

SOCIALIST YOUTH

Bring Kunle Home Now!



Olunkunle Elukanlo was due to sit his leaving Cert exams in a couple of months. Last week he was brutally deported by the Fianna Fail/PD government

Last Monday, Olunkunle Elukanlo was imprisoned and forced back on a plane to Nigeria. In Nigeria, he was thrown in jail because he had no papers, when he was allowed out of jail, he was beaten up by a gang who thought he was rich because he was wearing a school uniform - he didn't have a penny!

He was a Leaving Cert student here, who supported himself by working and paid tax. He had fled Nigeria, because his father was shot dead in front of him, and he was shot too.

Yet Michael McDowell, the Minister directly responsible, has stated that he will not reconsider Kunle's case. He claims that if he reconsidered this case, he would be forced to reconsider others and wasn't prepared to be lenient at all.

What can we do next?

The mobilisation of school students against the deportation of Kunle is an indication of how we can fight back. By isolating asylum seekers, the government tries to divide and rule ordinary people. But where refugees become integrated into our society, it becomes clear to everyone that they are not "spongers" but are people seeking a better life.

The fact that McDowell has commented on this particular case is an indication that we are having an effect and he is feeling the pressure. But by ruling out Kunle's return he has also raised the stakes and means we have to escalate our action.

Public opinion is clearly behind us and this protest is a very important step of turning this outrage into action to force this government back. This must be followed by a serious escalation of our action, to respond to McDowell's statement and maximise pressure on the government. It must become clear to the government that we are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that Kunle comes home alive.

Public Meeting

How can we fight deportations and racism in Ireland today? A socialist viewpoint

Tuesday 29 March, 5pm Beanery Cafe, Burgh Quay

More info: Ring 087 1274315

Speakers: Joe Higgins (Socialist Party TD)

Neil Burke (Bring Kunle Home Campaign)

Why is the government so determined about Kunle?

The Fianna Fail / PD government is determined not to allow Kunle back, because deportation of asylum seekers is a central part of their policy. They whip up anti-asylum seeker feeling and deport them in the middle of the night.

Just as they did with their Citizenship Referendum during the local elections, these parties try to scapegoat asylum seekers and immigrants to deflect anger of people away from themselves. They claim that asylum seekers are responsible for the crisis in our health and education system and paint them as "spongers".

This is a lie. The crisis in health and education is due to chronic underfunding over decades by successive Fianna Fail and Fine Gael governments. Those who know Kunle know he is no "sponger" and the same applies to most refugees. Just as McDowell is now lying about the circumstances of Kunle's deportation, the government and the right-wing media lie about asylum seekers generally.

Why capitalism is to blame?

Capitalism is ultimately responsible for the scapegoating and deportation of refugees. Capitalism is the system where massive amounts of wealth are held by a tiny number of people, who then dominate the world (currently 1% of the world owns 90% of the world's wealth). The war and occupation of Iraq is a clear example of this domination, where 100,000 people have been killed for oil, profit and US domination of the Middle East.

It is the system responsible for the situation in Nigeria which forced these refugees to leave in the first place. Nigeria is a country with terrible poverty, tribal conflict and corruption. Yet Nigeria has massive oil wealth, which if used in the interests of the people, would allow the standard of living of ordinary people to be massively increased. Instead, multinationals like Shell control the oil and reap massive profit from it. The corrupt undemocratic government is happy to allow them to continue to do this, because they provide them with a power base. That's why our sister party in Nigeria, the Democratic Socialist Movement,

fights for a socialist Nigeria, where the oil wealth would be taken from the multinationals into public ownership and used to raise the living standards of all.

In Ireland, capitalism means that American multinationals and local capitalists like Tony O'Reilly, Michael O'Leary and Michael Smurfit dominate. Their interests come first, which means that instead of investing to improve our public services, our government will sell them off to these fat cats, to allow them to make a profit off the backs of working class people. Then, when faced with the inevitable anger of people against the attacks on our living conditions, they try to blame asylum seekers like Kunle.

Fight to change the System!

Ultimately, we believe that we need to change the system, so that instead of profit dominating, people come first. We think that the fight against deportations and racism is tied to the struggle for a socialist society, where we would do away with the domination of profit, and instead working class people would democratically control the resources and the economy and prioritise people's needs. In that way, the "need" for the scapegoating would be eliminated.

If you agree, you should join us!



Michael McDowell (PD), Minister responsible for Kunle's deportation

I want to join Socialist Youth

I want more info on Socialist Youth

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Return to Socialist Youth, PO Box 3434, Dublin 8. Phone 087 1274 315