



**THE
AUSTRALIAN
WORKERS'
UNION**

Level 10, 377-383 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000
p. (02) 8005 3333 | f. (02) 8005 3300 | members@awu.net.au
Paul Howes National Secretary

offshore alliance



Level 2, 365 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000
p. (02) 9267 9134 | f. (02) 9267 3481 | muano@mua.org.au
Paddy Crumlin National Secretary

7 March 2011

NOTICE

TO: All MUA/AWU Offshore Alliance Members at Maersk

RE: Unions Stand up for a Fair Go – while Maersk bleats the words

As members would no doubt be aware there has recently been media attention surrounding the plight of 4 young Filipino workers who have been working on both the Nan Hai 6 and Maersk Discoverer. These young Filipino's have been in Australia on 456 visa's and earning less than \$3 an hour working as painters on these rigs.

Late last week Martin Flojgaard, Managing Director of Maersk Australia, sent out an email to all employees complaining that they had not been given a 'fair go' by The Australian Workers Union. Well, if it is concerning a 'fair go' it is appropriate a few questions were posed to Maersk.

Have the 4 young Filipino workers been given a 'fair go'?

Have Australian workers been given a 'fair go'?

Do AWU/MUA Alliance members have mates capable of working as painters in the offshore industry? Perhaps they too would like a 'fair go' at Australian jobs?

But no, it's the poor little Danish multinational –who recently reported record profits of \$5 billion after tax in 2010 - claiming they are not getting a 'fair go'!

The AWU and MUA don't work for or answer to Maersk, we answer to our members in the Offshore Alliance.

Our members genuinely, and justifiably, wanted something done for these 4 young workers because they have not been given a 'fair go'.

These workers were demonstrably not given a 'fair go' by Maersk.

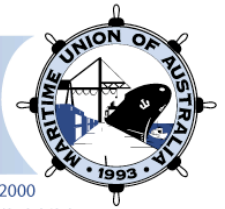
The Filipino workers were under the direction of Maersk supervisors for more than 18 months on their rigs – but the company claims now they knew nothing of the rip-off pay rates. The company had plenty of time to demonstrate they believe in a 'fair go' – but until Alliance members stepped in they looked the other way.



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Maersk has a clear responsibility to check that contractors are employing skilled, trained and safe workers for their rigs, and that responsibility should extend to conditions of employment. No excuse.

And of course these workers were not given a 'fair go' by the labour hire company Survey Spec who were responsible for engaging these workers in the Philippines, knowing full well that the pay rates offered matched that of a teenager working in a suburban McDonalds outlet.

Alliance members can rest assured their unions are currently pursuing the appropriate back pay for these workers, and will continue to do so until they have been awarded due compensation.

As president of the International Transport Workers Federation MUA National Secretary, Paddy Crumlin, will be raising this behaviour by Maersk Australia management at the ITF Maersk Network meeting in London shortly.

We would also like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank each and every member of the AWU/MUA Offshore Alliance who have assisted and supported these young workers during this investigation.

Without your help, support and diligence these workers would have continued to be exploited and paid slave labour rates. No matter where a worker comes from they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and paid the appropriate rates of pay.

The Alliance will consult with the Minister for Justice, Brendan O'Connor, who is introducing to Parliament new laws on forced labour, to ask him to consider whether Maersk or Survey Spec should be charged with benefiting from the labour of exploited guest workers.

Yours in unity,

Paul Howes
National Secretary
AWU

Paddy Crumlin
National Secretary
MUA