



Irish Anti-War Movement Annual General Meeting Saturday 29 January 2011

RESOLUTIONS

ORGANISATIONAL

1. PART TIME COORDINATOR FOR IAWM

The IAWM performs like a reactive organisation, reacting to crisis situations now and again when the bloodletting of war hits the news headlines. We function quite well on these occasions, but often not as effective as we could if we were more organised and prepared. We also waste a lot of time. In between these bursts of activity we are very silent and in the past, have often not responded to important events related to war, foreign policy, torture etc. The revelations of WikiLeaks is a case in point.

This is understandable. All of the members of the SC are volunteers who have busy other lives and we get worn out during our frantic bursts of activity at times of crisis. But it is so important that we have a more consistent level of activity and commentary on the horrors of war in Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq - to mention a few.

Another weakness is that we have failed to build adequately on our successful events, and on the new activists that have been drawn towards us, in terms of getting regular monthly financial contributions.

All this ineffectiveness while our meagre funds sit not fully utilised in a bad bank!

This motion proposes that the IAWM SC employ a part-time coordinator to work a few days a week (time, tasks and remuneration to be negotiated with SC) under the guidance of the SC in order to help drive the organisation to be more effective at anti-war activity and to have a higher profile in the Irish public psyche and the media.

The tasks that this person could be involved in are:

- Watching the Irish media and alerting SC to specific issues
- Helping with PR (with Chairs, Secretary and PRO)
- Updating website (with Webmaster)
- Chasing Standing Orders from new (and existing) members (with Treasurer)
- Producing leaflets
- Helping coordinate demos
- Working on a booklet about Ireland's involvement with war
- Updating membership database
- Updating media contacts database
- Issuing a regular newsletter (with PRO and others)
- Ensuring stall and paraphernalia is available when needed
- Develop links with affiliate organisations
- Develop links with anti war groups around Ireland
- etc.

Proposer: Jim Roche

Seconder

2. A WORKING SPACE FOR IAWM

Linked to the issue of a part time coordinator is that of a working and storage space.

Since the IAWM lost its room in the ATGWU building on Abbey St. we have no independent place to work together when we can, to meet with new activists, nor to store our extensive range of stall paraphernalia. There have been many times when the stall or posters or whatever were not available for events because somebody was away. Banners that people worked on for days have been lost etc. Our two computers are in someone's house.

A centrally located office / store / meeting room will allow the IAWM to develop its own identity as an independent anti-war group. The coordinator can work there, others can drop in to help when available, the SC can meet there, activists can drop in to collect leaflets and help with posters, banners and stalls can be stored there etc. Every member of the SC can have access 24/7. This scenario all depends on finding a suitable room at an affordable cost and on the understanding that standing orders will be vigourously pursued by the coordinator and the treasurer.

There are many centrally located spaces in Dublin now available for rent at reasonable rates.

This motion proposes that the SC seriously investigates renting a room to allow the organisation to develop and function more effectively and that should the SC decide that it is appropriate to rent a room, even on a trial basis, this AGM mandates it to do so.

Proposer: Jim Roche

Seconder:

3. IAWM WEBSITE

In order to make the IAWM website a little more interesting the IAWM will contact Anti-War activists, reporters, writers etc. from around the world to write a short article for the website, so that an original piece of work can be featured on the site each month. Interest can be garnered by advertising on Facebook etc.

Proposer: Dette McLaughlin

Seconder:

4. NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It is proposed that Lola Hynes and Daryl Southern, two local activists with a good track record of organizing pickets and events for Palestine, join the steering committee of the IAWM.

The steering committee would benefit from new members at this time considering the busy year ahead. Two SC members resigned during 2010 and others have expressed a need to cut back on their contribution due to work load elsewhere. The effects of a diminished work force have been felt. Both these individuals have expressed an interest in joining the IAWM steering committee and have already met with the chair and secretary to that end.

Proposer: Claudia Saba

Seconder:

IRISH GOVERNMENT POLICIES

5. NO TO NATO CONFERENCE

The IAWM will host, in conjunction with the Peace and Neutrality Alliance and the Campaign for Social Europe, an international conference of peace and anti-militarism/anti-NATO activists, involved in the international network of the International Co-coordinating Committee - No to NATO, in Dublin on April 15th - 17th. The IAWM will also co-host a Public Meeting on the same theme on Saturday April 16th. The IAWM has been an affiliate of the ICC since the anti-NATO mobilisations in Strasbourg two years ago.

Proposer: Michael Youlton

Secunder:

6. WIKILEAKS: murder in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the wider Middle East region VIA Dublin.

The latest Wikileaks revelations concerning Ireland's role in the US "war on terror" has had sparse coverage in the media. It took the "Phoenix" to bring to light how: "an anonymous building in a Coolock industrial estate is of such importance to the US that it features in the top secret National Infrastructure Protection Plan" which was published worldwide by Wikileaks. The building concerned houses Hibernia Atlantic Cable, "a data super-highway carrying vast amounts of telecommunications" between the US and elsewhere.

The detailed article explains how this company's telecommunication system is involved in sending data to those piloting the US drones over Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East. The pilots are based in Nevada and with the data supplied down the Coolock "super-highway" they are able to direct the drones and fire their deadly Predator missiles.

The IAWM agrees to mount a serious, national campaign with all other concerned groups and organisations willing to participate, and both through the media and by actions "out" the company Hibernia Atlantic Cable and the murderous role it plays in US wars, and make a concerted effort to close the operation down.

Proposer: Dette McLaughlin

Secunder:

7. IRISH GOVERNMENT CONTRAVENING THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE

The Irish media did its utmost to give scant coverage to a US cable detailing a meeting on the 19th December 2007 between US Ambassador Foley and the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern. The cable, published by Wikileaks, exposes that the Irish FF/Green government was more than aware that it was accessory to torture by allowing "rendition" flights to use both Irish airspace and airports. According to the cable Dermot Ahern "seemed quite convinced that at least three flights involving renditions had refueled at Shannon Airport before or after conducting renditions elsewhere."

Two of these flights more than likely concerned the kidnapping and torturing of Binyam Mohammad. Two CIA rendition flights that landed in Shannon on July 22nd 2002 and on September 17th 2004 were involved in transporting Binyam Mohamad to different torture centres, one in Morocco and the other in Kabul's "Dark Prison". On both occasions the planes were allowed to refuel and the torturers and kidnappers on board stayed overnight in Shannon.

This cable shows that the Irish Government knew it was facilitating these torturers and means Ireland is contravening the UN Convention Against Torture. The Shannon peace monitors on the 29th November 2007 spotted the infamous Gulfstream Jet reg no.: N478GS. On Monday 3rd December at 8.30am– just 2

weeks before Ahern met the US ambassador – another CIA torture plane, reg no.: N71PG landed at Shannon. On both occasions the peace monitors contacted the Garda but nothing was done.

The cable highlights the obsequious nature of the Government's relationship to the USA. It shows that the government, specifically Dermot Ahern, has no concern over Ireland's involvement in torture. This government should be brought to account for their actions.

To this end the IAWM will organise a national tour of meetings on the Wikileaks revelations, with Binyam Mohammed if possible, and with the assistance of other organisations if necessary, aim to have open invitations to public meetings with government ministers and force the issue of their contravening the UN Convention Against Torture.

Proposer: Dette McLaughlin

Seconder:

8. IAWM TO AFFILIATE TO PANA

The IAWM has been co-operating and working together with the Peace and Neutrality Alliance since 2002. It was the combined work of the two organisations that produced the large anti-war demonstrations in Dublin and the mobilisations against Shannon from 2002-3. I propose that we formalise this relationship by affiliating to the Peace and Neutrality Alliance.

Proposer: Michael Youlton

Seconder:

IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

9. SUPPORT ANTI-WAR CANDIDATES

The Irish Anti-War Movement commits to supporting candidates in the forthcoming general election that will give public pledges to remove US troops and "rendition" flights from Shannon airport and support the international campaign of boycott, sanctions and divestment against the state of Israel because of its intolerable treatment of the Palestinian people. In particular, the IAWM commits to providing any support it can to candidates that have a genuine record of campaigning on these issues and supporting the aims and objectives of the Irish Anti-War Movement.

Proposer: Claudia Saba

Seconder:

10. CAMPAIGNING IN THE ELECTION

Background Information: During the last general election in 2007 the IAWM and other groups asked politicians to sign the following pledge:

I, the undersigned, give a firm commitment that if elected I will not participate in any government that allows Shannon Airport or other Irish facilities to be used by the United States to conduct war in Iraq or any other imperialist war"

The effect of this campaign became clear in documents released by Wikileaks recently, which showed among other things that Dermot Ahern expressed concerns regarding rendition flights passing through Shannon.

Proposal

The Irish Anti War Movement will work with other Anti War groups to make Shannon an issue in the election. The campaign shall highlight both the use of Shannon for rendition flights as well as the ongoing traffic of US troops through Irish airports.

Proposer: Kieran O'Sullivan

Secunder:

PALESTINE

11. IRISH SHIP TO GAZA (ISTG)

The Irish Anti-War movement gives its full and wholehearted support to the International initiative to send a second international aid flotilla to the besieged people of Gaza. In particular, the IAWM is committed to the nationwide campaign to send an Irish aid ship to join the international aid flotilla to break the Israeli siege of Gaza. The IAWM commits to making the campaign to send an Irish ship to Gaza an absolute priority over the coming period. The IAWM calls on all its members and all those opposed to war and occupation to join the campaign to raise funds for the ISTG campaign and do all they can to ensure the success of this campaign.

Proposer: Claudia Saba

Secunder: Jim Roche

12. IAWM EVENT ON PALESTINE

It is proposed that a large scale event be run on the general theme of the Middle East's cultural and political sphere, with a distinct emphasis on the situation in Palestine and in particular Gaza. This is to be held in the town of Dun Laoghaire, and provisional booking of the Royal Marine Hotel on the 14th May has already been made. It is hoped that this will be hosted and facilitated for largely by both us and other remaining activists from the area, in conjunction with and under the guidance of the Irish Anti-War Movement.

The aim is to provide a multi dimensional forum for educational purposes, debate and interaction with an otherwise unfamiliar culture. It is hoped that we could build an event through the attaining of a central attraction / speaker of high regard and international recognition along with a support cast of members within IAWM and other Anti-War/Solidarity groups.

Other activities within this forum will include the showing of various documentaries, related Poetry and readings, art, photography, stalls from different organizations with literature etc., storyboards, exhibits of photos and comic strips, as well as audio visual installations. Participation from the Middle Eastern/Palestinian community in Ireland is of vital importance and central to the concept.

The proposed time for this is in later May, as the Flotilla will be returning by that stage and these issues will once again be back firmly on the agenda. This also gives us the opportunity to avail of the experiences of those who will be sailing with the Flotilla - including activists and Councillors among our own network.

Proposers: Daryl Southern & Lola Hynes

Secunder:

EVENTS IN TUNISIA

13. SUPPORT THE TUNISIAN PEOPLE

The IAWM applauds the Tunisian people for their heroic uprising against the dictatorship of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and their success in driving him from office. We commit our full support to the struggle of the ordinary people of Tunisia to establish a regime of democracy, human rights and social equality in their country. We furthermore support the calls in the wider Arab world for similar uprisings against dictatorships and totalitarian regimes and commit ourselves to giving the utmost solidarity to any such movements elsewhere in the region.

We note that despite all the claims of the US, Israel and the major Western powers to support democracy in the Middle East, that the dictatorships and undemocratic regimes in the Middle East enjoy the support and sponsorship of the Western powers and that uprisings by the people of those countries represent a mortal threat to the imperialist domination of the region and to the Zionist project in Palestine. The IAWM looks forward to the establishment of regimes of real democracy, genuine freedom of expression, religious freedom and social equality throughout the Middle East and will do all in its power to support the new resistance struggling to this end.

Proposer: Claudia Saba

Secunder: Jim Roche

AFGHANISTAN

14. AFGHANISTAN TEN YEARS ON: THE LOST WAR AND IRELAND'S INVOLVEMENT

This AGM recognises that, ten years on from the invasion of Afghanistan, America's longest war is a lost war. The Taliban controls northern Afghanistan. Afghans are suffering worse malnutrition and health problems since the Western occupation. Even US intelligence recognises that the Afghan War, now costing the US over \$13 billion monthly, has reached a stalemate and Western occupation forces are on the defensive.

The AGM further recognises that, facing a failing war, the occupiers' brutality is growing and their political targets spreading. US forces in Kandahar are bulldozing houses, assassinating suspected Taliban sympathizers and using mass reprisals against the civilian population. Also, the Obama White House and Pentagon have switched their vitriol to Pakistan. US air, land, and mercenary forces are now penetrating deeper into Pakistan and, as WikiLeaks has shown, carrying out targeted killing of Pakistanis. In a grim echo of the Vietnam war, when Cambodia and Laos were brought in as part of the 'communist threat', the US is widening the Afghan theatre of war, even if it is ultimately weakening the US's military position.

This AGM condemns Irish involvement in this war. At the beginning of the war, to justify the EU's and Ireland's involvement, the political establishment wheeled out apologists for the invasion using arguments about freedom for women and the war against drugs. Now we have nothing but silence about the continued presence of the Irish military personnel in Kabul, and silence about use of Irish technology for driverless drones. Only when our Taoisigh are feted in Washington for providing the crucial military base in Shannon, do we even get to hear of Ireland's war on Afghanistan. This wall of silence needs to be broken.

The IAWM specifically condemns the role of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), comprised of British and EU troops, as part of the brutal invasion and constituting a 'police action', which reinforces the occupation. The Irish Anti-War movement calls for:

- a) The immediate withdrawal of Irish military personnel from Kabul,
- b) A ban on the use of any Irish based technology in predator and reaper drones and other weapons used in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

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Furthermore, the IAWM resolves over the next months:

- c) To put political pressure, through pickets and demonstrations, on the incoming Irish government to stop Irish involvement in the Afghan War. The Labour Party, which has publicly called for the recall of Irish military personnel from Afghanistan, should be particularly targeted for attention.
- d) To hold, after the elections, a day long event under the theme of End the Afghan Invasion to highlight the reality of the war for Afghans, the spread of the war to Pakistan, nature of the resistance in Afghanistan, and the imperialist aims of the US and EU.

Proposer: Marnie Holborow

Seconder:

15. IRISH PARTICIPATION IN AFGHAN WAR

Violence in Afghanistan is likely to rise throughout 2011 and the country remains the focus of U.S. national security strategy according to US military officials.

The year 2010 was the deadliest year for coalition forces there. Independent count puts coalition deaths there over 700, and U.S. deaths near 500, nearly a third of the ten-year war. The number of Afghan deaths is unknown, but 90% of casualties are said to be innocent civilians.

The numbers of U.S. troops and civilians, allied trainers and combat forces, Afghan army and police trainees all increased in 2010. The number of Irish personnel assisting the US also increased with the addition of 6 Garda members to join the members of the Irish army already stationed there.

The IAWM will embark on an information campaign to bring the issue of Afghanistan into the public demesne. This could include high profile speakers, journalists, photographers, a member of the Irish forces/Garda that has served in Afghanistan or Joe Glenton, the British soldier who refused another tour of duty in Afghanistan.

We not only need to make the public aware of what is being done in our name, but involve them in rethinking the need to stop our participation.

Proposer: Dette McLaughlin

Seconder:

END