

# GNT BULLETIN

## RAISING STANDARDS FOR DOCK WORKERS

December 2011

### NEWS ROUND-UP

Dockers around the world are taking action as part of the GNT campaign to secure better standards in ports. Here's the latest news...

**The struggles of dockers in the Eurogate terminal in Tangiers, Morocco have finally paid off with management guaranteeing a CBA by the end of next year. After 2 strikes and months of "meaningless" negotiations, the agreement has been secured which binds Eurogate to union**



recognition and a wage rise for workers. ■

Continues on page 2

### GNT INTERVIEW

This month we're speaking to **Niek Stam, national secretary of the dockers' section of the FNV union in the Netherlands.**

**Q What's the situation with GNTs where you are at the moment?**

**A** It's a very exciting period because our port is expanding and that will double the capacity of the container terminal from 10 million teus to 20. We will get a new APMT terminal and also a DP World terminal. That's as well as the HPH, ECT and another APMT terminals we already have.

**Q That's quite a unique situation to have so many GNTs in that one area..**

**A** Yes, you can see that the volume of containers is decreasing so there will be heavy competition, we have to be careful that working class people don't have to pay for that.

**Q How important are regional and international solidarity to achieving your goals?**

**A** The solidarity in the region is very important because the number of containers is decreasing and that will cause a plummet in the amount of work available. Secondly, we are trying to move the present workers to the new terminals under the same working conditions otherwise dock

workers with 25 years of service will be out of a job and new workers will be taken on for a lower wage so that's very important in the regional solidarity, to stand up together and to bind together.

Internationally we are already seeing a lot of support with our big campaigns like our struggle to secure our pension money. The teamsters, the ILWU and the ILA are all working with us. Dock work cannot survive without international support.

**Q What issues do workers tell you are important to them?**

**A** The older dock workers, they have much more awareness about safety because they are coming from a different port with different types of cargo; health and safety is in their genes. The young guys, they take it all for granted. So that's a mental problem we have to focus on. We are working hard for the dockers safety certificate and what we want is that no-one can work in the port without that.

Find out more about the unions involved in the GNT campaign at [www.gntdockers.org](http://www.gntdockers.org)



Hand the GNT bulletin out at your port and spread the global campaign message.

**Join the network and be part of something BIG!**



News continued...

Australian dockers have staged a 24-hour strike in an ongoing dispute with GNT DP World over pay and conditions. Workers in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney walked out after negotiations over pay and conditions broke down. The MUA says the strike was about showing management that the workforce is serious about its demands.

Dockers have been showing their solidarity with workers across the supply chain. The strength of dockers' unions worldwide has been used to help secure an agreement to protect the jobs of American BMW workers and to support the workers of Australian airline Qantas who are at risk from potential outsourcing plans. Dockers have been involved in pickets and rallies in support of both groups.

Get more on these stories and the rest of the news from ports and terminals around the world at: [www.gntdockers.org/news](http://www.gntdockers.org/news)

To send us your news and campaign updates email the GNT campaign team at: [gntdockers@itf.org.uk](mailto:gntdockers@itf.org.uk) or speak to the communications coordinator at your port.

Sign up to My ITF at [www.itfglobal.org](http://www.itfglobal.org) for more campaign updates.

**YOUR PORT PIX**



Get involved! Send us photos of you and your colleagues and they'll be posted on the GNT website and could even appear here in the bulletin. Email your photos to: [gntdockers@itf.org.uk](mailto:gntdockers@itf.org.uk)



Workers at Eurogate terminal, Tangiers, Morocco

**QUICK QUIZ**

Fill in the grid so that every number from 1 to 9 appears in any order in:

- \* Every vertical column
- \* Every horizontal line
- \* Every 3 by 3 subsection of the grid.

This is your bulletin so let the GNT campaign team know what type of quizzes you'd like to see here.

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**ASK THE GNT TEAM**

In each GNT bulletin we're giving you the chance to ask the GNT campaign team a question about the campaign or a related issue. If you've got a question, email it to the team at: [gntdockers@itf.org.uk](mailto:gntdockers@itf.org.uk) and it could be featured in our next bulletin.

**Question:** "One of my colleagues told me he's taken on the role of GNT communications coordinator. I have no idea what this is! Can you explain?" Anon

**Answer:** The GNT campaign is about workers and what's going on at ports around the world. When the GNT team are updating the website or writing the GNT bulletin, they can include photos and news from ports worldwide, but only if they have those photos and that news to share. That's where communications coordinators come in. They are people in ports who volunteer to collect stories, news, questions and photos from workers which can be passed on to the GNT team and shared amongst colleagues and the whole GNT network. They also give feedback to the team about what you want to read and find out about. They're campaign ambassadors on the ground so this role is really important. If you're interested in becoming a communications coordinator email the GNT campaign team: [gntdockers@itf.org.uk](mailto:gntdockers@itf.org.uk)



# ACTIVIST PROFILE



**Every month we speak to someone who's actively involved in the GNT campaign. This month it's Mich-Elle Myers. She's a women's rep for the MUA as well as holding the role of general coordinator and communications coordinator for the GNT campaign in Australia.**

**Q** What's the situation with GNT ports in your region at the moment?

**A** In Australia currently we only have DP World operating but Hutchinson is on the horizon with terminals to be opened in Brisbane and Sydney. The union has had informal discussions with Hutchinson's management and a pre-operating agreement will be formulated between the union and the management.

**Q** You've got a multitude of roles in relation to the campaign; one of those is as a communications coordinator. Tell us a bit about what that means..

**A** The most important part of the role is to keep your finger on the pulse. Communicating with your contact delegates in each terminal, the officials responsible around the country and the national official with responsibility for DP World. The issues that come up need to be communicated back to the ITF.

Accidents and incidents need to be reported so that other ports with GNT employers can make sure the same risks are eliminated in other locations.

**Q** What would you say to encourage other people to

**volunteer as communications coordinators?**

**A** Like the campaign slogan - be part of something big. If you want to be involved in making a difference to workers around the world then get on board. If you have a good delegate structure you are able to fulfil the role quite simply. They feed the information in and you collate and pass it on.

**Q** How will you be raising awareness about the GNT campaign amongst workers?

**A** We have delegate training for our members and the ITF campaigns - including GNT - will form a part of that training from now on. Delegates will get to see a GNT database and hear about the work of the campaign so that they too can become involved. In addition the GNT bulletin gets printed and distributed to our branches as soon as it arrives and we upload it to the MUA website.

**Q** How important is solidarity to success in the GNT campaign?

**A** Solidarity is not just a 'feel-good' statement, it is real action and real commitment from other unions, community groups and activists. One of the keys to success in campaigns is the forming and maintaining of coalitions which essentially broaden the scope of the conflict. Involving the community, environmentalists, consumers and even shareholders, can add another level of attack. They can then help the unions through boycotts, rallies and putting other forms of pressure on companies that union can't do on their own.



**YOUR PORT PIX:** The MUA dockers' negotiation team.

**“Solidarity is not just a ‘feel-good’ statement it is a real commitment from other unions”**

# INDUSTRY HEADLINES

**A snapshot of the latest industry developments...**

**Profits are up for GNT APM in the third quarter of 2011.** The company has seen an 11% growth in traffic to 8.6 million teus. It means that APMs profits have increased to US\$174 million - a jump of 24%.

Meanwhile APM is rumoured to be thinking of expansion at the port of Lagos in Nigeria. It's believed the multi national giant will increase terminal capacity in the African country to meet the rapidly growing Nigerian import volumes. ■

**GNT HPH has won a 10 year concession to develop** and operate a new container terminal at Ajman port in the United Arab Emirates. There is currently no recognition

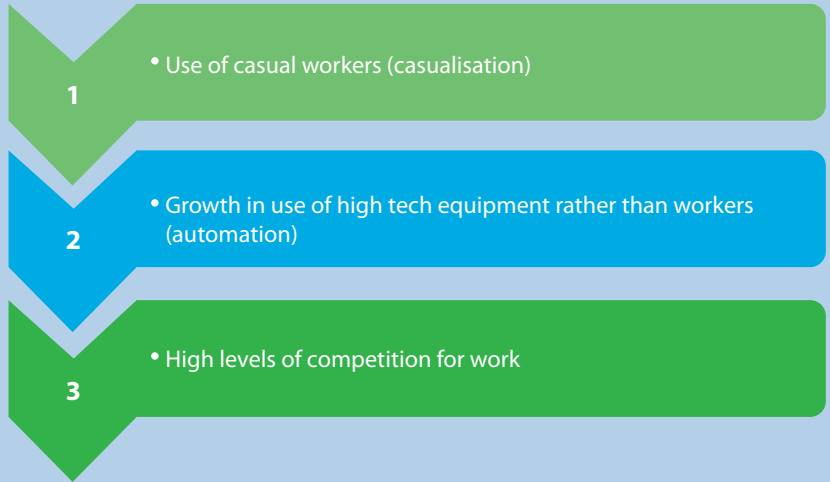


of trade union rights in the UEA.

Meanwhile revenue and throughput are up at european ports operated by HPH. These include the port of Felixstowe in the UK, Taranto container terminal in Italy, TCT in Belgium, Amsterdam container terminal in the Netherlands and terminal Catalunya in Spain. ■

## YOU TOLD US

This month we carried out a survey asking a selection of dockers worldwide 'What's the main thing you think threatens dockers' job security?' Here are the top 3 answers....



There are lots of potential reasons why the job security of dockers could be under threat. The results of this survey show, at the moment, workers are most concerned about the existence of casual workers and the risk of being made to work on a casual basis themselves where work isn't guaranteed one day to the next.

The dockers' section of the ITF is always working with unions to try and secure collective bargaining agreements which will include negotiations on job security. But in addition to this it's important that, through the GNT campaign, we succeed in getting GNT employers to sign up to minimum standards of health and safety in ports. That way the safety of all workers is protected whether they're a permanent or a casual worker.

Have your say on the issues that matter to you by answering the question of the month on the GNT website: [www.gntdockers.org](http://www.gntdockers.org).



**YOUR PORT PIX:** ILWU dockers support airline workers.