Hi all,

The Boston branch met tonight and we discussed Thano's proposal. We have currently endorsed the Seamus Whelan campaign as a branch and as individual members. Several of us attended the kick-off campaign and donated some money. And two of us have committed to at least a 1/2 days work for the campaign. While we were all in favor of an endorsement, a contribution, and coverage in our publications (Eric F. has agreed to conduct an interview with Seamus Whelan), we are all opposed to the use of Solidarity's limited resources to actively support the Whelan campaign. There are varying opinions in our branch on the Whelan campaign, but there's agreement that this is not a campaign that has emerged out of any kind of movement work and that it is primarily geared towards building SA.

In terms of the impact of the campaign, the kick-off meeting was poorly attended and was made up almost exclusively of SA and Soli folks. They did, however, have tremendous success in gathering the necessary signatures to get on the ballot, though it seems that this was the result of a very concerted effort by all the New England members. They did get some coverage in the Boston tabloid (Boston Herald) describing them as the looeny left or something, but it otherwise doesn't seem to have had much of an impact in either the media or activist communities, though we and SA folks aren't traveling in the same circles these days.

Take care,

John