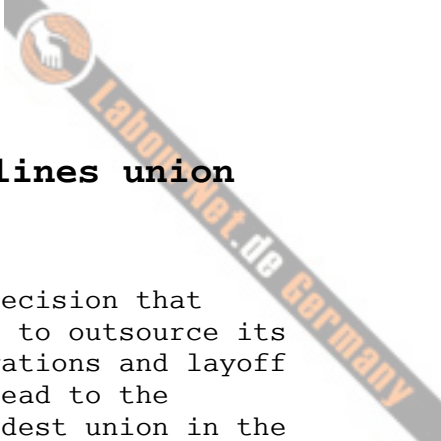


Appeal for Solidarity from Philippine Airlines union



Last October 29 the Philippine Labor Secretary released a decision that allowed the national flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) to outsource its airport services, in-flight catering and call center reservations and layoff more than half of its workforce. The Halloween order will lead to the massacre of some 3,000 regular jobs and the death of the oldest union in the country.

The decision is precedent setting for it will open the floodgates to massive flexibilization of labor. Regular employees of PAL will be retrenched and then rehired as contingent/agency workers in third-party service providers. The work done at the service providers will be exactly the same but for cheaper wages, fewer benefits, no security of tenure and no protection of a union.

Moreover the decision disregards the specific provision of the collective bargaining agreement that prohibits management from contracting out regular jobs. Also the decision accepted management's blackmail that it will go bankrupt if not allowed to outsource work. However the financial statements and disclosures of PAL reveal that its business condition is improving and not deteriorating, thereby negating the necessity for retrenchment.

Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA) demands that Philippine President Benigno Aquino III uphold his promise of change by reversing the decision of his Labor Secretary.

PALEA calls on its brothers and sisters in the labor and social movements to call on the government of Benigno Aquino III to overturn the Labor Department decision in the interest of protecting and promoting decent jobs and union rights. Send emails of concern to the Office of the President and with copies furnished to the Secretary of Labor:

Sample letter of concern:

His Excellency Benigno Aquino III

President, Republic of the Philippines

corres@op.gov.ph

CC:

Hon. Rosalinda Baldoz

Secretary of Labor and Employment

osec@dole.gov.ph

We view with concern the recent decision of the Philippine Labor Secretary that permits Philippine Airlines to outsource its so-called non-core services and layoff more than half of its workforce. We deem the decision sets a dangerous precedent that subverts rather than promotes workers rights. It will lead to the loss of regular union jobs and its replacement by contingent and precarious work. We believe the contention of the Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA-ITF) that the decision violates provisions of the collective bargaining agreement and the jurisprudence on allowable retrenchments. The decision in fact possibly contravenes workers freedom of association and right to collective bargaining that are guaranteed by the Philippine Constitution and ILO conventions. We thus call on your good office to reverse the decision of the Labor Secretary in the interest of upholding decent jobs and union rights.