doing nothing to stop anti-LGBT hate on their Facebook platform. This moral hypocrisy has turned off an entire electorate from political action—a fact proved by the absolutely dismal turnout in the last elections. The so-called left has disengaged from communities, disengaged from workers' rights and socialism, just as they long ago disengaged from the national struggle because it was controversial. They offer no real insight, guidance, or strategy on immigration—because it is controversial. To prove our point, Red Action recently withdrew support from People Before Profit for this very reason.



Bernie Sanders: Open Borders Are a Right-Wing Proposal

Bernie Sanders, one of the real and exceedingly rare American leftists, stated that the idea of open borders is "a right-wing proposal" from the Koch Brothers (conservative U.S. billionaires and caricature villains):

"It would make everyone in America poorer, and you are doing away with the concept of the nation-state... If you believe in a nation-state, or in a country called the United States or UK or Denmark or any other country, you have an obligation, in my view, to do everything we can to help poor people. What right-wing people in this country would love is an open-border policy—bring in all kinds of people, work for \$2 or \$3 an hour—that would be great for them. I don't believe in that!"

The so-called left in this country would never utter anything close to the above—because they are cowards. Their bread and butter, just like the reactionary right, is performative nonsense: engagement-farming tweets, parliamentary stunts, and weak-as-piss social campaigns. Like the right, they are part of the problem in that they are defenders of the current system of government. Ireland needs revolutionaries, not crusty, chinless reformists quoting Marx and Che Guevara on TikTok.

Hawking Our Wares: The Free State's Solicitation of Migrants

The reactionary right's obsession with IPAS centres and asylum seekers has shielded the government from other aspects of the immigration issue. In 2023–24, in the middle of a housing crisis, the government saw fit to offer 40,400 third-level international students places to study, live, and work in the country, while over 128,000 English-language students were admitted in the same period. International students are seen by the government as a cash cow, and these students are often victimised by slum landlords and unscrupulous employers—a fact well known to the government. The fact that active recruitment campaigns were launched to entice these students to Ireland is something the reactionary right either misses or doesn't care about. What is also true is that these international students were solicited by third-level and English-language bodies without the provision of commensurate student housing.

The knock-on effect was that there was over 168,000 extra people, a number considerably larger than the population of Limerick City, competing for housing in an ever-shrinking market. What the reactionary right also forget is government and industry's role in soliciting foreign workers migration to the country; property developers and the construction industry, for example have been advocating for the need for 80,000 extra construction workers, and agitating for the immediate issuing of work permits for thousands upon thousands of construction workers. Foreign workers are often lured to Ireland with promises of high wages and a better life only to find out that the reality is far from what they were promised. This is not confined to the Irish capitalist. Multiple cases from the Workplace Relations Commission often show that exploitation occurs within different national communities and should show that this is not a race issue; this is a class issue. The sooner Ireland and the world realises this the better.



Follow the Money

When dealing with issues such as this we should always ask **who is making money from this?** Same as it ever was, we need to **“follow the money.”** We always state that the system doesn't work; but for some sections of society, it actually does, for the developers, for the political class, and for the tax dodging multinationals. It also doesn't threaten the right wing Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil oligarchy; if their seats are in danger instead the immigration issue becomes an issue to exploit. We say to local communities that this capitalist economy is an exclusive club, and you are not in it, neither are the poor immigrants. The government is due to receive €66 million from the EU to help deal with the migration crisis for the period 2021-2027. Massive multinationals, such as Aramark, have of course got their piece of the pie. As alluded to above, property developers also stand to make millions from the migration crisis, with their grimy hands

in the construction and running of IPAS centres. We should never forget or forgive the role of this parasitic bastard class in nearly bankrupting the country with their hubris and greed. They see people not in human terms but as euro producing machines to be squeezed dry, and local communities as obstacles to be overcome rather than listen to and worked with.

Channel your Anger: A New International

The greed around the migration industry stinks! It is one of the main reasons for the polarisation in society and lamentable rise of the reactionary right. The sight of developers and politicians running roughshod over well-established and settled communities' concerns is rightfully infuriating. These capitalist vultures would not know the idea of community if it jumped up and smacked them in their bloated, greedy faces. It is important therefore for our working class to channel and direct your anger at the right place, the government, employers, the mainstream media, and the European Union. There is plenty of blame to go around!

Open borders and uncontrolled mass immigration *is a neo-liberal project. Backed by employers, government, and the European Union, it aims to drive down wages, create ultimately unsustainable demand on housing and public services, and provide a never-ending supply of cheap labour and a competing customer base for rent and housing. In terms of the host country, it is the rich, exclusively, who profit and gain from a migration crisis. The solution to the migration crisis is rather than exploiting the resources and of consistently leaching the talent and ingenuity from developing nations, Europe and the west should, absolutely needs, to **fairly invest** in developing countries in magnitudes not previously seen. The west needs to stop plundering the resources of the developing world. It needs to stop pontificating and politically interfering and actually help the developing world. There needs to be a more equitable world order, and real socialists across Europe and the world need to be in the vanguard. A revolution is required in thought and in action; **a new International is needed.***



REVOLUTION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION

This is a much broader and nuanced issue than this opinion piece can provide, and we welcome debate from our members, supporters and readers of our magazine

Republican Prisoners: Internment to Prison Protests



‘The Undaunted Thought....’

While our comrades Sean Walsh and Shea Reynolds face the injustices of British and Free State incarceration, Irish Republican Prisoners face up to the familiar and ancient struggle against British penal oppression. and the perpetual resistance of Irish Republicans against their gaolers. Throughout the history of our movement Prisoners have been front and centre in resisting Britain’s attempts to classify the cause of Irish Freedom as anything other than a political war against a British occupation. The refusal by Irish Republican Prisoners to accept a criminalisation policy has a direct and empowering impact on the struggle on the outside. The sacrifice of Prisoners to assert their right for political status directly impacted how the world perceived the war being fought by their comrades on the outside. The ability of the prisoners to resist draws a direct line between the war being fought inside the prison walls and the one outside. In a deadly game of define or be defined, Irish Republican Prisoners historically asserted their status as political prisoners through nonconformity protests, hunger strikes and resistance to extradition orders. Over the next number of issues, we will examine the history of Irish Republican Prisoners, Internment and Protests

Unrepentant Fenian Prisoners

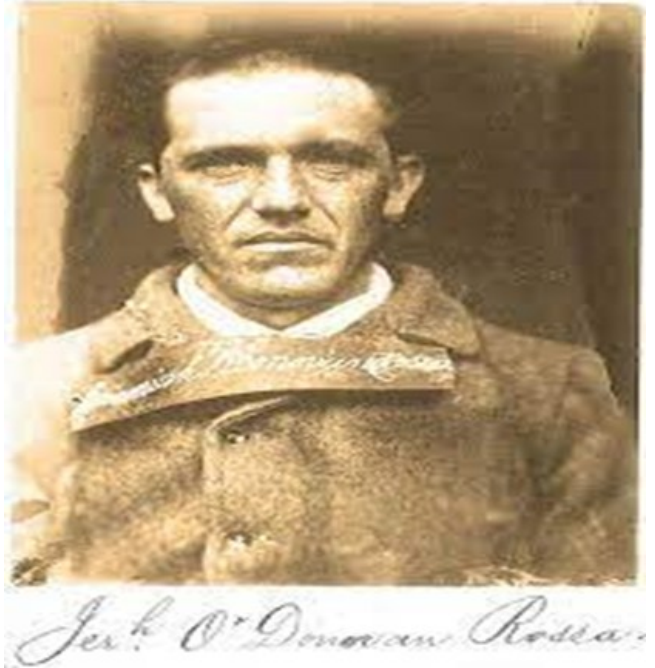
Irish Fenian Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa was arrested, tried, and jailed in English prison for sedition. This moment marked a watershed in Irish Republic Prisoners long history of resistance and protests against their gaolers. The Fenians were among the first to be subjected to ‘Special’ treatment—the first systematically gathered “mug shots” and biometrics facial and fingerprint mapping purposely directed against a movement. The Fenian’s viewed themselves as amongst the first political prisoners. Not so much by their arrest for political activity, nor the tailored systematic penal policies directed at their movement but by the way in which the conditions of their imprisonment became the arena for laying out the legitimacy of their cause against the British State itself. The Fenians transformed the prisons into a stage on which the human body would become both a means to and site of struggle with the institutions and become a symbol of Republican resistance.

Forced labour, silence and isolation were the means used by the British to try achieving an intense form of dehumanisation; to separate the prisoner from their collective identity and break an individual. In essence, it is the political prisoner who challenges both the legitimacy of the state and the forms of their incarceration by that state, which succeeds in defying penal ‘normalisation.’ Fenian Political Prisoners refused to accept the state’s attempt to use imprisonment as a way to control both the body and mind of the prisoner. The body becomes a fundamental weapon in the struggle against the state. Ironically, Irish Political Prisoners first prison protest for complete separation from criminals was brought about when O’Donovan Rossa turned the tables of British penal policy and embraced an isolation protest.

O'Donovan Rossa realised that the authorities were using prison work—and its association with criminal inmates—as a means of both demoralising and demeaning political prisoners by way of association. Rossa stated that he chose separation from their “society,” not willingly, but “in opposition to the authority that would degrade an Irish rebel.” By way of protest, he demanded the right to be separated from non-political prisoners and the right not to do prison work. He deliberately self-enforced a “disciplinary separation” (or isolation) on himself:

“So that this was actually compelling them to do what I had asked them to do in the first place—separate me from the other convicts. My whole fight had been to require them to recognise the difference between us ‘politicals’ and the ordinary convicts, and in the end, they were obliged to do it.”

The political prisoner thus turned the structure of the prison against itself, with O'Donovan Rossa even discovering that cell-bound separation offered him more opportunities for education and allowed for the development of communication mechanisms with other Fenian prisoners—similar to the “comms” used later in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The ingenuity to communicate among the Fenian prisoners fostered the comradeship needed to survive the torture of isolation. They communicated by tapping on walls or floors, incising roof slates that could be thrown over the walls of exercise yards, or concealing items of contraband—such as slipping a pen between floorboards or brickwork, or hanging an inkwell from the bars of the cell. They also exchanged confidences with other Fenians across the barriers that separated them at Mass, while concealing their whisperings from the guards.



The Fenian protests led by Rossa succeeded in distinguishing the political prisoner from the criminal, against the will of the British penal system to criminalise the struggle for Irish freedom. Rossa responded eloquently to a prison governor who said:

“England has no political prisoners now-a-days. You are no more than any other prisoner here and are treated like every other prisoner.”

“Ah, but Governor, I think you are mistaken. You don't keep the gas burning in the cell of every other prisoner all night; nor do you strip every other prisoner naked once a day. You don't take every other prisoner through wards and corridors from his day-cell to sleep in another at night; nor do you punish every other prisoner for not doing two work tasks at the same time.”

O'Donovan Rossa's remarkable capacity to transform the very techniques and policies of the penal system into a means of resistance found its counterpart over a century later in the Republican political prison protests of 1976 to 1981.

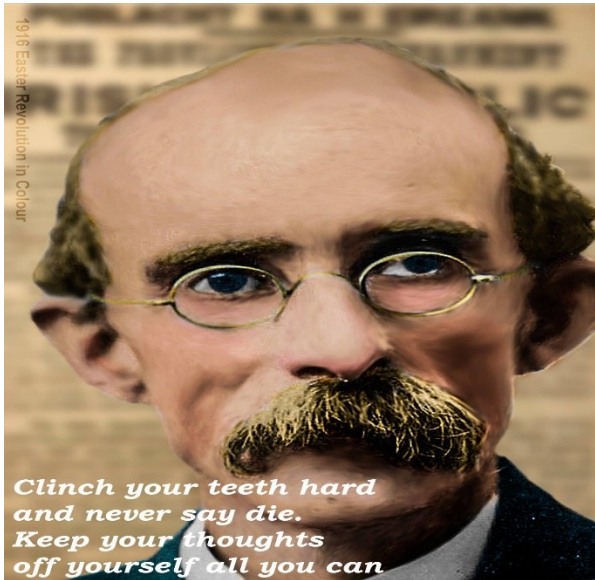
On Monday, 11 June 1883, Thomas Clarke stood trial with his colleagues, accused of planning and attempting to ‘levy war upon the Queen.’ Clarke and his fellow “dynamitards” were placed in temporary detention and then conveyed to Chatham and Portland prisons, respectively. Clarke, now facing the darkest period of his life, recalled:

“Had anyone told me before the prison doors closed upon me that it was possible for any human being to endure what Irish prisoners have endured in Chatham Prison, and come out of it alive and sane, I would not have believed him.”

Immediately, Clarke learned that silence was rigidly enforced, and the prisoner was expected to reflect on what he had done. Under no circumstances was he to contact fellow comrades, and if he did, punishment would be swift and severe. Clarke recalled how the Fenian dynamitards were treated with contempt and hostility; gaolers and wardens behaved as they pleased, often ignoring standard prison regulations and implementing a system of persistent harassment.

Clarke wrote

“We treason felony prisoners were known as... the ‘special men,’... kept, not in ordinary prison halls but in penal cells- kept there so that we could be more conveniently persecuted, for the authorities aimed at making life unbearable for us. The ordinary rules regulating the treatment of prisoners, which, to some extent, shield them from foul play and the caprice of petty officers, these rules as far as they did that, were in our case set aside... This was a scientific system of perpetual and persistent harassing... harassing morning, noon and night, and on through the night, harassing always and at all times, harassing with bread and water punishments, and other punishments with ‘no sleep’ torture and other tortures. This system was applied to the Irish prisoners and, to them only, and was specially designed to destroy us mentally or physically – to kill or drive insane.”



The similarities with the British treatment of Clarke and Rossa strikes a raw familiarity with many modern Irish Republicans personal experience; a systematic and strategic campaign by Britain to inflict criminalisation onto our struggle. The continuation of British prison policy since Clarke to try to demoralise and break Irish Republicans through cruel punishments, torture, harassment and isolation only re-invigorates Irish Republicans and reminds us of the historical legacy in which it finds its continued strength to resist. Yet still, Irish Republicans know well that since the foundation of the Free State, successive Dublin governments have been equally responsible for the gaoling of Irish Republicans in oppressive human conditions. Even today, this policy leaves many of our prisoners facing inadequate healthcare, long periods of lockup and isolation, restrictions of movement and timely accesses to legal representation.

It is important for Irish Republicans to remember and engage with the past to build a better understanding of our enemies' inherent desire to break our prisoners. How the prison consistently marked an important

ideological battlefield that historically was used by the British undermine and criminalise the struggle for Irish Freedom. But ultimately, we must also remember the long resistance of our movement against such imperial aggression and re-member that today Irish Republicans continue in their demand for Political Status from inside their prison cells.

Over the next number of issues, we will examine the history of Irish Republican Prisoners, internment and protests. Our understanding of Republican Prisoners historical struggle must be understood in the context of the continued incarceration and internment of Irish Republicans. We stand in solidarity with those who continue to be held in British and Free State prisoners today.



Some have come from a land beyond the wave

Ireland's connection to Scotland is ancient and enduring. Like Ireland, the vast majority of the people of Scotland knew Gaeilge as their language and its clans shared close ties with the Ulster clans. Scottish troops, the galloglass-
es or gallóglaigh, fought for many Irish chieftains, and were credited with helping stem the English invasion from the 13th Century onwards. Somewhere along the way however, some of the Scots forgot their history, and assumed the identity of their oppressor, happily flying the butcher's apron, while suppressing the memory of the constant wars waged on their country by the English.

This wilful amnesia has definitely not affected the Glasgow Irish who have sustained the pride in their Irish heritage and identity in the face of a hostile and pervasive Orangeism. This small article is a tribute to them, and looks very briefly at how this particular wing of the Irish diaspora has kept the spirit of Irish Republicanism alive, even in the harshest of environments.

Margaret Skinnider "Scotland is my home, but Ireland my country."

Glasgow provided many willing and capable volunteers and supporters to the Republican movement before, during and long after the Easter Rising. Seamus Reader was typical of Irish Volunteers who grew up in and around Glas-



gow He said "As long as I can remember from my earliest years I had a good (sic Irish) national background. I remember hearing rebel songs." Reader recounted being a member of the Fianna Eireann (Irish Republican scout organisation), being involved in the Gaelic Revival taking Irish classes in Glasgow, and was later of course a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and Irish Volunteers. Reader was a member of A Company which in 1916 was the only remaining Volunteer company of which there had been four; they were split apart by the actions of John Redmond who led the majority of the original Volunteer movement on a fools errand, enticing them to fight and die for Britain in support of Irish home rule. As a member of a secret army, Reader did his duty and remembered

Each time I came over to Dublin alone I brought over five boxes containing small detonators, revolver ammunition, about twenty-five rounds in each.

Margaret Skinnider, a Glasgow born teacher by trade, was likewise born into the world of Irish Republicanism in Scotland. She joined the Glasgow branches of both the Irish Volunteers and Cumman na mBan, and learned to shoot in rifle practice clubs, a skill she would put to good use during the Rising.

Skinnider was also a social reformer in the best sense of the world and was appalled at the poverty of Dublin under the benevolence of the British Empire, calling one particular Dublin area the worst 'street in the world.' Skinnider, close to Countess Markievicz, joined the Irish Citizen Army and took a full and active part in the fighting, serving as a dispatch rider and then a sniper at the College of Surgeons. She declared

Every shot we fired was a declaration to the world that Ireland, a small country but large in our hearts, was demanding her independence

Skinnider would be a very active member in the post-Rising IRA, and become a Paymaster General of the IRA during the Tan War.

Another Glasgow Volunteer, Henry Warren Hutchinson, remembered after the Rising, support for the IRA ‘spread like wildfire’ amongst the Irish in Scotland and he joined up during this period. Hutchinson was also treasurer of Glasgow Sinn Fein and recalled both the generosity of the Glasgow Irish in providing funds for the Republican cause, and their steadfast belief in Ireland right to self-determination.

This small article hardly does justice to the long and proud tradition of Irish Republicanism in Glasgow. It is interesting to note however the pride in their heritage that motivated those brave volunteers is still evident today in the Irish in Scotland. Nowhere is this more evident than the supporters of Glasgow’s Green and white; Celtic.



Green Brigade tifo: The cowards in UEFA fined the club for this (in)offensive display.

[A football club will be formed] for the maintenance of the dinner tables of our needy children.

Of course, we couldn’t talk about the Glasgow Irish without talking about Celtic and their wonderful fans. The above quote may or may not be apocryphal, but its essence is not in doubt. Formed by Brother Walfrid from Sligo in 1887 to help feed poor Irish immigrants in the city, the average Celtic supporter has always stood up for and supported Ireland, Palestine, or wherever injustice can be found.

Unsurprisingly, the club has since its inception suffered attacks from the loyalist press, government and Football Association. In 1952, Celtic was “asked to refrain from displaying in its park any flag or emblem that had no association with the country or the sport.” Of course this was a direct attack on the supporters Irish heritage and the board, to their credit, firmly stood their ground, faced down the bigots in the SFA and won the right to fly the Irish Tricolour over Celtic Park. Unfortunately, such fight from the boardroom is becoming increasingly rare and many times in the club’s more recent history the fiery spirit of the supporters has not been matched in the board room. The meek acceptance of UEFA fines, the condemnation of fan TIFOs, and the periodic banning of some supporters groups such as the Green Brigade shows a board more concerned with PR than doing the right thing. In this day and age, a ban from a cretinous and corrupt organisation like UEFA should be seen as a badge of honour!

As stated, this small article hardly does justice to the Irish story in Glasgow. However, the support that the Irish in Scotland contribute, to this very day, to the cause of Irish freedom will never be forgotten.



International Department News

Saoradh attends Anti-Imperialist Front caravan to Belarus

Following on from a recent trip to Belarus on foot of an invitation as part of an Anti-Imperialist Front caravan along with other Anti-Imperialist organisations across Europe to Minsk for information and educational purposes, Saoradh members who attended along with many revolutionary groups from across Europe and wider. These organisations include members from Belarus, Ireland, Turkey, Greece, Germany, Scotland, Serbia and Latvia. Over five days the caravan visited numerous sites across the city of Minsk to get some impression of how everyday life is, and history in the capital of Belarus.

Amongst the topics discussed at the meetings we attended during the week were health and the social welfare of the people, housing and homelessness, poverty and drug addiction, transport, infrastructure and access to public facilities, politics and ideology, the issue of political dissidents and bloggers, education and youth affairs, Belarus foreign affairs and its perceived NATO threats on its sovereignty.

The two Saoradh members were encouraged to be at the forefront of all these discussions, and we were honoured to be able to give firsthand experience of the social economic life in Ireland which also includes its territories occupied by the Imperialist Britain and including the issue of political prisoners (non-Jury courts and political policing by the RUC/PSNI and the Freestate Garda). We were able to compare many similarities of experiences between our two countries despite our obvious different cultural backgrounds. In all the places we visited and all the people we spoke with, from state officials to students, there was no question we could not ask and none that went unanswered.

We were of course fascinated by what we seen in our experience of our visit to Minsk. We were quite surprised at the openness of society, the free movement of people and the easy aspects of daily life, there was a strong sense of community amongst the people, clear evidence of collective thinking and support for one another, and beyond doubt it was certain that the gap between rich and poor in Minsk is the closest we have ever experienced. It is not for us to say that this is the perfect society but what other political system across the globe could claim this? For instance, we didn't see life across more rural areas and there may be other people who had different experiences of their visit to Belarus but during our time in Minsk, we did not come across any signs of poverty such as rough sleeping, petty crimes or lawlessness and a genuine absence of police on the streets. From what we have seen both the infrastructure and transport were extremely well maintained, the transport costs were minimal whilst running frequently with no queues or disruption.

What did strike us was the enormous sense of pride and respect for the people's patriotic and cultural history, they clearly take their historic experience of struggle against fascism into current life and use it as an example of what life could have been like under Nazi rule, but rather than been defined from the horrors of the past they are using to foster a bright future for all their citizens, there in perhaps lies an example lies a lesson for Ireland.

We in Soaradh do not suggest that you take everything we say without prejudice but before you blindly criticize a country like Belarus for what you have heard through controlled media, maybe take the time to visit the country yourself to formalize your own opinion. As the Belarus saying goes "better to see something once rather than hear about it 100 times."



Saoradh Members Arrested in Lithuania

Saoradh can confirm that two senior members of our National Executive were detained by Lithuanian authorities recently following their return from a series of political engagements in Belarus with the Anti-Imperialist Front. The activists were intercepted by border guards upon crossing into Lithuania and were held for a number of hours without clear explanation.

Stephen Murney, Saoradh's National Chairperson, said:

"It later emerged that their detention was prompted by a so-called 'security alert' issued jointly by Lithuanian and Irish authorities, a blatant act of political policing and international collaboration against legitimate political activism. This is nothing less than an attempt to criminalise political engagement and dissent." During over four hours of questioning by Lithuanian National Security operatives, our activists refused to engage with any intrusive or politically motivated interrogations, asserting only that the purpose of their visit was informational and educational.

Upon their release, Lithuanian officials informed the activists that, due to their refusal to participate in this political inquisition, they now face sanctions and are to be barred from entering Lithuania in the future.

Murney continued: "This incident represents yet another example of the ongoing harassment and suppression faced by Irish Republican activists on an international scale. It is part of an expanding pattern of international collaboration between hostile regimes and the Irish state, aimed at suppressing the revolutionary voice of Irish Republicanism."

Whether through domestic harassment, censorship, or transnational intimidation, the objective remains the same: to silence those who dare to challenge the status quo.

"Saoradh will not be silenced, deterred, or intimidated,"

Murney stated. "We will continue to engage with international allies, to speak truth to power, and to expose the hypocritical and oppressive nature of those who preach 'democracy' while practising political repression."

We salute our comrades for their steadfastness and principled resistance under pressure. Their refusal to bend in the face of foreign interrogation is a testament to the courage and discipline that defines revolutionary Irish republicanism.

Saoradh Represented at Anti-Imperialist Week in Paris



Saoradh representatives recently travelled to Paris to participate in a week-long programme of anti-imperialist events organised by the Parisian anti-fascist movement. Throughout the week, we will engage in international meetings alongside anti-imperialist comrades and fellow revolutionaries from across the globe, including representatives from the Basque Country, Columbia, Cyprus, the Kurdish Liberation movement, Palestinian organisations, and others. The programme includes rallies, exhibitions, demonstrations, discussions and concerts, all rooted in a spirit of solidarity and resistance against imperialism and oppression.

Speaking from Paris, a spokesperson for Saoradh's International Seán Hanna Department stated:

"This week offers an important opportunity to build links with revolutionary movements from around the globe, to share experiences, and to stand together in defiance of imperialism, fascism, and colonialism in all their forms. We are honoured to be here and to represent the Irish revolutionary voice on the international stage."

Omara - PACE

Draconian Conditions Imposed on Irish Republicans Under New PACE Laws in the Occupied Six Counties

The occupied Six Counties of Ireland have seen a disturbing escalation in repressive policing tactics with the introduction and implementation of new conditions under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order. Widely condemned by legal observers and human rights groups, these changes are being used disproportionately against Irish Republicans, further entrenching a pattern of political policing in the North.

The revised PACE conditions, ostensibly introduced under the guise of "security and public order," now enable the PSNI to impose harsh bail restrictions, increased surveillance, and extended detention periods on those it deems a threat—terms often applied without trial, charge, or evidence of criminal activity. Among the most troubling developments is the growing use of *exclusion zones*, curfews, and electronic tagging against individuals who have not been convicted of any offence, but are simply suspected of holding Republican political beliefs or attending commemorations.

These conditions effectively criminalise political dissent. Irish Republicans, particularly former prisoners and activists, are being subjected to home searches without warrants, interrogations lasting beyond legal limits, and forced disclosure of passwords to personal devices. The PACE framework is being used to circumvent due process, undermining both civil liberties and the Good Friday Agreement's supposed protections for political expression.

Community groups in Belfast, Derry, Armagh, and Tyrone report an alarming rise in harassment, with families of Republican activists also targeted. Surveillance vehicles stationed outside homes, stop-and-search operations without justification, and intimidation at community events have become routine. This echoes the oppressive tactics of the RUC era and signals a return to a policy of criminalisation by stealth.

Critics argue that the PSNI, emboldened by political silence from Stormont and Westminster alike, is using these new PACE powers to suppress not violence, but ideology. In practice, these measures do not enhance public safety—they target Republican identity and activism.

If left unchallenged, these repressive tactics will not stop with Republicans. Today it is Republicans—tomorrow it will be you. The erosion of rights anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.



Reformed Special Criminal Courts

The Sunday Times reported breaking news that the *'Irish Government will move to replace the Special Criminal Court with a new permanent non-jury court.'* The similar promises we've seen before in Ireland as the promise of a reformed RUC, when there's no reform at all except in name. Replacing a non jury court with a permanent non jury court is not reform no matter what the free state, Sinn Fein and the media lackeys dress it up as. Free State minister Jim O'Callaghan brought forward this legislation on the pretense that *'the government believes there continues to be a real and persistent threat from dissident Republican groups remaining active in the state.'*

Under the current system that had previously established the non democratic authoritarian non-jury courts lies the so called Offences Against the State Act, legislation brought in during the 1970s on the back of British MI5 using UVF and other paramilitaries to bomb Dublin and Monaghan resulting in the deaths of 33 people on the eve of the Leinster House debate. Since that time the non-jury court was required to have the emergency legislation that underpins its existence renewed every year. A review committee established by the Free State government came to the conclusive recommendation that in order to curtail criticism of a non-jury court being reestablished yearly under emergency legislation, that it would be replaced with a permanent non-jury court that does not need to be reestablished yearly. Reform in Ireland is never to the benefit of the Irish people but only to benefit of the establishments tighter control over society. The undemocratic nature of a non-jury court is symbolic of a growing totalitarianism across the EU. Citizens rights are being eroded and communities now exist only as economies to feed the rich greater and greater profits. The permanent existence of a non-jury court in Ireland should concern all Irish people; today it is Republicans being brought through the non-jury court, tomorrow it could be Palestinian supporters, next week it could be Water Charge protesters or anyone who criticizes the government. As Martin Niemöller famously wrote in 1930's Nazi Germany, *'First they came for the Communists, And I did not speak out because I was not a Communist.... Then they came for me.'*

Maghaberry

**Roe 3 & Roe 4, Maghaberry Prison,
Old Road Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn BT28 2PT, Ireland**

Armagh:

Brendan McConville, Sean McVeigh,
Shea Reynolds, Shane Stevenson

Belfast:

Christie Robinson, Matt Johnson,
Eamon Hutchinson

CORK

Sean Walsh

Derry:

Ciaran McLaughlin, Niall Sheerin

Dublin:

Seán Farrell, Ciaran Maguire

Fermanagh:

Rory Logan

Tyrone:

Charlie Love
Brian Carron
Gavin Coyle

**Portlaoise Gaol,
Dublin Road,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois, Ireland**

Dublin:

Eddie Mc Grath
Kevin Braney

Magilligan

**Point Road, Derry, Limavady
BT490LR, Ireland**

Armagh

John Paul Wootton

**Hydebank Wood, Hospital Rd,
Belfast BT8 8NA, Ireland**

Belfast:

Nuala Perry





Join Saoradh
saoradh.irish

Saoradh: info@saoradh.irish or visit www.saoradh.irish

Learning through action.

Tá Saoradh tiomanta don dul chun cinn na Gaeilge agus déanann muid gach iarracht an teanga a chur chun tosaigh i gach ghné denar obair.

Language, like revolution and political agitation is best learnt by living it and of course by a healthy mix of theory and action. Saoradh has recently seen an increase in people wanting to learn and speak an Ghaeilge, our native tongue.

Speaking from Áth Cliath **Brian Kenna** Saoradh Vice-Chairperson stated, “We have both facilitated our members and supporters learning in their communities and have recently provided classes ourselves in our own offices. If you want to learn the language as well as be involved in the revolutionary republican movement, Saoradh is the party for you”.

We aim to further integrate an teanga naisiúnta onto our cláir (agendas) at our cruinnithe (meetings) and that it will heard and visible on our agóidí (protests) too.

We also urge people to follow our Seanfhocal na Seachtaine (Proverb of the Week) on our website and social media pages which is a great way of picking up the language and snippets of wisdom.

When choosing the name Saoradh (Liberation) we understood that the decolonization of our country and the promotion of the Irish language is part of the journey to the 32 County Socialist Republic.



Dublin / Eamonn Ceannt R.F.B

Interested in learning an instrument and being part of a Republican Flute band to attend commemorations honoring Irelands dead.

Contact Eamonn Ceannt R.F.B. @
eamonnceannttrfb@gmail.com



The Roberts Mellon Republican Memorial Flute Band

are now in a position to accept new members. Based in Derry City, our recruitment is open to all Republicans aged 14+

- We offer new members the opportunity to learning a musical instrument.
- Members can also avail of:
- Educational and Irish language classes.
- Travel throughout Ireland and abroad



Contact Saoradh: info@saoradh.irish or visit www.saoradh.irish

Junior McDaid House,
14 Chamberlain Street,
Derry, BT486LR

Kevin Barry House,
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Dungannon, BT70 1JH

Saoradh Newry,
32 St. Mary Street,
Newry