

Stop Ireland's dirty war

The use of Irish passports by an Israeli hit squad that killed a Hamas leader in Dubai is the latest incident in what has become Ireland's dirty war.

The Department of Foreign Affairs' response to the fake passport scandal was to deny that the passports numbers existed. Then they admitted that two out of the three passports used by the Mossad hit squad were in fact real passport numbers. Minister Martin has not commented on how Israeli intelligence were able to forge Irish so easily.

Why has Minister Martin not asked the Israeli ambassador to leave? Why has Ireland not decided to cut ties with Israel? The truth is that Ireland's softly, softly response has become part of official Irish foreign policy, which unashamedly trails the US. It is part of a wider EU-US military cooperation which means for Ireland an ever deepening involvement in war.

If Iranian, not Israeli, intelligence had been involved, you can be sure that Ireland would have followed Britain in condemning state sponsored terrorism, calling for harsher sanctions against such a dangerous regime.

To Afghanistan via Shannon

ALMOST 10 million has been spent in just three years on protecting US troops passing through Shannon airport on their way to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The latest figures show more than 243,000 US troops passed through Shannon airport in 2009 – or 665 per day. This brings to more than one million the number of military who used the airport en route to US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of 2006.

It was revealed recently, in the Dail, that the annual cost to the Irish people to have seven Irish soldiers taking part in the war and occupation of Afghanistan was 270,000.

Seven Irish military personnel are serving under the NATO-led occupation of Afghanistan, with the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF). The latest military surge of western troops, the so-called operation Mosharak ("together"), is meant to be a ISAF "pacification offensive" in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. It is here, at Marjah, that 12 civilians were killed just recently by a NATO missile strike explosion.

Counter-insurgency, the activity a under which Ireland participates in the occupation, includes targeted assassinations. In January, over the border in Pakistan, one such assassination raid killed at least 15 people, amongst which were three children.

The Irish Defence Forces and the Irish Government have made us part of this war carnage, without even asking us.

Ireland's dirty arms trade: Support Women against Raytheon

The arms trade – the merchants of death who depend on war for their profits – is a large part of Ireland's involvement in the war machine. Raytheon, one of the largest missile manufacturers in the world, has recently announced it is to leave Derry. The announcement was made following a long campaign against the company by the Derry Anti War Coalition and others. This shows how effective targeted protests can be.

In January 2009, the company was occupied for the third time by DAWC activists. In 2006 DAWC activists had 'decommissioned' the company's computers and caused £350,000 worth of damage after a Raytheon missile fired by the Israelis had killed 28 people, mostly children, in the Lebanese town of Qana. The protestors were brought to trial on serious charges.

Against all the odds, the court accepted that the Raytheon company was aiding and abetting war crimes and the nine women who occupied the company during the assault by Israel on Gaza, and are up on charges similar to the men's; their trial begins in early May. The huge campaign of support for the first Raytheon protesters ensured they were vindicated. We must do the same for the nine Women against Raytheon.

Goretti Horgan, one of the nine, will speak at the meeting.

Irish Anti War Movement



Friday March 5th 7.30
Wynns Hotel, Lr Abbey St

Stop Ireland's dirty war

Speaker:

Goretti Horgan

(Women against Raytheon)

and live link-up with a speaker from the
Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan