

# LUCY PARSONS

Newsletter of the Lucy Parsons branch of the Workers Solidarity Movement



## No Justice No Peace

June 9th 2007 saw 500 people march on Store Street Garda station to demand justice for Terence Wheelock on the second anniversary of his death. Terence, a twenty-year-old man from Dublin's north inner-city, fell into a coma after sustaining injuries in Store Street Station in June 2005 and subsequently died in September of that year.

Gardai claim Terence took his own life, but evidence gathered independently by the Wheelock family points toward something much more sinister than that. What they have proven is that Terence was forced to endure gross brutality at the hands of the people who are supposed to "protect and to serve" us.

The reality of the situation- that Terence's only offence was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and the fact that the Gardai responsible have so far evaded any form of punishment for their crime further proves that their purpose has always been to protect private property rather than the civil rights of those they are paid to serve. Getting away with murder has become one of the things they have become very good at.

Terence's death, while astonishing in

the sheer brutality of the facts, is by no means extraordinary, in that his death was one of twenty two deaths reported in Garda Custody since 1997. Of these figures, a majority of those who died are under the age of thirty, and, in the case of Brian Rossiter, the victim was just fourteen years old.

Also disquieting is the fact that several of the deaths took place in Store Street Garda station. This cannot be a coincidence. Death by hanging counted for a large number of the deaths, though in several cases, including in that of Terence, suicide has proved to be almost impossible.

Brian Rossiter was found unconscious in a cell in Clonmel Garda Station following his arrest in Clonmel town on 10 September 2002. He entered the station in good health, left in a coma and died a few days later.

Gardai told Brian's father, that he had overdosed on alcohol and ecstasy tablets. Later toxicology reports showed no traces of either substance. The statutory inquiry has always been strongly criticised by the Rossiter family for trying to narrow its scope, thus avoiding vital questions.

Avoiding vital questions is what the Garda do best. In the Rossiter case,

Garda blatantly lied to the family of the victim. If, as the Gardai state, Brian was heavily intoxicated, why was there not a medic present to provide him with a necessary check? The boy was just fourteen years of age. Why, in the case of Terence Wheelock, have the Gardai continually tried to dismiss feasible evidence? Why were the custody records of the station inexplicably changed following his death?

How is it that John Maloney, found comatose and heavily bleeding behind a church in Rathfarnham, received these injuries "minutes" after leaving Garda custody?

These questions merely highlight the corrupt and brutal nature of policing in this state. Whether through death and injury of those in Garda custody, or those killed in the prison system, or those other victims like John Carthy this state violence has been well documented.

It is of huge importance that people support the campaigns of the Wheelocks, Moloneys and other families seeking justice. Organised opposition can hopefully save more lives and create an atmosphere where people can begin working on community alternatives to the state's hard line force. An injustice to one is and injustice to all!

Freedom without socialism is privilege and injustice..  
..Socialism without freedom is slavery and brutality

## Domestic workers in Ireland

Would you accept a job without signing a proper legal contract? A job that means working long days for 400 euro a month doing chores like ironing, cooking, laundering, cleaning a 4 bed house and even babysitting four children aged between two and seven years old?

All of this while your boss is doing nothing and only speaks to you to give orders and complain about how little work you did on a day when you were feeling sick? Would you be able to do much in our overpriced cities, with what little money you earned, during the few hours off you are given during the week?

Would you pay an agency to hire you for this fantastic 'job' even if they don't care if you are having problems or if the children in the house refer to you as their slave while your boss shouts at you for no reason or even threatens to hit you.

Well, some people would apparently. Yes, in modern Ireland, there are people weeping in their rooms because of isolation and exploitation. Yes, it's happening in rich areas like Dalkey or Blackrock, and other affluent areas in Dublin and cities throughout Ireland too.

Irish families knowingly employ these foreign workers, who naively enough think they will learn English this way, as babysitters. Within families, who employ cheap foreign workers to get their domestic chores done, underpaid, mistreated and physically and psychologically exhausted many end up running away from these houses.

Anarchism will not be created in this country, or any other, by a tiny group of people. Even in Ireland a successful anarchist revolution would require tens of thousands of active anarchists. Anarchists living on every street and active in every workplace. We obviously have a long way to go!

The WSM is helping build the anarchist movement in Ireland. We would like you to become part of this work. If you want to get involved, find out more or receive free copies of our bi-monthly paper 'Workers Solidarity' feel free to contact us;

wsm\_ireland@yahoo.com  
www.wsm.ie  
PO Box 1528, Dublin 8

How can we accept this situation? What can we do about it? Everybody would agree that the present role of the vast majority of women as full-time unpaid domestics and child-minders within the family must be ended. However, it is also important to prevent the exploitation of migrant domestic workers.

Labour laws should apply to these workers and specific contracts should be put in place. Some unions are already trying to come up with new regulations for these workers. In the meantime we can all do something about it and avoid hiring babysitters or domestic workers from these agencies. Let's stop this human traffic. As a worker, know your rights, ask for help. Organise!

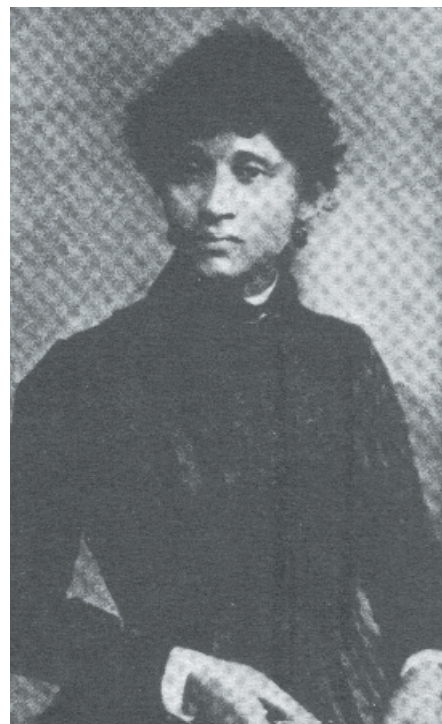
## Who Was Lucy Parsons?

Lucy Parsons was well known for her writings, her courage as a dissident woman of colour, her unbending commitment to social justice, and, most of all her powerful, fiery public speeches. In her time she wrote for many newspapers such as the Liberator, an anarchist newspaper that supported the IWW in Chicago. She led tens of thousands of workers into the streets in mass protests, for instance when she organized the Chicago Hunger Demonstrations in January 1915, and drew enormous crowds wherever she spoke and was considered a dangerous, explosive and robust threat to authorities across the United States.

For over 30 years the police shut down her lectures, often arresting her before she ever got to the podium. The Chicago Police Department at

one point had labelled Lucy Parsons "more dangerous than a thousand rioters." So hearing Lucy speak at all was a rare opportunity. Even after her death in 1942, the state still viewed Lucy Parsons as such threat, that the police seized her library of over 1500 books and all of her personal papers, in an attempt to prevent her ideas of freedom and equality from reaching people.

Parsons was quoted in saying, "My conception of the strike of the future is not to strike and go out and starve, but to strike and remain in and take possession of the necessary property of production." Parsons had anticipated the sit down strikes in the US and, later, workers' factory takeovers in Argentina.



'Barricading the G8 in Germany' Read the online account of a Lucy Parsons' member who participated in blocking this years G8 summit in Germany - [http://wsm.ie/news\\_viewer/2564](http://wsm.ie/news_viewer/2564)