

Statement of CYM on the defacing of Vol. Peter Daly's monument

The Connolly Youth Movement strongly condemns the vile and destructive acts, by racist thugs, on a memorial to one of this nation's great socialist heroes. This cowardly act is the work of ignorant racists who've insulted the memory of a national hero. Volunteer Peter Daly lay down his life fighting the cruel forces of fascism in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. This contemptible act demonstrates that all forms of fascism and racism must be combated. This attack displays the racist flair which unfortunately remains in Irish society, and is a continuing problem.

The values for which comrade Daly so valiantly lay down his life, have been attacked directly by this cancerous element. This is a small group looking to make a point. All those who understand and respect the legacy of Peter Daly must unite against this sickening brand of neo-Nazism. The attack was calculated; it involved defacing the statue with a racist message and removing the flag of the Spanish Second Republic from the site. We are glad to hear the statue has now been restored, and continues to be a meeting place for those wishing to commemorate this hero.

This was a cowardly attack by a tiny and powerless fascist group. These groups may be minute, however their influence, however minor it may be, must be defeated. The heroic exploits of Vol. Daly in tackling similar hatred and reaction must act as an inspiration to all those in this country who stand behind the ideals that Peter Daly fought and died for. The fact that the annual Peter Daly commemoration went ahead as planned is a direct message that these thugs cannot dissuade people in this country from honouring our heroic dead.