

DIRECT**ACTION**

Industrial Workers of the World

An Injury To One - Is An Injury To All!

SOLIDARITY WITH LA SUIZA WORKERS: SYNDICALISM IS NOT A CRIME!



ON THE STREETS:
An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!

The Spanish States Supreme Court has today (Monday 24th June) confirmed the sentence of three and a half years in prison for the six Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) union members in the case known as 'La Suiza', a pastry shop in Xixón.

The decision ratifies the ruling of the Provincial Court of Asturias made previously. They are accused of a continued crime of 'serious coercion' and a crime against the administration of justice for 'acts of harassment' towards the owner of the bakery that caused its closure.

This is despite the fact that the establishment had already had the premises up for sale for a year.

The accused have also been asked to pay a compensation fine of 125,428 euros to the businessman in question.

The Courts rejected the trade unionists' defence that their work was limited to carrying out union activity.

This consisted of a negotiation for a case of sexual harassment reported by a former worker – which was subsequently shelved due to lack of evidence – and a number of rallies which were held on the sidewalk opposite the premises.

The statement issued by the Supreme Court, indicated that the conviction is based on the call through social networks for gatherings in front of the establishment with banners, the delivery of leaflets against the businessman, as well as the dissemination of a video in which they denounced the boss for workplace and for sexual harassment.

A spokesperson for the Industrial Workers of the World, a sister organisation to the CNT within the International Confederation of Labour said, "Without doubt, this is serious matter for the simple reason that from now on, anyone who holds a picket against a company or a boss may find themselves in the same situation.

"In light of today's news from the Spanish State, we would reiterate to the bosses and those who create laws to protect their own interests, that trade unionism is not a crime.

"We condemn this attack upon trade unionists and extend our international solidarity with our comrades in La Suiza Six and to their families and comrades.

"Since this conflict unfolded, all CNT unions as well as other friendly organisations have dedicated themselves to extending our love and solidarity with the campaign of the 6 of La Suiza.

"That solidarity does not end there.

"The fight on behalf of these and other workers on the front lines will continue. It will continue in the same way that this process has not concluded by today's news.

"For ourselves we echo our union motto when we think of the 6 CNT activists, by saying that an injury to one is an injury to all!"

We are not criminals, we are workers! Syndicalism Is Not A Crime!

IWW WISE-RA

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An Introduction to Syndicalism Talk: How The IWW Defies Power & Labels

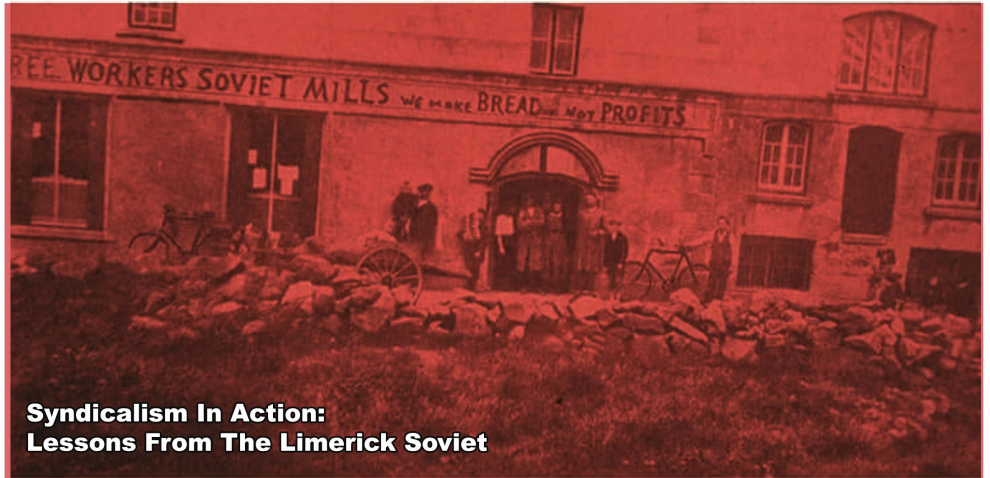
Fellow workers from across the globe convened on zoom for a talk titled: An Introduction to Syndicalism.

It would have been easy for a topic like this to devolve into a hair-splitting exercise: losing itself in a philosophical discussion about labels, categories, and semantics.

Thankfully the presenter Pat chose not to dwell on that, focusing instead on the Industrial Workers of the World as a counter-cultural phenomenon that interested itself less in politics, and more in direct action to change working conditions and in universal solidarity.

For newer members like myself, this was invaluable. The IWW is perhaps the most ambitious grass-roots worker movement in modern history (striving as it does to unite workers across the globe in "one big union") but state and private entities have attempted to silence and misrepresent it since its inception - often with ruthless violence and orchestrated media disinformation.

Consequently there is much I have to learn that has been misconstrued or obscured by those who are disparaging of labour movements, and this talk gave me a thoroughly enjoyable taster. Pat's whistle-stop tour of the IWW's actions throughout history helped outline what the Wobblies and the syndicalists shared in common, and where they ultimately diverged.



**Syndicalism In Action:
Lessons From The Limerick Soviet**

From the IWW's shunning of the myopic craft unions, to the infamous Lawrence Strike of 1913; from the music of Woodie Guthrie to the creativity of the Elizabeth Gurley Flynn Soap Box oration campaign; from the Spokane Free Speech Fight of 1909, to the Bread-Not-Profits drive of James Larkin - the power of the IWW was in its ability to transcend borders and political differences through music, creative protest, and sheer dogged grit.

Perhaps most importantly of all, Pat placed the IWW's fight in a contemporary context too - drawing a through-line from the labourers of yesteryear to the present day where workers are again increasingly beginning to realize that the only leverage they have is their labour.

Much of the IWW's mythos is rooted in the 1920s and 30s (its hey-day is broadly considered to have centred around World War I) and yet it was clear from looking around at the other attendees of varying ages that we cannot relegate the story of The Wobblies to sepia photos and dusty archives.

There is a fundamental desire to unite people of all races, religions and creeds that hasn't been stomped out and is only growing stronger every decade.

And The Wobblies are the only ones walking the walk.

IWW Galway FW

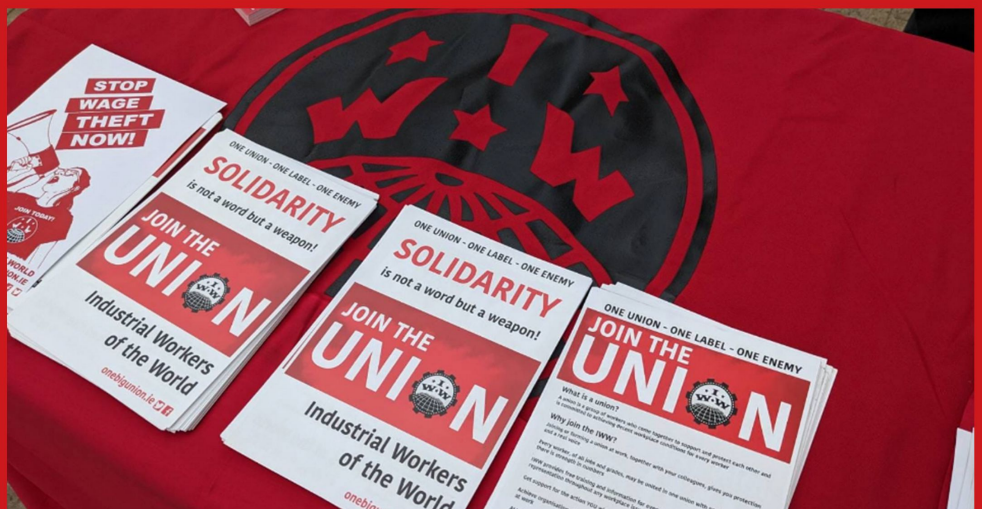
Report From Workplace Organising Workshop

On Saturday 29th June, our branch hosted a workshop on organising for members in the Hospitality and IT industries.

The General Organiser of the Brewery Workers Union gave a talk on what industrial union organising is, and how it differs from trade union organising.

They then gave an account of the BWU's experience in organising so far, as well as the landscape of the brewing industry, in which sexism is a big issue, despite industry employers claiming to be progressive and socially-conscious.

Part of the BWU's recruiting involves leafletting at industry events and beer festivals. They hold public meetings and training courses, in particular, a health & safety course, as safety measures are often not taken seriously by employers in the industry.



The talk was well-attended, with wobblies joining from all parts of Europe.

Afterwards, there was a discussion among attendees on how we can apply these methods to our own workplaces.

People are incredibly motivated when they hear how other workers achieved organising successes, and there is a large appetite for other talks like this. Stay tuned!

IWW Dublin FW

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