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Black 47 "James Connolly"

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Marchin' down O'Connell Street with the Starry Plough on high

There goes the Citizen Army with their fists raised in the sky

Leading them is a mighty man with a mad rage in his eye

My name is James Connolly, I didn't come here to die

But to fight for the rights of the working man, the small farmer too

Protect the proletariat from the bosses and their screws So hold on to your rifles, boys, don't give up your dreams

Of a Republic for the workin' class, economic liberty

Then Jem yells out, "Oh Citizens, this system is a curse An English boss is a monster, an Irish one even worse They'll never lock us out again and here's the reason why

My name is James Connolly, I didn't come here to die"

But to fight for the rights of the working man, the small farmer too

Protect the proletariat from the bosses and their screws So hold on to your rifles, boys, don't give up your dreams

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And now we're in the GPO with the bullets whizzin' by With Pearse and Sean McDermott biddin' each other good-bye

Up steps our citizen leader and he roars out to the sky My name is James Connolly, I didn't come here to die

But to fight for the rights of the working man, the small farmer too

Protect the proletariat from the bosses and their screws So hold on to your rifles, boys, don't give up your dreams

Of a Republic for the workin' class, economic liberty

Oh Lily, I don't want to die

We've got so much to live for And I know we're goin' out to get slaughtered But I just can't take any more

Just the sight of one more child screamin' from hunger in a Dublin slum

Or his mother slavin' 14 hours a day for the scum, who exploit her

And take her youth and throw it on a factory floor? Oh Lily, I just can't take any more

They've locked us out, they've banned our unions
They even treat their animals better than us
Oh no, it's far better to die like a man on your feet
Than to live forever like some slave, on your knees, Lily

But don't let them wrap any green flag around me And for God's sake, don't let them bury me In some field full of harps and shamrocks And whatever you do, don't let them make a martyr out of me

Oh no, rather raise the Starry Plough on high, sing a song of freedom

Here's to you, Lily, the rights of man and international revolution

We fought them to a standstill while the flames lit up the sky

'Til a bullet pierced our leader and we gave up the fight They shot him in Kilmainham jail but they'll never stop his cry

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Of a Republic for the workin' class, economic liberty, economic liberty

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