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Protesters turn their backs on Lenihan

By [Jason O'Brien](#)

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THEY turned their backs on Brian Lenihan's office yesterday, claiming he was doing the same to the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

A total of 222 people -- representing the €222m cut from the Irish overseas aid budget this year -- gathered outside the Department of Finance at 10am.

"These people have done nothing to cause the crisis but they are really feeling the impact," Hans Zomer, director of Dochas said.

"We are now turning our back on the poorest people. We are walking away from some of the central principles and values of our coIt was pointed out that Ireland had made a commitment to spend 70c in every €100 of our national income on helping less fortunate countries by 2012. That figure stood at 59c last year, but has now been cut back to 48c, and many commentators predict it will be cut further.

- Jason O'Brien