

IRELAND OUT OF WAR

Bertie Ahern is dragging Ireland into a bloody war by allowing US troops to use Shannon airport. In the first six months of this year, 153,381 soldiers came through. That makes Shannon the most important European hub for the US occupation of Iraq.

Ahern denies Shannon is important to the US military. This is a lie. Bush's envoy to Ireland, Richard Haas, stated publicly in 2003 that Shannon was crucial for US operations and would be difficult to replace.

Ireland is supposed to be a neutral country. But Ahern has made a mockery of all this and has even forced Irish taxpayers to fund Bush's war. Every day we spend ?10,000 subsidising US overflights. Other neutral countries such as Austria refuse to even allow the US use their airspace.

Shannon has also been used to transport prisoners to torture centres. Under the US 'rendition' programme prisoners are sent to countries like Egypt and Morocco where torture is freely practised. They come in specially chartered planes through Shannon.

Ahern says that Bush's war is about defeating terrorism. But the biggest terrorists are George Bush and Tony Blair. Their illegal war on Iraq has killed an absolute minimum of 25,980 civilians and maybe as many as 128,000, according to one report.

Their abuse of human rights has brought degrading treatment for prisoners in Guantanamo Bay and the obscenities of Abu Ghraib. If Bush and Blair stopped spending so much money on war, the debt of the poorer countries in Africa could be wiped out.

The Irish Anti-War Movement totally condemns the bombings of innocent civilians in London or elsewhere. However, we do not use hypocritical double standards. The US military has inflicted countless atrocities on the people of Iraq killing thousands of innocent civilians. Unlike Bertie Ahern we also condemn their activities.

The terrible bombings in London suggest Ireland might even become a target for a London-style attack as long as we facilitate the US war machine.

In the US itself support for the war is dropping. On September 24th, tens of thousands will take part in protests in Washington and San Francisco. In Ireland, a peace rally and festival in Shannon will take place to coincide with these protests. We will be stretching out across the Atlantic to join our American brothers and sisters in saying: **NO to WAR.**

What You Can Do

■ **Book your seat on the bus to Shannon by phoning the Irish Anti-War Movement now. Phone (01) 872 7912 or 087 8289243**

■ **Order extra posters and leaflets to spread word of the festival by e-mailing us at info@irishantiwar.org or phone the numbers above.**

Join The Irish Anti-War Movement

To join the Irish Anti-War Movement, send an email to info@irishantiwar.org with the words *Join The Irish Anti-War Movement* in the subject line or post this slip to **Irish Anti-War Movement, PO Box 9260, Dublin 1** Membership €10 (€5 unwaged). However we do not stop people joining who are not able to afford it.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel _____

Email _____

US Military Out of Shannon Peace Rally Saturday September 24th

Keep Ireland out of War



with music by:

The Revs

The Chapters* Jimi Cullen

Pete Courtney *Sypher

Dermot Byrne *22

& *Mark OConnor*

**Assemble
Shannon Town Centre 1pm
for March to Rally and Music
at Shannon Airport from 2pm**

Irish Anti-War Movement
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