



# Australia Asia Worker Links

ABN: 82 920 590 967 Inc Assn No: A1318

PO Box 45 Carlton South Victoria 3053 Australia

Tel: + 61 3 9663 7277 Email: aawl@aawl.org.au Web: www.aawl.org.au

**Mr Lucio C. Tan**  
**Chairman & Chief Executive Officer**  
**Philippine Airlines**  
Suite 115, Level 1/ 343 Little Collins St  
Melbourne Vic 3000

**Ms Virginia "Gigi" Kalong**  
**Consul**  
**Republic of the Philippines**  
Suite 1205, No. 1 Queens Road  
Melbourne, Vic 3004

14 December 2011

Dear Mr Lucio Tan & Ms Gigi Kalong

We are writing to you just before Christmas. And we are delivering this letter personally, because we have an important message for you.

Recent actions towards the professional and dedicated staff of your national carrier, Philippine Airlines, have been disgraceful.

Illegal retrenchments and lockout have caused 2,600 workers and their families to face a Christmas of sadness and uncertainty.

These actions have tarnished the name and reputation of your national carrier. They have sparked solidarity protests and legitimate boycott campaigns against Philippine Airlines operations in Manila, Cebu and all around the world.

Why have you done this?

It is wrong to treat professional and dedicated workers so badly by trying to outsource their jobs, in order to squeeze some more profits.

It is wrong to treat workers so badly by attempting to stop them organising, and attacking their legitimate protests and campaigns.

It is wrong to refuse to negotiate with PALEA, which is the legitimate union representing the Philippine Airline workers.

There is still time to change this behaviour before Christmas. Reinstate the PALEA workers. End the lockout. Begin genuine negotiations with the union.

We will support our fellow workers and fellow union members at PALEA, and we will ask all other unions and workers around the world to support them. We don't want to spend Christmas and next year campaigning against Philippine Airline. But we will if we have to.

Through the International Transport Federation, and a growing list of other unions, the eyes of the world are on you. Please make a difference this Christmas. Treat Philippine Airlines workers fairly.

We remain in solidarity with PALEA unionists.

