

# resistance

## anarchist bulletin

www.afireland.cjb.net

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Ireland  
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# We are the Anarchist Federation

### Who are the AF?

THE ANARCHIST FEDERATION (AF) began as a revolutionary organisation of anarcho-communists in 1986, launched as a result of the growing need of class struggle anarchism to organise itself, and develop theoretically and tactically. Today the AF has members in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales.

We are a group of unemployed people, homemakers, posties, rail/care/council workers etc... People who are sick of spending most of the day under someone else's thumb. Sick of seeing all but a fraction of the wealth we create going into someone else's pocket when we have jobs. Sick of not having any money when we don't have jobs. Or worse yet, sick of working and not having any money when we have low paid jobs. And we are sick of a system that destroys our environment, our heritage to give to future generations, for the sake of shareholder's profit.

### What we want

We are organised together because we think a better society, a better way of living is possible. A way of life based on direct democracy, control of work by the workers, control of communities by the residents, and based on common ownership of the land, factories, power stations, etc... We call this Anarchism (or Libertarian Socialism, or Anarchist Communism).

### What we do

Over the years the AF has been involved in active support of strikers, squatters, tenants, prisoners, anti-racists, pickets and environmental campaigns. During that time, it has learned from its own experiences and matured, moving away from the reformism of the unions that have become integrated into the capitalist system and merely arbitrate fairer forms of wage slavery and can never be radicalised; and from the concept of national liberation and nationalism espoused by, for example, the republican and loyalist movements.



### Working Class Self Organisation

The AF believes in working class self-organisation, beyond the manipulation of the unions and political parties. During the poll tax dispute, for example, we encouraged and participated in the establishment of community groups that fought the imposition of the charge on the streets of the inner cities. Direct action under the control of the community, rather than demanding that the Labour Party or T.U.C. 'do something'. We supported the strategy of sabotage as used by the anti-roads movement in Britain during the M11 campaign. We were heavily involved in building up support for the anti-war (Gulf/Balkans) movements of the 90's (and still are today with Afghanistan and Iraq). We take the position: No War But The Class War! rather than supporting "United Nations" intervention or supporting supposedly "anti-imperialist" butchers such as Hussein or Milosevic. We say the only war worth fighting is working class struggle against the war system, such as the 1991 uprisings against the Iraqi regime or the refuseniks in Israel (people who refuse to be conscripted or refuse to fight in the Occupied Territories). We are involved in the international anti-capitalist movement, e.g. J18 and the Maydays in London, the recent anti-E.U. summit action in Brussels, while remaining careful not to be lured away from more mundane community activism. For example, one of our members is currently involved in fighting eviction from a col-

lective squat in Nottingham ([www.forestlodge.15m.com](http://www.forestlodge.15m.com)), a fight against high rents, homelessness, and private property for profit. So, because we stand for a free society with equal participation for all, we favour self activity and direct action.

### How does the AF organise?

As a federation, we believe in membership of local anarchist groups (like the Surrey Anarchist Group-[www.sag.antifa.net](http://www.sag.antifa.net), Walthamstow Anarchist Group-[www.tao.ca/~lemming/wag](http://www.tao.ca/~lemming/wag), Aberdeen Anarchist Resistance-[www.geocities.com/resistance/ab](http://www.geocities.com/resistance/ab)). Here AF members network with non-aligned anarchists, and anarchists from different national organisations, in the hope that these groups can form alliances with other groups in their region, and then to groups on a national level. While too much localism is detrimental to the movement as a whole, we believe in the autonomy of individual members to set their own goals/actions. Also we support other broad based initiatives such as the Grassroots Gathering: [grassrootsgathering@yahoo.com](mailto:grassrootsgathering@yahoo.com) here in Ireland, or the Anarchist Youth network in Britain.

### Anarchist Federation Ireland

The Anarchist Federation has just recently set up in Ireland. Since autumn 2001, we have been involved in many struggles -whether anti-war, or pro-choice. At the moment we are seeking to develop anti-Sellafield activism in the Louth area. We have contacts already in Dundalk, Derry, Belfast, Dublin, Kildare, Sligo and Cork. If you live in these areas and want to be put in contact with other activists, don't hesitate to contact us.

To find out more about the Anarchist Federation Ireland, email us at [ireaf@yahoo.ie](mailto:ireaf@yahoo.ie)

If you are thinking about joining the AF, read our aims and principles at [www.afireland.cjb.net](http://www.afireland.cjb.net) ★

## WHERE THERE'S BLOOD THERE'S PROFIT

THE TALIBAN ARE OVERTHROWN and the "terrorist training camps" are in ruins. So why are more troops being shunted into Afghanistan? For the sake of a few Taliban leftovers up the mountains? When it's more trouble to go after them than to leave them there?

### The Oil Factor

The answer lies to the north of Afghanistan in the oil and gas fields of Central Asia.

The traditional arena of Moscow imperialism but now Uncle Sam wants to move in, and has done so with new bases all over thanks to the "war against terrorism". These largely unexploited resources represent a new Middle East but at the heart of the question 'who gains?', - the rulers of Russia, the U.S., China or Iran?, is the problem of getting the oil and gas out of the region and to the world market. As it stands all of the pipelines are under the control of either Russia or Iran. So for the last few years the U.S. government have been looking to develop new pipelines, to Europe, and most importantly to South Asia. The only way south to the markets of India and Pakistan, other than Iran, is Afghanistan.

### The Profit Motive

These imperialist plans for Afghan pipelines are admitted in the business press, the magazine Forbes for example:

*"The State Department thinks it's a great idea, too. Routing the gas through Iran would be avoided, and Central Asian republics wouldn't have to ship through Russian pipelines"*

In Afghanistan rival warlords are offering themselves as proxies to rival imperialisms. Russia backed the Northern Alliance to take Kabul against American wishes, while various rulers in the north and east are being supported by Iran.

U.S. Army documents written less than two years ago openly call for military intervention as a way of controlling Central Asia for U.S. corporations. One of them talks of the need to be "willing to commit even military forces"

otherwise "Russia will be able to exclude all other rivals and regain hegemony over the area."

And they are not planning to leave:

*"when the Afghan conflict is over we will not leave Central Asia. We have long term plans and interests in this region."*

says U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Elizabeth Jones.

### The Siege Of Iraq

Next target is to be Iraq. Right now our masters in Whitehall and Washington are preparing for Gulf War Part Two. When did part one end? In fact the slaughter continued without a



pause. Trade sanctions for the last 11 years have pushed the Iraqi standard of living down to stereotypical 'Third World' levels. Sanctions have created a mass murder both by ruining the economy through preventing trade with the outside world and by hindering the importation of vital medical supplies, as well as the importation of technologies necessary for the repair and reconstruction of the bomb damaged sewerage systems, farms, water supply systems and electrical power stations. Tens of thousands have been dying at the hands of the resulting malnutrition and poverty related illnesses. Plus deaths from diseases treatable with the right medical drugs - drugs illegal to import without the permission of the U.N. The death rate among children has doubled.

A further stream of blood springs from the regular Anglo-American bombing raids, which have continued for the last 11 years with practically no mention in the Western media.

Furthermore, the use of 'depleted uranium weapons' in '91 have left parts of southern Iraq contaminated by nuclear radiation, the result of that being a dramatic increase in the number of cancer victims and birth deformities. Who is doing the suffering? Who is likely not to be able to afford smuggled medical supplies on the black market? Who feels the effects of an increase in poverty? Not the ruling Ba'ath party elite, the very people responsible for the Iraqi imperialist military adventures, or the supposed 'stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction'.

Not them but the people who are their victims, gassed in Halabja or shunted off as cannon fodder against Iran or America. The Iraqi and American governments have much in common, they both kill, torture and maim the ordinary working people of Iraq.

### Getting Rid of the Butcher of Baghdad?

Well that was what was happening in '91 when working people and mutinous soldiers rose against the Hussein regime. Then the U.S. airforce massacred deserting troops and ended open hostilities so as to give the Republican Guard a chance to quell the rebellion. In the words of one Iraqi dissident they "did everything they could do to help Saddam apart from joining in the fight on his side."

The U.S. corporate/state elite want a change from a nationalist dictatorship to a pro-U.S. 'business friendly' one. Nothing more. They supported the Saddam autocracy for years when it suited them to do so.

The real interests involved in the U.S. Middle East policy are economic and strategic. Look, for example, at the corporate interests in Saudi Arabia:

*"Since 1981, U.S. construction companies and arms suppliers have earned more than \$50 billion in Saudi Arabia ..... U.S. investments in the country reached \$4.8 billion in 2000, ... The U.S. oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp. recently was chosen by the Saudi government to lead two of three consortiums developing gas projects worth \$20 billion to \$26 billion."* (Washington Post 21/9/01)

And strategic in that being the main military power in the region gives the U.S. ruling class a bargaining chip with the economies which are dependant on imported Middle Eastern oil (the E.U. and Japan for instance).

### What Can We Do?

So what can we do to combat the cycle of slaughter and retaliatory slaughter?

Well, look at things which have been done such as the occupation of an armed forces recruiting office in Brighton in October or the protest at Shannon airport in December. (Shannon airport is being used to refuel American war jets on their way to the Middle East.) There is also the work of counter-information, of countering the murderous lies put out by the corporate media - such as this bulletin (distribute it or make your own). Read more on this issue on the Free Earth website:

[www.struggle.ws/freeearth.html](http://www.struggle.ws/freeearth.html)

Contact us, for a copy of the poster with this article. ★

## WHEN TO FIGHT AND WHEN NOT

### Spanish connections

MARCH 9th – 16th SAW A WEEK of protests against the European Union (EU) summit in Barcelona. Up to 600,000 people were involved despite police intimidation and violence.

On March 9th 3,000 were involved in a reclaim the streets party, followed the next day by a 400,000 strong protest against plans to re-route Spain's largest river. One hundred thousand trade unionists marched on the 14th, and 20,000 people took part in a range of decentralised demonstrations on the 15th called by the "Lobby Busters" group against the power of multi-national companies.

A massive 500,000 people marched through the streets of Barcelona on March 16th, including a sizable red and black bloc against the European summit. There were black bloc groups, CNT (anarcho-syndicalists), squatters, and many anti-capitalist and radical activists marching together with red and black flags, and shouting anarchist slogans.

There was direct action against symbols of the state and capital (two police stations, dozens of banks, military and judicial buildings, offices of a trade union), confrontations with the police, including attacks against their squads and vans, barricades, and the presence of thousands of people refusing to run away and shouting together VIVA LA ANARQUIA (long live anarchy), and POLICIA ASESINA (police assassins). In Barcelona it showed again that the struggle against global dictatorship of state and capital is not retreating due to repression and has not sold out to the reformists. The only limit is a world without states, borders, exploitation and oppression. We carry a new world in our hearts, and we make it alive through our efforts to destroy the existing hierarchical and repressive society. ★

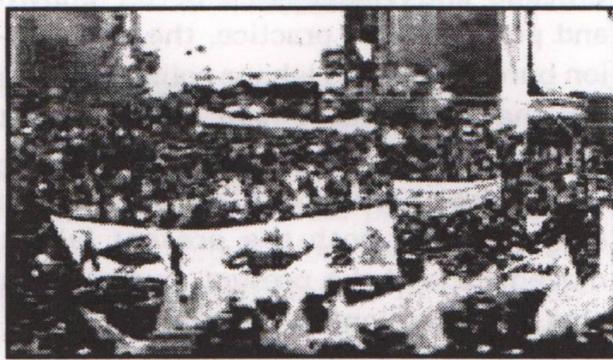
### Israeli objections

RECENT TIMES HAVE SEEN A SHARP drop in the eagerness of Israelis to join the army and assist in the occupation of Palestinian territory. Conscientious objection continues to rise. As well as anarchists and pacifists, there are others who object to the occupation, who refuse to serve, and others, who whilst joining the army, refuse to be stationed in occupied territory. Finally there are members of the Druze religious community, who are subject to the draft but refuse to serve in an army fighting the Palestinians.

The number of objectors rose from 26 to 250 recently. According to figures, the relative number of Israelis who complete regular military service has dropped below 50% (standing at the moment at approximately 44%) which indicates a growing reluctance to carry out the aggressive military policies of the government.

A petition has started to circulate among Army reservists, appealing to soldiers not to participate in "oppression and occupation of Palestinian lands". Starting with 52 soldiers (and rising to 200) from private to lieutenant-colonel have signed the petition. Most signatories were second lieutenants from combat units, in particular parachute, tank and elite infantry corps.

According to the Israeli peace group Yesh Gvul 400 reservists have refused to join their units in the occupied territories since the start of the uprising. But only 40 have been punished for this. Absenteeism, according to Israeli press reports, has become a problem in most reserve corps. 10,000 attended a peace rally in mid-February in Tel-Aviv.



The number of objectors in prison has risen to 12. Among them is the 18 year old anarchist Yaer Khilou. This brave comrade was one of the initiators of the "letter of the twelfth-graders" sent to Prime Minister Sharon by 62 high school students announcing their refusal to cooperate with Army actions. He was sentenced to 28 days and then re-arrested and sentenced to another 28 days on Jan 28th. He says " The Israeli military men and capitalists, together with their Palestinian peers, do everything they can to remain in power. Their mass media and educational system spread vicious nationalistic propaganda, hatred and fear. Thus they divide and rule us. They incite against each other Arabs and Jews, East and West, while they continue to reign. These are our real enemies. Against them Arabs and Jews should stand together. I am not willing to accept such a reality. I am all the more unwilling to contribute to its continuation and fortification by serving in the Israeli army or in any other terrorist organisation". ★

## SAVE THE OLD HEAD

THE OLD HEAD OF KINSALE IS A ROCKY outcrop jutting out into the Atlantic along the coastline of Cork. A place of great natural beauty, as well as of historical importance, from pagan standing stones right up to the sinking of the Lusitania during the First World War. It is now a golf course. A commodity.

The internet publicity for the course makes great play of the area's scenic value, and role in history. To enjoy which, as well as a game of golf, you have to pay 445 euro for a spin in a helicopter from Shannon airport, annual membership of £2,000 or £190 a round.

When planning permission was granted to the multi-millionaires behind this colonisation it was with the condition that the public right of access would remain. An what is this access? An Old Head fenced off with razor wire and protected by stocky private security men, Special Branch detectives, uniformed police, and illegally held fire arms. Nonetheless, the course faces regular invasions by mobs of irate Corkonians.

The latest action took place on March Easter Bank Holiday weekend when about 150 people entered into the grounds. First, a small group forced an entry over the fencing, and then, as their claim to a legal right to refuse access is on dubious grounds, and because people were getting in anyways, the course management opened the gates, and the crowd flooded through.

The local campaign was supported by activists in Cork that weekend for an anti-authoritarian Grassroots Gathering, (the second nationwide meeting of libertarian activists held in Ireland since last November). While more people turned up afterwards, not taking part in the main action itself as such, but taking their own action once the gates had been breached.

This was the first direct action on this issue this year, and many more are planned to take place over the summer, for which there will hopefully be better weather. As anarchists, we must continue the struggle against capitalism when it denies us our freedom to walk where we want, and when it attempts to seal off and destroy the very environment in which we live. ★



Ever thought of communicating with radicals around the world on an equal footing? Why not learn Esperanto, the International Language? For more info, email:satireland@yahoo.ie ★

TIME  
BOMB



## The history of Mayday

MAY 1ST IS A DAY OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. It's a day of worldwide solidarity. But why Mayday? What is its history? Over a century ago the American Federation of Labour adopted a historic resolution which asserted that "eight hours shall constitute a legal days labour from and after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886". All across America in the months prior to this resolution, workers in their thousands were starting to struggle for a shorter week. Skilled and unskilled, men and women, black and white, immigrant and native were all fighting together. Chicago was the main centre of agitation. Over 300,000 workers came out on May 1st, and here Mayday was born.

The Chicago anarchists considered that struggles for reforms, like the eight hour day, were not enough in themselves. They considered them as only one battle in an ongoing class war that would only end by social revolution. On May 1st, in Chicago, one half of the McCormick Harvester Company came out on strike. Two days later the police opened fire on the pickets, killing one and wounding several more. Outraged, the anarchists called a protest meeting at the Haymarket for the next day.

Although the meeting was peaceful, a police column of 180 men moved in and ordered the meeting to disperse. At that moment a bomb was thrown into the ranks of the police, killing one and wounding about seventy others. The police opened fire on the spectators, killing and wounding many.

A reign of terror swept over Chicago. Eight men, all anarchists and active union organisers, were blamed and stood trial for murder. No proof was offered by the state that any of the eight had anything to do with the bomb.

In spite of world wide protest, four of the Haymarket Martyrs were hanged. Half a million people lined the funeral cortege and 20 000 crowded into the cemetery. In 1893, the new Governor of Illinois made official what the working class in Chicago and across the world knew all along and pardoned the Martyrs because of their obvious innocence and because "the trial was not fair".

In 1889, the American delegation attending the International Socialist congress in Paris proposed that May 1st be adopted as a workers' holiday. This was to commemorate working class struggle and the "Martyrdom of the Chicago Eight". Since then Mayday has become a day for international solidarity, but has also been used as a day of celebration by reformist trade unions and authoritarian communist groups alike. It is not surprising that the real history and meaning of Mayday are hidden. If the anarchist ideas of the Chicago Martyrs became better known and put back into practice, the trade union bureaucrats and labour politicians who run the labour movement would be out of a job! The "Chicago Idea" of the Martyrs shows that there is a real, practical alternative to both the present labour movement and the present system. That idea is revolutionary anarchism.

Mayday, like the Labour movement itself, must be rescued from all those with a vested interest in the present system. Mayday must again be a day to remember the past struggles of working class people and a day to show solidarity with present struggles. ★

## ANARCHY ON THE WEB

As you have probably guessed the Anarchist Federation Ireland has a new website [www.afireland.cjb.net](http://www.afireland.cjb.net) where Resistance can be downloaded in PDF format and where you can also find links to all the best anarchist sites. We also encourage anarchists to participate in anarchist debate on the web. To subscribe to the Irish Anarchism list, send a message to: [irishanarchism-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:irishanarchism-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Other useful links include:

Anarchist Federation Britain  
[www.afed.org.uk](http://www.afed.org.uk)

Workers Solidarity Movement -  
[www.struggle.ws/wsm.html](http://www.struggle.ws/wsm.html)

Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation -  
[www.flagblackened.net/revolt/ssn.html](http://www.flagblackened.net/revolt/ssn.html)

Gluaiseacht -  
[www.gluaiseacht.org](http://www.gluaiseacht.org) ★

## Join the resistance

The Anarchist Federation Ireland (AFI) is an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism. We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism. As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits. Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

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

Anarchist Federation Ireland  
PO Box 505  
Belfast BT12 6BQ  
Phone 07951 079719  
[www.afed.org.uk](http://www.afed.org.uk)  
e-mail: [ireaf@yahoo.ie](mailto:ireaf@yahoo.ie)



## Subvert and resist

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

Every Saturday - Anti-Iraq sanctions leafleting, outside Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin, 11.00am onwards.

April 27th - National Anti-War Demo, Gardens Of Remembrance, Parnell Square, Dublin.

May 1st - Reclaim Mayday -videos/discussion at Giros, 4-5 Donegall Place, Belfast

May 5th - Red Flag free festival and banners parade, Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath

May 6th - Critical Mass -Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Sq. 2.00

May 6th - Reclaim The Streets throw a bank holiday party. Dublin GPO, 2.30pm.  
Email: [rtsmayday@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rtsmayday@yahoo.co.uk)

May 12th - Free the Old Head (*see article inside*), meeting point for busses/lifts, City Library, Cork, 12.15pm.

June 1-2 - Anarchist Summer Camp, Achill Island. Contact:  
[jamesmcbarron@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jamesmcbarron@yahoo.co.uk)