



Resolution Date: 14th March 2017
Resolution Title: Jobstown Not Guilty

#JobstownNotGuilty

This branch agrees to send solidarity greeting to the Jobstown not guilty campaign against repressive political policing and the criminalisation of protest in Ireland.

During a peaceful protest against the introduction of water charges a minister was detained in her car. This is being used as a basis to prosecute protestors for the serious offence of false imprisonment which could result in long jail sentences. Scandalously, a 17 year old youth has already been convicted and numerous more protestors will face trial including the socialist MP Paul Murphy who would lose his seat if convicted.

Unite in Ireland has played a prominent role in supporting the campaign and there has been support from a big range of international figures including Noam Chomsky in the US, Yannis Varoufakis, the former Greek finance minister and Jean-Luc Melenchon, the left presidential candidate in France. We also welcome the support given by Len McCluskey to the campaign on behalf of Unite nationally.

Convictions would have the effect of criminalising dissent and send a chilling message to all those who take part in protests in years to come – trade union activists, women’s rights activists and others. As representatives of the left across Europe, we think that protest is not a crime. In different countries, we have seen people’s movements against austerity and often they have been confronted with attacks on their democratic rights. We think unity is essential – an injury to one is an injury to all. We stand in solidarity with the accused and with #JobstownNotGuilty. We demand that all charges against the accused are dropped and that the right to protest is defended.

The motion will be passed on to the Regional Committee.