

Connolly Youth Movement, Belfast Branch.

British Army Recruitment in schools

Statement for immediate release

26 March 2009

The British army have recently launched a recruitment campaign in the north with schools targeted, billboards erected and leaflets delivered to homes encouraging young workers to join. One such school targeted was the cross-community Belfast Metropolitan College, with the Territorial Army running a misleading campaign which promotes a romanticised image.

Spokesperson Nicholas O'Hagan said "This comes amidst an economic recession and at a time when the British Army is failing to meet its targets for recruitment. Young workers will be tempted with the opportunity of earning thousands of pounds and the opportunity to 'see the world.'

"No mention is made of the atrocities carried out by the British army in Iraq or Afghanistan and the legacy of their actions in Ireland.

"The Educational Institute of Scotland have banned recruitment by the British army in Scottish schools and the National Union of Teachers in Britain have already voted to oppose the distribution of misleading propaganda.

"The Connolly Youth Movement call upon the trade union movement here to adopt a similar policy to prevent more of our young people being shipped off to certain death in Iraq and Afghanistan or even to face death here in Ireland as shown in Antrim earlier this month."

Statement ends.

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