



Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA - TUCP - ITF)

2014 J. Gabriel St., Baclaran, Parañaque City Philippines
Tel. No.: 851-1002 * Telefax: 851-1490



Solidarity to aircraft cleaners of Klüh at Düsseldorf, Germany

We extend the hand of solidarity to the brave aircraft cleaners of the multinational Klüh Service Management at Düsseldorf, Germany represented by the union IG BAU. They are our brothers and sisters who are fighting for decent pay, better working conditions and job security. The struggles you are waging mirror the same demands that we are currently fighting for at Philippine Airlines, the flag carrier of our country.

PALEA supports your struggle against outsourcing and for the laid off workers to be retained. Further we congratulate you for the recent victory in the Regional Labor Court.

PALEA condemns the maneuvers of Klüh in collaboration with Air Berlin to promote precarious work and bust the works council. We hope that international solidarity will sustain your fight and put pressure on Klüh, Air Berlin and the temporary employment company DLG, which is 51% owned by Klüh.

The same issues animate the struggles that PALEA is facing at the moment. Some 2,400 PALEA members have been locked out and terminated as part of a plan to outsource the airport services, inflight catering and call center reservations departments of Philippine Airlines to so-called service providers. PALEA represents these workers and the remaining 900 ground staff of Philippine Airlines. The service providers, like DLG, are illegal employment companies that are also controlled by the owner of Philippine Airlines.

In fact as can be seen from the number that were retrenched and those remaining, the outsourcing plan seeks not just to demolish job security but bust the union itself. The outsourcing plan came on the heels of a 13-year suspension of the collective bargaining negotiations with PALEA which was forced on the union through government intervention.


To resist the imminent implementation of the outsourcing plan, on September 27 PALEA undertook a protest at the Manila International Airport that paralyzed the operations of Philippine Airlines. The swift answer of the government and management was the forcible eviction of protesting PALEA members from the airport and other offices using police forces and security guards. PALEA members have been locked out since and then terminated starting October 1.

At present PALEA protest camps are set up outside the international airports of Manila and Cebu, the two biggest cities in the Philippines. Every day several hundred PALEA members are alternating in shifts to maintain the protest camps until the workers demands are heeded.

PALEA demands that Philippine Airlines stop the lockout of workers and allow those terminated to go back to their regular jobs. We know that this is a difficult battle but through the solidarity of the workers movement in our country and even abroad, we will prevail.

Further we are inspired by the struggles for labor rights and social justice of fellow aviation workers such as yours in Germany and by general strikes around the globe such as that in Greece and Portugal recently.

Sincerely,


GERARDO F. RIVERA
President

President, Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA)
Vice Chair, Partido ng Manggagawa (Labor Party-Philippines)
Vice Chair, Ground Staff Committee of Aviation Section, ITF

International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) solidarity campaign for PALEA:
<http://www.itfglobal.org/itfaviationblog/?p=1783>

Online petition in support of PALEA:
<http://www.change.org/petitions/fight-corporate-greed-support-locked-out-workers-boycott-philippine-airlines>