



RAISING STANDARDS FOR DOCK WORKERS



Bulletin

2nd Issue/March 2011

GLOBAL NETWORK TERMINALS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Welcome to the second edition the GNT campaign bulletin, which keeps you up-to-date with the latest news on the global network terminals (GNT) campaign.

"Thanks to the ITF"

Pictured is Omar Zenfa – a reinstated worker from the Moroccan union UMT, which recently won a dispute with APM, see page 2. "Our sincere gratitude and thanks to the ITF and all transport unions, for the support and solidarity they gave us during our struggle. This solidarity action exceeded our expectations," says Omar.



Contact gntdockers@itf.org.uk for support and solidarity for your union actions and disputes.

About the GNT campaign

As part of the ports of convenience (POC) work, ITF unions are leading the fight to combat exploitation and job losses in the workplaces they represent. Unions, with the support of the ITF, are working to ensure that acceptable standards apply in all ports and terminals worldwide.

The big four global network terminal (GNT) operators – APM Terminals, Dubai Ports World, Hutchison Ports Holdings and PSA International – own nearly half the ports in the world. The GNT campaign aims to tackle the big issues faced by dock workers in those ports. These are health and safety, casualisation, job security and trade union rights. The campaign also aims for dialogue with the GNT operators to push for global framework agreements (GFAs) – umbrella agreements with employers that enforce labour standards in their operations around the world.

Dockers' unions have committed to back this campaign, but it will only be a success with the support of you and your members. Together we can lead the fight for dockers' rights and safer and fairer working conditions.

This bulletin is for sharing with workers – if your union isn't distributing it, start today. GNT workers' support is crucial for the success of this campaign – ACT NOW to get them on board!

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Raising standards for dock workers

GNT CAMPAIGN UPDATE *continued*

Dockers around the world are taking action to support the GNT campaign. Here's the latest news ...

Strike action wins union recognition in Egypt terminal

A dockers' union won recognition from global terminal operator APM Terminals (APMT) in Port Said, Egypt, after two days of strike action.

Workers at the Suez Canal container terminal, owned by APMT, took strike action on 27 February in protest over management's refusal to negotiate with the union committee. The deal was won in the aftermath of the death of a crane driver, Mohammad Ali Fajeah, who died during the protests. It was reported that port authority representatives, the public manager of manpower and the military ruler in Port Said intervened to resolve the matter.

For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/65amore>

Moroccan unionists reinstated following strike

Four unionists in the Moroccan port of Tangier, who were dismissed by APM Terminals have been reinstated following successful strike action by their union.

The unionists, who are members of the Union des Syndicats des Transports (UMT), were sacked soon after the union established the right to collective bargaining with APM Terminals Tangiers last year. After negotiations with APM management failed, dockers downed tools on 5 January. The union received strong backing from the ITF and from unions around the world; they sent letters and messages of solidarity.

As a result of the action the union signed an agreement with APM Terminals, which confirmed the reinstatement of the four workers. They will also receive compensation for the period of their dismissal. The union began further negotiations in February. This is an excellent example of how dock workers, acting together, can put pressure on the big terminal operators.

Said El-Hairech, general secretary of the UMT, said:

"The workers were reinstated due to the strength and organisation of workers in the Tangiers terminal and the great support that we received from our union colleagues. The UMT had a very clear approach, worked hard to establish dialogue with the port management and was prepared to take firm action when it needed to. It communicated well with its members who were fully involved in the decision to take strike action.

"The support of the ITF and from our union colleagues around the world also played a major role – we would not have won this dispute without their solidarity."

Sri Lankan workers force employer to pay back wages

Successful action by a Sri Lankan union has led to a contractor at the South Asia Gateway Terminal (SAGT) in Colombo being ordered to pay 230 workers substantial back wages. The port is part-owned by APM Terminals.

The decision follows a dispute between the drivers, backed by the ITF-affiliated National Union of Seafarers (NUSS) and their employer, Sea Consortium Lanka Pvt Limited. Workers were sacked after demanding the wages set out by the dockers' wage board. They were replaced by former army drivers.

The campaign helped the union build its strength in the port. It recruited 700 members during the dispute and plans to recruit other SAGT contractors. Union pressure on the government and strong organising on the ground led to workers winning back wages amounting to millions of Sri Lankan rupees.

ITF condemns attack on union leader in Peru

The ITF is leading protests over a vicious attack on a Peruvian dockers' union leader. This follows a 20-day strike by dockers in support of their fight for union rights in the port of Callao.

The dockers, from the ITF-affiliated Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores Maritimos y Portuarios del Puerto del Callao (SUTRAMPORPC), went on strike in January and February in protest over DP World's continuing failure to recognise their rights to collective bargaining. These rights had been earlier upheld by the Peruvian Supreme Court.

The union had shown willing and tried to negotiate with DP World. It soon became clear that the employer was not serious when it reneged on an agreement about wages. Talks were suspended. Soon after, the union leader, Wilmer Esteves Morales was assaulted with a pistol butt and suffered head injuries.

The ITF has sent a letter to the Peruvian president protesting against this attack on the union leader and the failure of the ministry of labour to encourage the employers to engage with the union. It has also urged unions around the world to send protest letters to the president and messages of solidarity to the union. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/portofcallao> for more details.

ITF supports Slovenian dockers in health and safety push

The ITF is supporting Slovenian dockers' fight against increased workloads, a rising number of accidents and use of non-unionised labour.

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Raising standards for dock workers

GNT CAMPAIGN UPDATE *continued*

The Union of Crane Operators of Port of Koper (SZPD) is opposed to management's plans to transfer 20 per cent of crane operations to sub-contractors on reduced terms and conditions. The unionists also have big concerns that workers' breaks have been shortened causing an increased health and safety risk at Koper port, which already has a high accident level.

The ITF has written to port management supporting the union. Management is claiming that workloads and accident levels are lower than elsewhere. The union and the ITF will continue the fight for decent terms and conditions.

Union protects Brisbane dockers' jobs

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) is fighting to protect the jobs and rights of its members in the port of Brisbane, as Dubai Ports World (DP World) seek to automate port operations.

The MUA met with management in February to discuss the plans and made it clear that all new auto-stacking crane and sprinter straddle operations should be carried out by union members. Current maintenance workers should also be trained to maintain the new equipment.

DP World management has not yet agreed. The MUA will continue to campaign until its demands are met.

Canada board supports dockers' union

The Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) has supported a dockers' union and its negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. The board also dismissed claims and allegations made against the union by an industry-wide employers' organisation.

The CIRB said that the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) – Canada's negotiating position "could only be characterised as fighting hard to protect the interests of ILWU members."

Negotiations have been ongoing since March 2010. Paddy Crumlin, ITF president and dockers' section chair, has urged the employers to return to the negotiating table in a positive and constructive way.

Dockers protest in Liberia over job threats

Dock workers in Monrovia, Liberia, have protested over threats to their jobs, following APM Terminals (APMT) takeover of port operations.

APMT has been granted a 25-year concession from the Liberian government to run the port and began operations there at the start of February. The Stevedoring Workers' Union understood that APMT selected only five out of 25 stevedoring companies to work in the port, against the terms of the concession agreement, which said that stevedoring activities should be maintained. Workers protested outside the fence of the National Port Authority until riot police arrived, resulting in a number of injuries to dockers.

Getting to grips with campaign tools

Activists from around the world will be attending training sessions on the use of a key, updated tool for dockers in April. The dockers' port intelligence (DPI) database allows ITF unions to access and share information about ports and port employers, using it to promote and organise for the GNT campaign. Activists will get hands-on training and learn how to train others so they can hold local training sessions in their areas. We will include a report on the sessions from one of the delegates in the May edition of this bulletin.

Website update

Work is progressing well on developing a dedicated GNT campaign website, which unionists said would be an important tool for the campaign. The web user group of unionists and ITF representatives have commented on initial proposals regarding the objectives, audience and content for the site and these comments are being included in detailed plans for the site. We will give you more details in the next bulletin. In the meantime please continue to visit the GNT pages on the ITF website:

<http://www.itfglobal.org/ports/gnt.cfm>

Latest terminal operator and port news

The four big terminal operators are always looking to develop their business, often by opening new terminals or taking over existing port operations – all of which will have an impact on your members.

We'll keep you up-to-date with the latest news from each of the big four terminal operators in this bulletin. If you would like more information about any of these items, look on the DPI database or contact <mailto:gntdockers@itf.org.uk>

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Raising standards for dock workers

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GNT CAMPAIGN UPDATE *continued*

APMT

APMT profits on terminal operations up 14 per cent to \$492 million.

The 6000 workers from Maersk's inland container services division (trucking, container depots, container maintenance) are now part of APMT.

APMT will open a new terminal in Cai Mep, Vietnam, in March.

APMT to run new terminal in Puerto Moin, Costa Rica, for 33 years.

DPW

DPW has opened its new Vallarpardam International Container Transshipment Terminal in Cochin, India. This followed a five-day strike by DPW workers in Cochin late last year, which ended in a pay hike.

DPW's bid to operate both terminals in the Port of Callao, Peru, will be heard by the Supreme Court of Peru.

HPH/PSA

The government of Singapore will increase ownership in HPH in the upcoming share market float.

PSA

Campaign materials

Download your GNT campaign materials, including a blank GNT poster for local union messages, actions and meetings, as well as a GNT logo here:

<http://www.itfglobal.org/ports/campaign-graphics.cfm>

The first edition of this bulletin proved very useful to unions around the world with over 80 downloads, in four languages. We know that some unions copied and distributed the bulletin to union members and put it on their own websites. If your union isn't sharing the bulletin with your members yet, we



Mich-Elle Meyers, MUA, Australia, distributing the GNT Bulletin to Sydney wharfie Sean Elliott

need you to do so as their support is crucial to the success of the campaign. There's space below where you can add your local news. Please keep sending your news items as they act as an inspiration to others.

GNT campaign contact

The GNT campaign has a dedicated email address which is gntdockers@itf.org.uk

Please use this to:

- send us your news about local actions, port issues or disputes
- report any health and safety issues or accidents to the dockers' section
- ask any questions about the GNT campaign.

You can also visit <http://www.itfglobal.org/ports/gnt.cfm> for the latest campaign information.

GNT campaign – union news

Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith reports that DPW terminals met for a conference of delegates to consider the Log of Claims and priorities for bargaining with the biggest terminal stevedore in the country DPW.

The meeting was very productive and formulated the LOC which was sent to the company yesterday. It should be noted that all four big stevedores are currently in the process of negotiating EBAs with the MUA. The national negotiations are set to commence on the 6/7 April.

One of the main issues arising is the impending automation of the DPW Brisbane terminal. This massive mode change operation will set the benchmark for manning levels and the nature of work scope in further and inevitable automation processes in the stevedoring industry. It is of vital importance for the MUA to get this matter right as Hutchisons as a new entrant to the industry will be using higher levels of automation than current modes of terminal operation prevalent across the Australian waterfront.



Raising standards for dock workers